



ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT SEPTEMBER 2021

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
ABV	Allerdale Borough Council
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CFA	County Football Association
CISWO	Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation
DALP	Delivery and Allocations Local Plan
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
IOG	Institute of Groundsmanship
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDNP	Lake District National Park
LFFP	Local Football Facilities Plan
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RDO	Rugby Development Officer
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
U	Under

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned by Allerdale Borough Council (ABC) to undertake a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS). This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities within the Borough in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS. The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a PPS, with these steps separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (1)
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (2 & 3)
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (4, 5 & 6)
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy (7 & 8)
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (9 & 10)

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with stage D covered in the proceeding Strategy document. The guidance has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of and demand for playing pitches.

Covid-19

The PPOSS has been undertaken during the Covid-19 global pandemic, which has resulted in England entering into unprecedented restrictions that have fluctuated over the course of the last 12-months. At various points in time, grassroots sport has been halted, leading to truncated seasons and changes to way leagues have been run and fixtures scheduled. This has had a direct consequence on the supply of and demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities, which, if considered in isolation, would not present an accurate representation of provision.

Given the above, this study presents information based on what supply and demand would have been like had there not been any restrictions in place, although consideration is given to the impact of Covid-19 and the issues clubs, teams and users face as a consequence. The approach taken is further explained within each section of the report, where appropriate.

It is currently unknown what impact the pandemic and enforced restrictions will have on participation and provision moving forward. Therefore, this should form a key aspect of the Stage E process, with the review of the documents ensuring that any recommendations made remain accurate as the effect of Covid-19 becomes clearer.

As part of Stage E, the PPOSS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. A review will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up during its development. Given current circumstances an annual meeting, which could coincide with the annual NGB affiliation process, would be beneficial to understand what impact, COVID-19 and the lockdowns have had within Allerdale.

For more information regarding the Stage E process please see Part 8: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date or see <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>

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1.1: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the strategy is being developed

The Council is committed to improving the lives of residents and communities through its new Council Strategy (2020-2030). Within this, there is a priority to improve and protect green infrastructure and open spaces, as well as building resilient communities through the promotion of health and active lifestyles.

To enable the above to be achieved, an up to date PPOSS is required to ensure that there is a strategic framework to developing projects that will meet the needs of residents. In addition, there is also a need to ensure the integration of the PPOSS within the Council's other relevant plans, such as its Local Plan, Open Space Strategy and Leisure Strategy.

Key aims and objectives of the PPOSS are to:

- ◀ Provide qualitative and quantitative evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision as well as to look at new developments and identify lapsed/disused sites (including ancillary facilities)
- ◀ Inform planning policy, the Local Plan and the assessment of planning applications.
- ◀ Account for potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes.
- ◀ Consider budgetary factors to enable prioritisation of capital spending as well as ensure efficiency of management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
- ◀ Provide the evidence needed to help secure internal and external funding.
- ◀ Create a steering group to drive the development of the PPOSS forward, that will go on to lead on the delivery of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Support local objectives for improving health and wellbeing.
- ◀ Look to develop a more creative way of using current sites for more than one sport.

Furthermore, a key local driver is the proposal to combine two aged sports stadiums (Derwent Park and Borough Park) into one sports village. The PPOSS will help to identify deliverable options that could be investigated as part of the development, including sports to be included, number of pitches, pitch types and amenities. Specifically, it will determine the demand from football and rugby league for the main stadium pitch and will explore demand for additional pitch/outdoor sport facilities relating to other sports.

National context

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

- ◀ Protect provision against development pressures in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify supply and demand issues in relation to predicted population changes.
- ◀ Address demand pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public-sector cuts.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 98 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

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Paragraph 99 discusses assessments and the protection of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields. Paragraph 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

Local context

A key reason for the production of the PPOSS from the Council's perspective is to understand the feasibility behind the potential creation of a Community Sports Village (CSV) in Workington. For reference purposes, Workington AFC and Workington Town RLFC are in discussions with the Council over the creation of a new Community Sports Village in Workington. Each club currently operate and manage their own sites, namely Borough Park and Derwent Park, respectively.

Community Sports Village

Although no formal plans have been created, initial conversations with the clubs and the Council suggest that the planned development will take place on the site of Borough Park with all demand from both clubs relocating to Derwent Park whilst construction is taking place. Once completed, the CSV will be the new home for both clubs and their relevant demand. Therefore, it would need to have, as a minimum, one good quality floodlit pitch and suitable ancillary provision to meet appropriate league requirements (whilst allowing the clubs to progress through their respective pyramid structures).

Through consultation, each club has also acknowledged a need for the ancillary provision to service community demand (classrooms/multi-function rooms) and provide a potential to generate income through hospitality. Furthermore, the clubs report aspirations to provide further provision outside of the stadium facility in order to ensure all matchday demand can be accommodated as well as training demand. They also indicate the importance such provision in providing increased would also provide capacity for other clubs in the locality (e.g. Workington Red Ladies FC and Workington Red Juniors FC), community groups (e.g. walking football) and any increases in demand.

Although the exact provision has not been agreed, it is suggested that a full size floodlit 3G pitch would be required to ensure all aspirations can be catered for. This could either be as part of the stadium development or included within the accompanying provision outside of the stadium facility.

It should be noted that there has also been consultation within Allerdale/Cumbria area which indicate a strategic need for a multipurpose indoor facility which can accommodate athletics demand and also service the wider community. Therefore, there is a need to take this into consideration when analysing the potential facility mix at the CSV.

Additional work is required to agree on the best approach, in addition to testing affordability, and this will be further explored within the Strategy element of this project. The report to follow below will help provide the analysis required for the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan and will also outline in detail the findings from each club's consultation.

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Agreed scope

The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Provision included within the PPOSS is as follows:

- ✦ Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ✦ Cricket pitches
- ✦ Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ✦ Rugby league pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ✦ Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
- ✦ Athletics tracks/facilities
- ✦ Tennis courts

Study area

The study area will comprise of the full local authority area, including what is located within the Lake District National Park boundary. The Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) has recently completed an Open Space audit to supplement its Local Plan and this will be used to inform the PPS, whilst population figures (both current and future) will also be fed in. It should also be noted that the LDNPA looks after its own planning and as such separate consultation has been carried out with them and factored into the report where applicable.

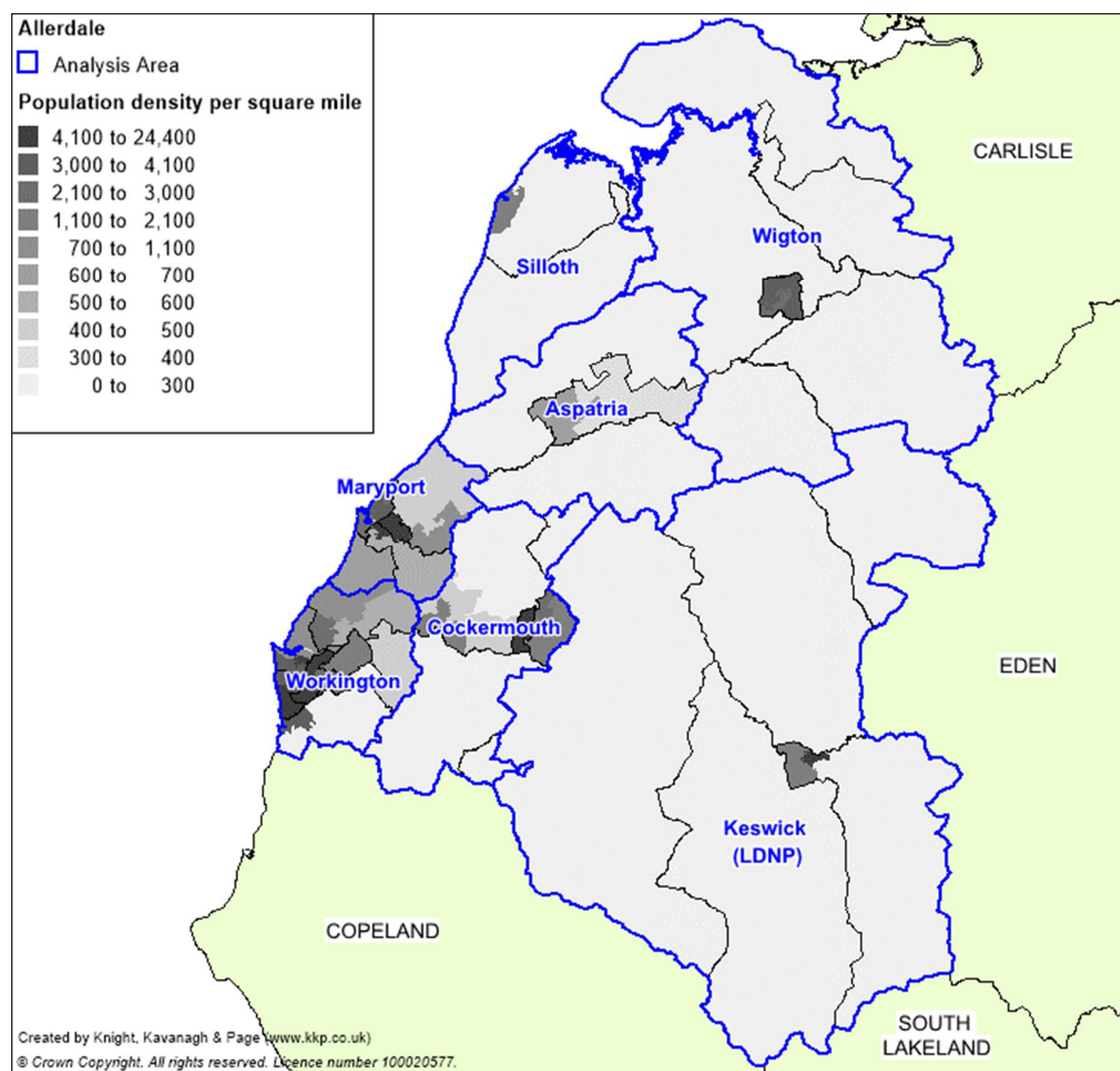
Analysis areas (or sub areas) will also be used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Allerdale as a whole. These will be based on the seven main towns in Allerdale:

- ✦ Wigton
- ✦ Aspatria
- ✦ Silloth
- ✦ Workington
- ✦ Maryport
- ✦ Cockermouth
- ✦ Keswick (Lake District National Park area)

In addition, cross-boundary movement will be recognised between neighbouring local authorities such as Copeland, Eden and Carlisle.

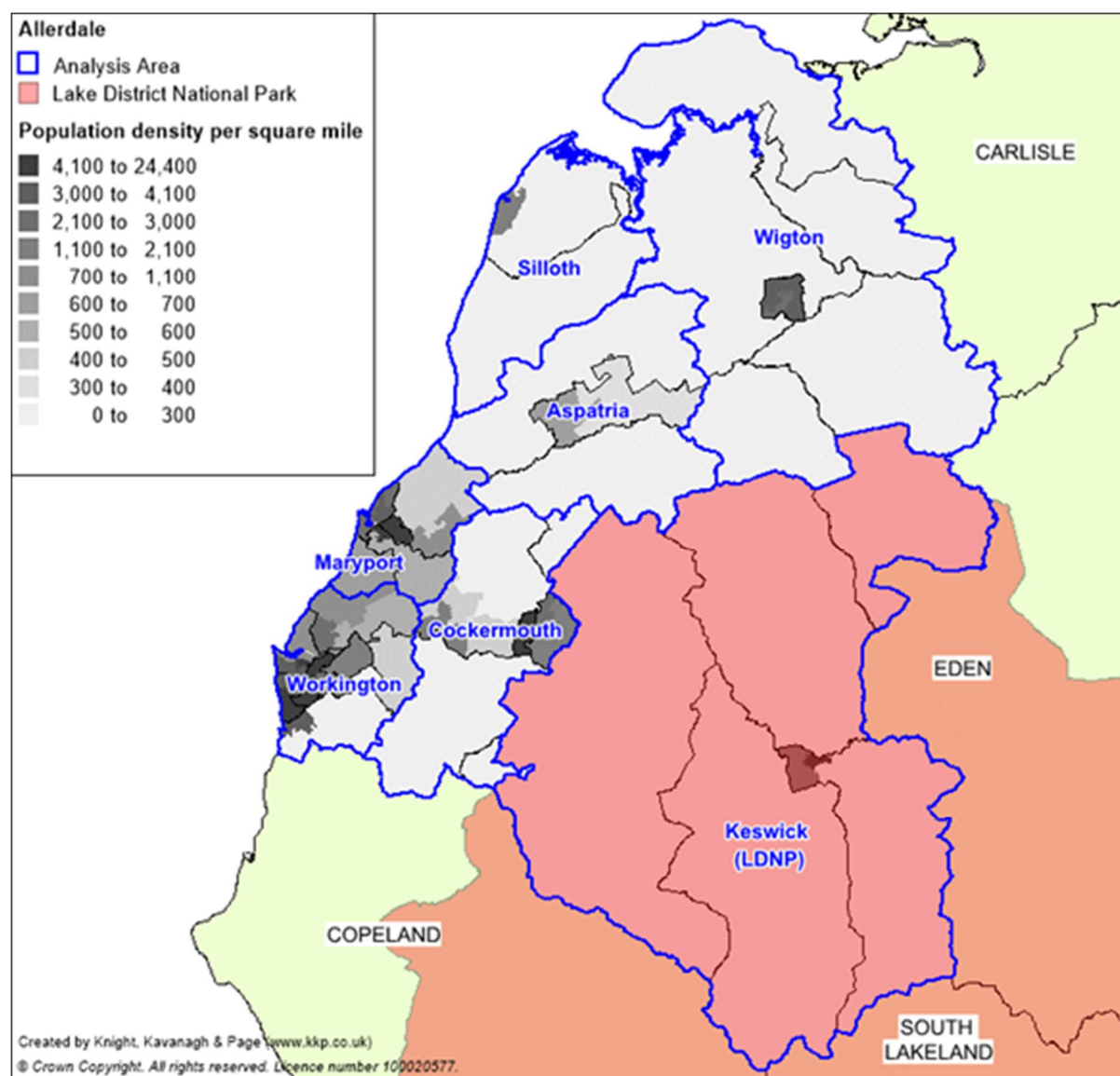
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Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



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Figure 1.2: Analysis area map with LDNP boundary



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1.2: Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision

A clear picture of supply and demand for playing pitches in Allerdale needs to be provided to enable an accurate assessment of quantity and quality. This is achieved through consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that they inform the subsequent strategy. It informs current demand, adequacy, usage, future demand and strategies for maintenance and investment for playing pitches.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

PPOSS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order¹

- ▶ ***Playing pitch*** ñ a delineated area of 0.2ha or more which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ▶ ***Playing field*** ñ the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, this PPOSS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side; for example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch. This PPOSS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes AGPs.

As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the playing pitches within Allerdale. However, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the PPOSS where provision is known to exist from other data sources). Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quantity

Where known, all playing pitches are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting the process by checking and updating this initial data as well as supplying their own. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues.

For each site, the following details are recorded in the project database:

- ▶ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ▶ Ownership and management type
- ▶ Security of tenure
- ▶ Total number, type and quality of outdoor sports facilities

¹. www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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Accessibility

Not all playing pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of provision also influences actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ▶ **Community use** - pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ▶ **Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ▶ **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice, are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ▶ **Disused** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as **Lapsed sites**
- ▶ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. These fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site.

Quality

The capacity of provision to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by their quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

It is not just the quality itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the playing pitches and the ancillary facilities will determine whether provision is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups, and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all playing pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

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Gather demand information and views

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. Demand for outdoor sports facilities in the Borough tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play

Current and future demand for playing pitches is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section. Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

In comparison latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available, whereas exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate such demand information. Firstly, virtual consultations via Teams/Zoom were carried out with key clubs from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face-to-face consultation and Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires have been followed up by telephone or face-to-face interviews.

As key providers and users of playing pitches, educational establishments were also consulted. This involved face-to-face meetings with secondary schools and colleges and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

Further to the above, as the Allerdale PPOSS was commissioned in July 2020, the process of gathering the supply and demand was severely impacted on by Covid-19. The table below outlines the alterations in approach for the Allerdale PPOSS based issues referenced above.

Table 1.3: Alterations to approach due to Covid-19

Sport / Stakeholder	Comments	Response rate
Secondary Schools	The normal process of arranging face to face consultations were unable to occur due to the Lockdowns. As a result, each Secondary School was sent an online survey to complete of which only Netherhall School and Workington Academy did not complete.	78%

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Sport / Stakeholder	Comments	Response rate
Football	For each sport non technical site assessments were carried out as normal during the relevant peak time, however, the decision was made to gather 2019 demand information through consultation rather than 2020. This is due to the fact that no sport managed to have a complete season, with most sports only managing a handful of matches. This approach was agreed on by each of the relevant NGBs. It should be noted that clubs and NGBs indicate that levels of demand in Allerdale do not alter significantly between seasons. Therefore using 2019 demand information is the best suited option. To bolster this approach a high response rate was required to understand specific issues moving forward for each sport. Broadly speaking a high response rate was obtained with most of the non-responsive clubs being small single team organisations. As a result, it is understood that the supply and demand analysis provides an accurate representation of each sport within Allerdale.	Club 67%
Rugby union		Team 87%
Rugby league		100%
Cricket		100%
Hockey		75%
Tennis		100%
Athletics		86%
		Consultation carried out with NGB and key representatives within Allerdale

Information on any nonresponses were gathered through online research and cross referenced against NGB, parish/town councils, Sport England and Council consultation.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

It should be noted that housing growth scenarios will be considered in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group) in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change. Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases to the population increases in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the team generation rates and is presented on a sport by sport basis.

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

- ✦ Recent trends in the participation.
- ✦ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate including the use of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator.
- ✦ Feedback from clubs on their plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- ✦ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. increase in participation).

Population growth

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The current resident population in Allerdale is 97,527². By 2030 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand) the population of the Borough is projected to increase to 98,895 representing an increase of 1,368 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 1.4%).

1.3: Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Allerdale and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations.

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate. This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

As a guide, the FA, RFU, RFL and the ECB have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality.

Table 1.2: Capacity of grass playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union*	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Hockey	AGPs	The artificial nature of the playing surface means that capacity is not linked to quality. Instead, it is considered that a pitch can generally accommodate four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has floodlighting.		

For tennis, a floodlit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit has court has capacity for 40 members (capacity varies for grass courts but none are provided in the Borough).

²Source: ONS Mid 2018 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

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For all remaining sports (i.e. athletics) potential capacity is evaluated on a site by site basis following consultation and site assessments.

Develop the current picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a Borough wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity on pitches or whether there is a shortfall.

Although spare capacity may be identified, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed, or the site may be retained in a strategic reserve to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in Allerdale. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to development of the Strategy and Action Plan for the Borough.

Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, latent, exported and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future.

Most of the scenario testing generally occurs in the Strategy that proceeds this document and therefore does not form part of the Assessment Report.

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in Allerdale is Cumberland FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches) which are the preferred AGP (artificial grass pitch) surface type for football. In future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

It should be noted that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the decision has been made to utilise 2019 demand data, where applicable, to inform this section of the report in order to give an accurate representation for the analysis of the sport across Allerdale. The Pandemic and subsequent lockdown/social distancing measures meant that the football season in 2020/21 was truncated with a limited number of matches taking place. Where identified through consultation, 2020 information will be referenced as relevant for comparison purposes.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy (NGS), the FA completed (2020) a nationwide consultancy project, namely the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for every local authority across England. Each plan is 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 and the Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP builds upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, also includes strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP also incorporates consultations with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented 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 identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding.

It is important to recognise that the 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.

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The LFFP for Allerdale was produced in 2020 and identifies priority projects for investment. As an investment portfolio, the LFFP is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area.

As a result, the LFFP will need updating in line with findings from the 2021 Playing Pitch Strategy in due course.

Consultation

In addition to online consultation with key football clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all clubs playing within Allerdale. Contact details were provided by Cumberland FA and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email. Through both online meetings, telephone interviews and survey responses, a 67% club response rate was obtained resulting in an 87% team response rate was achieved (195 teams out of 223). Online consultation was carried out with the following eight clubs:

- ◆ Abbeytown JFC
- ◆ Cockermouth JFC
- ◆ Keswick/Keswick JFC
- ◆ Maryport Athletic FC
- ◆ Maryport Amateurs FC
- ◆ Seaton FC
- ◆ Workington AFC
- ◆ Workington Reds JFC
- ◆ Workington Ladies FC

It should be noted that additional information was gathered from consultation with parish and town councils which will be factored into the supply and demand analysis below as required.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 111 grass football pitches within Allerdale across 58 sites. Of these, 89 pitches are available (as seen in the table below), at some level, for community use across 45 sites. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

As can be seen below, most of the community available pitches are in the Workington Analysis Area (24%) this is then followed by Cockermouth with 20% and Maryport and Wigton which both have 17% or 15 pitches available.

Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Aspatria	1	-	1	1	-	3
Cockermouth	5	2	2	4	5	18
Keswick (LDNP)	4	-	4	1	1	10
Maryport	5	4	1	2	3	15
Silloth	2	-	2	2	1	7
Wigton	5	1	3	5	1	15
Workington	10	2	4	3	2	21
Allerdale	32	9	17	18	13	89

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In comparison the remaining three analysis areas, Aspatria, Keswick and Silloth, have relatively small amounts of provision. Accumulatively the three areas accommodate 22% of all community available pitches in the Borough.

Lakes College operates an area of playing field land which previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch. During consultation, the College indicates this is no longer maintained as an official pitch and is generally now used for football on an ad hoc basis with most of the sporting demand taking place on the 3G pitch. The area of land is surrounded with ball stop netting and is also floodlit. This area of land could be used for community demand if maintained.

There are still three active adult pitches on Moorclose Playing Fields, however, it should be noted that there is an area of playing field land which previously accommodated one adult pitch. This area has stopped being maintained by the Council due to a lack of demand. It should be noted that if there is sufficient demand to reinstate the pitch there is potential to look at S106 or developer contribution monies allocated to improving its quality.

Most available pitches across Allerdale are adult size (32 pitches) which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. This is not ideal for youth players at U13-U16 level and is not in line with the FA Youth Review. Just nine available pitches are youth 11v11 sized representing 10% of the available supply in Allerdale which is comparable in relation to the proportion of youth teams (50 teams ñ 22% of all teams) which should be playing matches on this sized pitch.

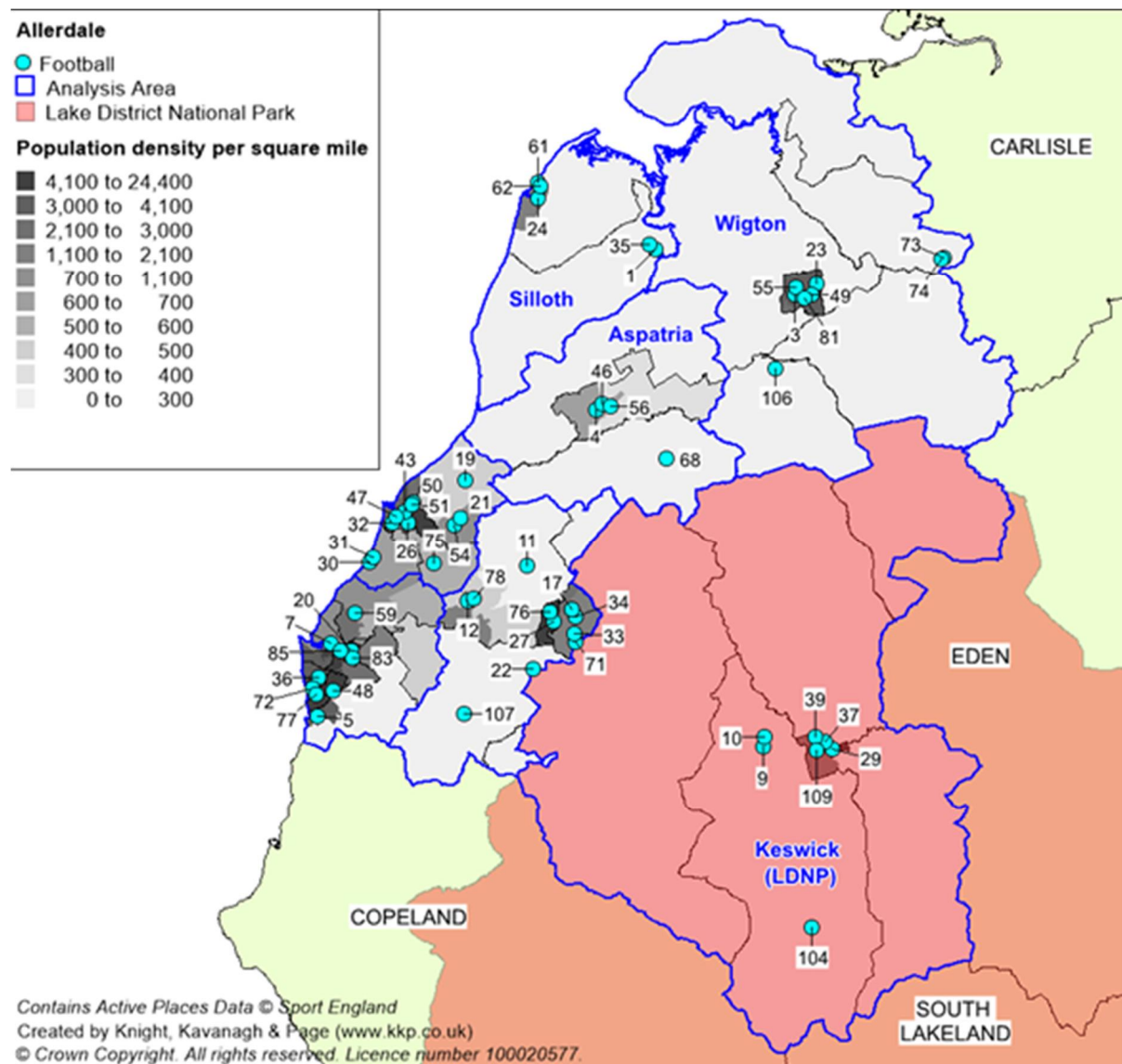
In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres. Please refer to the table overleaf for more detail.

Table 2.2: Recommended pitch sizes

Format	Age group	Recommended pitch size (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55
	U13s-U14s	82 x 50
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27

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Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in Allerdale



For a key to the map please see Table 2.13

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Lapsed/disused sites

Playing field sites which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as *lapsed sites*.

As mentioned, a lapsed site was as a playing field more than five years ago. These fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria.

Disused sites

There are two disused youth 11v11 pitches located at Islay Place (Workington) which were last formally accessed *circa* 2017. The site is owned by the County Council and has historically been used as unattached playing fields for St Joseph's Catholic High School.

The School reports not having used the site for several years due to its location. It would like to reinstate the pitches to better cater for curricular/extracurricular demand but if this were to happen it would need to arrange transport for pupils to access the site and cost is likely to be prohibitive.

Further to this the Council has been discussing, with a local football league, to reinstate the pitches to provide them with more youth provision, however, this is currently on hold due to Covid-19.

There is one disused youth 9v9 pitch at Cloffocks (CA14 1AG) located on Griffin Street in between Workington Leisure Centre and Allerdale Borough Council offices. The site was last used a couple of seasons ago and is booked via the leisure centre but owned by the Council.

There is also a disused site located behind Workington Fire Station. The site historically contained a rugby union pitch; however, it has most recently been utilised as an adult football pitch. The pitch has not been used for several seasons although the area of land is still being regularly maintained.

Lapsed sites

The previous site of Southfield Technology College (CA14 5BH), which closed in 2015, incorporates a lapsed playing field which consisted of two adult football pitches and one senior rugby union pitch, as well as a macadam area that accommodated four tennis courts. The site has been left unused since its closure. The area of land is owned by the County Council which have indicated plans to develop it for extra care housing. If this were to occur it should be noted that any loss of provision would need to meet requirements outlined in Sport England Playing Field Policy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

There are also lapsed sites at Eastman's Lowca Lane (Workington), Ling Beck - Northside (Workington) and Crosby Villa Playing Fields (Maryport). All three sites have historically accommodated one adult pitch; however, none have been used as pitches for several years.

There is a lapsed site located at Mossbay Road in Workington which last contained an adult football pitch. This site has not actively been used for football for several years, however, Workington Diamonds Girls FC is in the process of reinstating the site to accommodate its

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demand. Due to the Pandemic, it is unknown when this will be completed with the Club in the interim period utilising provision at The Ranch.

Future developments

Workington Community Sports Village

As mentioned in Part 1: Introduction and Methodology, Workington AFC and Workington Town RLFC are in discussions with the Borough Council over the creation of a new Community Sports Village (CSV) in Workington. Below is the synopsis of consultation with Workington AFC.

Workington AFC plays at Step 4 (Norther Premier League ñ North West Division) in the pyramid, although Borough Park currently meets all requirements for Step 3 football, in case of promotion. The ancillary provision is considered to be standard quality, with modernisation required; however, improvements to the site are currently on hold whilst the abovementioned discussions are occurring.

The single adult pitch at Borough Park accommodates competitive demand from the Club's 1st, Development and U18s teams in addition to one team from Workington Red Ladies FC, as well as walking football tournaments and finals for Cumberland FA competitions. The Club reports that the pitch is standard quality due to regular and sophisticated maintenance being carried out, albeit the condition can worsen especially during periods of sustained use.

As a result of the above, instead of using the pitch for training demand, the Club reports that it travels to use the 3G pitch at Penrith RUFC. This site is located outside of Allerdale in the neighbouring authority of Eden. This comes at a significant cost to the Club as it is located approximately 50-minutes drivetime from Borough Park.

The Club has strong relationships with both Workington Red Ladies FC and Workington Red Juniors FC and indicates that it would accommodate increased demand from them at Borough Park if the onsite provision had enough capacity.

Additional work is required to agree on the best approach, in addition to testing affordability, and this will be further explored within the Strategy element of this project.

Pitch access issues (Maryport)

Consultation with two main clubs in Maryport namely, Maryport Athletic FC and Maryport Amateurs FC, indicates there is a lack of access to suitable pitch provision within their locality. Each club indicates that moving forward over the next couple of seasons there is a particular lack of dedicated youth 9v9, youth 11v11 and adult pitches which poses an issue as younger age groups progress.

Maryport Athletic FC has access to one adult pitch at Milltoft Field which is over marked for mini and youth football in order to accommodate several teams' competitive demand. It does also have access to another grass adult pitch (over marked on a rugby league pitch) and a small size 3G pitch at Maryport ARLFC, however, access to this provision can be sporadic as it is prioritised for rugby league demand. When access to this site is lost it can result in a total of 13 teams using the one pitch at Milltoft Field.

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Maryport Amateurs FC currently uses provision at Netherhall Rugby Union FC to accommodate most of its 14 teams. Similar to Maryport Athletic FC all this demand is on one adult pitch which is over marked by one mini 5v5 and one mini 7v7 pitch. The Club indicates; however, it may not be able to accommodate all its teams on the site moving forward. Without access to this site, and with no suitable alternative, it indicates some of its teams may fold.

Both clubs indicate they have made attempts to secure access to grass pitches at Netherhall Community Sports Centre to meet their levels of demand however the School to date has been indifferent to the idea.

Maryport Amateurs FC is in the process of securing access to an area of playing field at Maryport Church of England Junior School in order to establish provision for its mini teams for next season. The Club also aspires to develop provision at Ennerdale Road for the remainder of its teams. This will be outlined in greater detail later in the report.

Tarn Close

Cockermouth JFC has recently obtained a long term lease for Tarn Close. The site currently consists of one youth 9v9 over marked with four mini 5v5 pitches, however, it should be noted that the area of playing field land can actually accommodate one adult pitch. This provision is located in the middle of a disused cinder athletics track.

The Club has created a development plan for the site which includes the building of a clubhouse, creation of further grass pitches (which would involve the removal of the cinder athletics track) and eventually exploring the feasibility of a full size floodlit 3G pitch. It reports it intends to submit a planning application for a clubhouse within the first half of 2021 and is already starting to fund raise, although it will be looking to maximise potential funding streams were possible.

It should be noted that as of July 2021 the Club has submitted a planning application (FUL/2021/0109³) however this has been objected by Sport England due to the permanent loss of the cinder track. As a result, Sports England has requested the moving of the proposed clubhouse and works off the track which would allow the objection to be removed. England Athletics are interested in supporting local clubs to get access to the track.

Energy Coast University Technical College

A new youth 9v9 pitch, with accompanying ancillary provision, will be created at Energy Coast University Technical College (CA14 4JW) in the Workington Analysis Area if the existing playing field is built upon to provide an extension to the College. The planning application was approved on 28th April 2021. Once established the new pitch with will be available for community use through a community use agreement.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Allerdale have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA⁴) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard

³ <https://allerdalebc.force.com/pr/s/planning-application/a3X3X000007zJwrUAE/ful20210109>

⁴ See Appendix 2 for the non-technical assessment for football pitches

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◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they are able to accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use in Allerdale. In total, 37 pitches are rated as standard quality and 50 as poor quality with just two pitches rated as good quality.

Table 2.3: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Analysis area	Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Aspatria	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Cockermouth	-	1	4	-	1	3	-	4	5
Keswick (LDNP)	-	3	1	-	1	3	-	-	2
Maryport	-	4	1	-	4	1	-	2	3
Silloth	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	2	1
Wigton	-	-	5	1	-	3	1	1	4
Workington	-	3	7	-	2	4	-	4	1
Total	-	13	19	1	11	14	1	13	17

Most pitches (56%) are assessed as poor quality and are generally located at education, parish or town council sites. These sites often receive limited amounts of dedicated maintenance due to budgetary restraints with often pitches only receiving grass cutting and line marking.

In addition, education pitches are heavily used for community, curricular and extracurricular activities meaning they have less time to remediate, whereas parish and town council pitches are open to the public and suffer from dog fouling and unauthorised usage.

Specific comments relating to the pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table below. These are either taken from club consultation or recorded during the site assessments.

Table 2.4: Summary of pitch quality comments

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Club/stakeholder name	Comments
Cockermouth	33	Grasmoor Sports Centre	Cockermouth FC	The Club, in partnership with Cockermouth RUFC, is in the process of securing funding to improve the drainage on both the rugby union and football pitch.
Cockermouth	76	Wakefield	Deer Orchard FC	Pitch has recently improved from poor

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Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Club/stakeholder name	Comments
		Road		to standard quality after the Club managed to secure some funding for pitch maintenance.
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	Keswick FC / Keswick JFC	Pitches used by the youth and mini teams suffer from waterlogging, compaction, and poor drainage.
Keswick (LDNP)	39	Keswick School	Keswick School	Pitches flood and become waterlogged. The School reports looking for potential options to improve the drainage, particularly on its unattached playing fields.
Keswick (LDNP)	109	Keswick School (Unattached Playing Field)		
Maryport	26	Ennerdale Road	Glasson Gardners FC	Pitch has recently been damaged by unofficial access.
Maryport	47	Milltoft Field	Maryport Athletic FC	Issues with drainage and animal burrowing and shortage of pitches.
Maryport	51	Netherhall Rugby Union FC	Maryport Amateurs FC	Pitches are poor quality and not regularly maintained. Also issues regarding accessing suitable number of pitches.
Maryport	54	Pottery Park	Dearham Rangers FC	Pitch has improved in quality since higher levels of maintenance was carried out in 2020. The Club has plans to continue this into 2021.
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	Nelson Tomlinson School	The School is currently working towards improving the quality of its playing field through investment in its drainage system in order to maximise curricular, extracurricular and community demand.
Workington	59	Seaton Juniors FC	Seaton Juniors	The Club has commission a feasibility study from the GMA to understand how to improve pitch quality.

Further to the drainage issues mentioned above, Maryport Athletic FC reports that the fencing, which was erected when the pitch was being constructed, has limited the number of potential pitches that could be established on the site. It aspires to alter the fencing to the boundary of the site, rather than just the pitch, in order to alleviate some overmarking on the adult pitch by creating dedicated mini provision.

Seaton Juniors carries out high levels of pitch maintenance on the pitches at Seaton Juniors FC which has seen some improvements in quality. This being said the pitches are still unusable for large periods of the winter due to waterlogging. The Club has recently financed a feasibility study on how pitch quality can be improved further with anecdotal evidence suggesting there drainage system needs upgrading.

Workington Reds JFC reports having recently obtained funding to carry out enhanced levels of maintenance (aeration) on the pitches at The Ranch at the beginning of 2021. It also states the number of pitches can be reconfigured in order to meet specific levels of demand such as competition or festivals.

Keswick School, in addition to issues surrounding flooding, indicates that access to its unattached playing fields is poor. It indicates that if a better access could be created the pitches would be used more.

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Impact of Covid-19

When asked during consultation what impact the Pandemic has had on quality, several clubs indicate that pitches have not managed to have the same amount of maintenance they normally would, particularly at educational sites. This has resulted in pitch quality to reduce.

FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP). As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Ground Management Association (GMA) formally known as the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).

Following a PIP report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified in order to improve the quality of their pitches. Clubs can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams to obtain the relevant equipment maintenance equipment.

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) 2020

The LFFP for Allerdale identified key sites considered a priority to improve, with these selected based on the rationale of identifying sites that are the poorest in quality and that are the best utilised, or that have the greatest potential for increased utilisation following quality enhancements. Emphasis is on sites with three or more pitches, although scope exists for the inclusion of smaller sites if they are deemed to be strategically important.

The following sites were identified for pitch improvements:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| ◆ Barton Laws | ◆ Seaton Juniors FC |
| ◆ Cockermouth School | ◆ Tarn Close |
| ◆ Moorclose Playing Field | ◆ The Ranch |
| ◆ Mossbay Road Football Pitch | |

All of these sites have also been identified, as part of the 2020 PPS consultation, for quality improvements by current users.

Overmarked pitches

Overmarking of pitches is an issue at some sites in the Borough, with youth 9v9 pitches often marked into the middle of adult pitches or mini pitches marked onto adult or youth pitches. Some are regularly subject to youth and mini play followed by adult and youth play. This sustained and intense use over short periods of time can impact on pitch quality and allows little time for the surface to rest and recover. Use of smaller pitches marked within larger pitches typically causes focused and specific wear due to the high traffic on certain overlapping areas such as the middle third of adult pitches.

Clubs use over marked pitches at the following sites:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ◆ Abbeytown Recreation Field | ◆ Netherhall Rugby Union FC |
| ◆ Fitz Park | ◆ Tarn Close |
| ◆ Milltoft Field | |

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It is not uncommon for pitches to be dually used for more than one grass pitch sport; particularly at schools where the curriculum may be structured in a way that the pitches are used for one sport for a number weeks followed by another within the same season. The most common in Allerdale is football with rugby league with many of the sites having combination goals on the pitches in question. Some pitches are also used throughout the summer for various activities; the following sites have dual pitches with football and rugby league:

◀ Grasslot Welfare W.M.C

◀ Maryport ARLFC

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Allerdale is generally secure i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. This relates to most of the Council, parish/town council operated pitches, with such provision protected as part of an ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offering.

A common exception to providing security of tenure is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use. In total, 15 educational providers do not allow community use, of some or all of their pitches. The reasons for not allowing community use varies: the most common example is that the schools want to protect pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues. Other reasons include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a perceived lack of profitability.

Moreover, some schools that do provide community availability do so without providing security of tenure, meaning they can stop the external use at any point devoid of any warning. To prevent this happening, it is recommended that club users enter community use agreements with the schools that they access. Therefore, for the purposes of this report, unless known through consultation all educational sites are considered to have unsecure tenure.

Historically, Workington Reds JFC has utilised provision at The Ranch for free through an agreement with a private owner, however, in 2020 the landlord expressed aspirations to sell the land. Following this, the Club managed to secure a two year lease arrangement, which end in August 2021, with the owner in an attempt to arrange security of tenure on the site through purchase or long term lease/licence.

It states that if it cannot secure tenure it will need to relocate its entire demand. It should be noted the Club expresses concerns on how it can obtain the monies, indicating it will more than likely need grant/loans in addition to internally fund raising. It also states that if it had to relocate it would struggle to find suitable pitch provision within its locality. Conversations are still ongoing with aspirations from both parties to find an agreement to keep the Club on the site via a purchase or provision of long term tenure.

Maryport Athletic FC currently has a short term lease from the Borough Council for the use Milltoft Field. The Club aspires to extend this agreement to a minimum of 25 years in order for it to access potential monies to create a clubhouse provision and to make pitch improvements.

As discussed above, Maryport Amateurs FC reports it may be losing access to pitch provision at Netherhall Rugby Union FC as of next season (2021) for some of its teams. It indicates, as a result of this, it will struggle to gain access to suitable provision to accommodate its teams which could potentially resulting in some age groups folding.

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In attempts to solve this issue, it has been in dialogue with the Council over the lease of Ennerdale Road. The Club, however, is yet to agree to this lease due to a specific detail in the proposed agreement. The Club indicates the proposal makes it liable to pay for repairs/replacements to damaged fencing and gates. The site is located in an area more prone to vandalism and has actually been damaged several times during the Pandemic. As a result, it cannot afford to agree to this term in the lease but is open to working with the Council to arrange an alternative solution.

Ancillary facilities

The quality of ancillary facilities across Allerdale has been assessed via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◆ Good
- ◆ Standard
- ◆ Poor

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing. The table below identifies the findings for football sites that are actively utilised for football across Allerdale.

Table 2.5: Summary of community available ancillary facility quality at football sites

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Ancillary provision quality
Aspatria	46	Memorial Park	N/A
Aspatria	56	Richmond Hill Primary School	N/A
Aspatria	68	St Michaels C of E Primary School	N/A
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	Standard
Cockermouth	27	Fairfield Primary School	N/A
Cockermouth	33	Grasmoor Sports Centre	Good
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	Poor
Cockermouth	71	Tarn Close	N/A
Cockermouth	76	Wakefield Road	Poor
Cockermouth	78	Welfare Field (Broughton Recreation Ground)	N/A
Cockermouth	107	Dean C of E School	N/A
Keswick (LDNP)	9	Braithwaite C of E Primary School	N/A
Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	Good
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	Good
Keswick (LDNP)	37	Keswick Football Club	Good
Maryport	21	Dearham Primary School	N/A
Maryport	26	Ennerdale Road	N/A
Maryport	30	Flimby West Lane	N/A
Maryport	31	Flimby Junior Football Pitch	N/A
Maryport	32	Grasslot Welfare W.M.C	Standard
Maryport	43	Maryport ARLFC	Standard
Maryport	47	Milltoft Field	N/A
Maryport	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	Good
Maryport	51	Netherhall Rugby Union FC	Good
Maryport	54	Pottery Park	Poor

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Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Ancillary provision quality
Maryport	75	Village Field	N/A
Silloth	1	Abbeytown Recreation Field	Standard
Silloth	24	Eden Street Playing Fields	Standard
Silloth	61	Skinburness Road Playing Fields	N/A
Wigton	3	Barton Laws	N/A
Wigton	23	East End Play Area and Soccer Pitch	N/A
Wigton	55	Public Park at Wigton	N/A
Wigton	73	Thursby Playing Fields	Good
Wigton	81	Wigton Infant School	N/A
Workington	7	Borough Park	Standard
Workington	20	Curwen Park	N/A
Workington	36	Jane Pit	N/A
Workington	48	Moorclose Playing Fields	N/A
Workington	59	Seaton Juniors FC	N/A
Workington	72	The Ranch	Poor
Workington	77	Walker Road	Poor
Workington	85	Workington Cricket Club	Good
Workington	105	Victoria Infant and Nursery School (Islay Place)	N/A

Across Allerdale most sites are either accompanied by poor quality or no ancillary provision. In total five sites (12%) have poor quality provision with 24 sites (56%) having no facilities. Due to the rurality of the Authority the lack of any clubhouse or changing provision is common as they are many single pitch sites created to meet demand from local villages and hamlets.

In fact, 13 of the 24 (54%) community available sites that are not accompanied by ancillary provision also only accommodate one pitch. Investment in pitch quality improvements and ancillary provision at these sites is unlikely to yield high returns given the scale of the facilities relative to the amount of investment that would be needed to deliver substantive enhancements to the sites as standalone facilities.

Deer Orchard FC has plans to improve the quality of its changing rooms at Wakefield Road as one of its portacabins is in desperate need of refurbishment/replacement. However, the Club has been forced to delay this project due to the Pandemic with its focus now on sustaining levels of participation.

Workington JFC indicates that if it manages to resolve the aforementioned tenure issues at The Ranch, it plans to create a dedicated clubhouse on the site in addition to upgrading the car parking. As most of the clubs' finances will be put towards the purchasing of the site it will have little in reserves for such a project and will therefore be looking for potential funding options.

Maryport Athletic FC currently has access to changing provision at Maryport ARLFC; however, it indicates this can sometimes be stopped to prioritise usage from rugby league demand. As a result, it aspires to create a purpose built clubhouse facility at Milltoft Field in order to have sustained regular access to ancillary facilities.

Silloth Juniors FC reports it is in the process of obtaining grants to refurbish the changing rooms at Eden Street Playing Fields to improve overall quality, in addition to creating a

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dedicated female changing area. It anticipates, once this area is completed, it will be able to increase women's and girls' demand.

Dearham Juniors FC indicates ancillary provision at Pottery Park is extremely basic as the Club has adapted portacabins into changing rooms with no running water or electricity. It indicates if it has better quality facilities it would be able to increase the number of teams it fields.

Seaton Juniors aspires to upgrade the onsite storage containers to a single story clubhouse facility. The Club reports in order to accomplish this it would require levels of external funding.

As previously mentioned, Cockermouth JFC is in the process of submitting planning permission to establish a clubhouse at Tarn Close. However, the Club also indicates it does not have access to ancillary provision at its secondary venue, Cockermouth School despite there being standard quality facilities on site. It states it would preferably want full access to changing room provision for when it uses the pitches, or at the minimum, toilet facilities.

It should be noted that currently there is no ancillary provision at Barton Laws. This is due to the onsite clubhouse being demolished in preparation for a new facility being built through a joint project with the Council, Football Foundation and Sports England, as identified in the Local Football Facilities Plan.

Local Football Facilities Plan (2020)

The LFFP for Allerdale identified key sites considered a priority to improve, with these selected based on the rationale of identifying sites that are the poorest in quality and that are the best utilised, or that have the greatest potential for increased utilisation following quality enhancements. Emphasis is on sites with three or more pitches, although scope exists for the inclusion of smaller sites if they are deemed to be strategically important.

The following sites were identified ancillary improvements:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ◀ Barton Laws | ◀ Seaton Juniors Football Club |
| ◀ Eden Street Playing Fields | ◀ Tarn Close |
| ◀ Milltoft Field | ◀ The Ranch |
| ◀ Moorclose Playing Field | |

All five of these sites have again been identified, as part of the 2020 PPS consultation, for a need to improve in quality by current users.

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, 223 teams are identified as playing within Allerdale. This consists of 37 adult men's, four adult women's, 47 youth 11v11 boys' three youth 11v11 girls' 35 youth 9v9 boys' two youth 9v9 girls' and 95 mini teams. Youth 11v11 football is the most prominent format of play, whilst youth 9v9 football is the least common. As mentioned in Part 1: Introduction and methodology 2019 affiliation data, provided by CFA and cross referenced with club consultation, has been used for the audit due to issues surrounding the Pandemic. This information will be utilised for the capacity analysis below.

Football in Allerdale is played predominately in the Workington Analysis Area, which corresponds with the area also accommodating the most amount of provision. In comparison, the Aspatria Analysis Area services the least number of teams.

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Table 2.6: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Allerdale

Analysis area	No. of teams					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Aspatria	3	-	-	-	-	3
Cockermouth	5	12	6	5	6	34
Keswick (LDNP)	3	2	2	2	2	11
Maryport	8	8	6	9	7	38
Silloth	2	3	6	6	3	20
Wigton	2	5	2	5	2	16
Workington	18	20	15	23	25	101
Total	41	50	37	50	45	223

It should be noted that even though 2020 affiliation figures were not available, consultation with Cumberland FA anticipate the figures for the 2019 would be relatively similar with not much change in participation figures on a seasonal basis.

Football pyramid demand

The National League System is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of seven steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with A being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

There is one club that plays within the football pyramid within Allerdale which is Workington AFC, as seen in following table.

Table 2.7: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
Workington AFC	Northern Premier League ñ North West Division	Step 4

A common issue for clubs entering or within the football pyramid is ensuring their facilities meet the relevant requirements. However, Workington AFC, through consultation, indicate its current facilities at Borough Park do meet the recommended requirements.

The Club is involved with a potential Community Sports Village development which would see it redevelop Borough Park and its surroundings. These ambitions are referenced earlier under Future Development and within Part 1: Introduction and Methodology.

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It should be noted that the FA proposes restructuring the Non-League Football Pyramid with greater emphasis to be played on the role of County FA's in the administration of the Step 7 leagues. This being said due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic (2020) the exact structure and facility requirements for Step 7 leagues are yet to be confirmed.

Women's National League System

There is also a Women's National League System similar to the adult men's football pyramid, providing structure to the women's game. As seen in the table overleaf, this ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each step requiring differing ground grading requirements. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels.

Table 2.8: Summary of ground grading for women's football

Level	League	Grading category
Tier 3 and 4	Women's Super League 1	Grade A
Tier 3 and 4	Women's Super League 2	Grade B
Tier 5	Northern and Southern Women's Premier League	Grade A
Tier 6	Women's Combination Leagues	Grade B
Tier 7	Women's Regional Leagues & Premier Divisions	Grade C

Although women's clubs are still required to meet ground requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C, each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Tier 3 and 4 of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same.

In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women's league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes were implemented from the start of the 2018-19 season and saw the top league, FA WSL 1, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at tier two for a maximum of 12 teams.

Workington Reds Ladies is the only club in Allerdale that fields a team that play in the Women's National League System. The Clubs first team plays in Tier 6; Women's Regional Leagues Other Divisions

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Allerdale study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

There are three clubs which import demand into Allerdale: Bransty Rangers Juniors FC (three teams), Moor Row Juniors FC (two teams) and Dalston Junior FC (five teams). The latter club imports demand from Carlisle City Council whereas the previous two clubs import demand from Copeland Borough Council.

The imported demand is not perceived to be an issue as the clubs are accessing sites close to the local authority boundary which are more than likely more accessible for them. Therefore this demand is likely to remain within Allerdale for the foreseeable future.

Exported demand

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Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of Allerdale, despite being registered to the Borough. There is no identified exported demand.

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack of pitches or appropriate facilities. Clubs that report latent demand and the reasons provided for this latent demand can be seen in the table below.

Table 2.9: Clubs that report latent demand and the reasons provided

Club	Need for more match pitches	Need for more/better training facilities	Need for better/more appropriate changing provision
Abbeytown JFC	-	Yes	Yes
Allerdale Girls FC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Blue Bell FC	-	-	Yes
Braithwaite FC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cockermouth FC	-	Yes	Yes
Cockermouth JFC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Crown Newlaithes FC	-	Yes	-
Dearham Rangers FC	-	Yes	Yes
Keswick FC / Keswick JFC	Yes	Yes	-
Maryport Athletic FC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maryport Amateurs FC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maryport Vets FC	-	-	Yes
Northside FC	-	Yes	Yes
Silloth Juniors FC	-	Yes	Yes
Wigton Harriers FC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Workington Reds JFC	-	Yes	Yes

Most clubs which express latent demand indicate they would be able to increase the number of teams if they have access to more or better ancillary provision or training provision including the use of floodlit 3G pitches.

This is followed by seven clubs which report they would be able to increase playing numbers through increasing the number of available pitches. The specific quantity of teams was not specified during consultation.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts.

The Strategy & Action Plan will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development within Allerdale.

Participation increases

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Six clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Through the clubs that quantified *potential* increase, there is a predicted growth of 13 teams, as seen overleaf.

Table 2.10: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand (teams)	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁵
Allerdale Girls FC	Workington	2 x youth girls	Youth 9v9	1
Crown Newlaithes FC	Wigton	1 x adult men's	Adult	0.5
Dearham Rangers FC	Maryport	1 x mini	Mini 5v5	0.5
Maryport Athletic FC	Maryport	1 x youth boys	Youth 9v9	0.5
		2 x mini	Mini 5v5	1
Silloth Juniors FC	Silloth	2 x mini	Mini 5v5	1
		1 x youth boys	Youth 9v9	0.5
		1 x youth boys	Youth 11v11	0.5
Workington Reds JFC	Workington	2 x mini	Mini 5v5	1
		13 teams	-	6.5

The total future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 6.5 match equivalent sessions (as two teams equate to one match equivalent session to account for matches being played on a home and away basis).

Broken down by pitch type, 0.5 match equivalent sessions are identified on adult pitches, 0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches, two match equivalent session on youth 9v9 pitches and 3.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches. No future demand is identified for mini 7v7 pitches, although such provision is likely to be required as future mini 5v5 teams progress.

Further to the above, SSE Wildcats centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, providing opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment.

All organisations delivering Wildcats centres receive a £900 start-up grant and 30 branded footballs in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girls' participation.

In light of both FA aspirations to double female participation in football through its Game Changer strategy and the establishment and foreseen future effect of the SSE Wildcats programme, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl teams may exceed that shown through team generation rates. To what extent is not currently quantifiable, however, this increase in female demand is likely to be captured within the club aspirational future demand figures expressed in Table 2.10.

Population increases

⁵ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

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Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2030) based on population growth. Using this, it is predicted that there no additional demand created through population increases.

Table 2.11: Borough wide team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group ⁶	Current no. of teams ⁷	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2030)	Predicted future number of teams (2030)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men (18-45)	14,133	37	1:382	8,984	23.5	0
Senior Women (18-45)	13,979	4	1:3,495	8,852	2.5	0
Youth Boys (12-17)	3,132	41	1:76	2,190	28.7	0
Youth Girls (12-17)	2,920	9	1:324	1,969	6.1	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	1,077	31	1:35	599	17.2	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	1,060	6	1:177	624	3.5	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	2,199	49	1:45	1,247	27.8	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	2,119	45	1:47	1,202	25.5	0

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to note that team generation rates are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools.

2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in the Borough.

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

⁷ Age group team numbers differ from Table 2.6 as forecasts are based on age rather than playing format. U17 and U18 teams affiliate to their respective County FA as juniors, however, are generally considered to play on and require adult pitches and are considered by age boundaries to be in the adult age group

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Table 2.13 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

Match equivalent sessions

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

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the carrying capacity at such sites will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP.

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking.

Table 2.13 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed as a result of community use, school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.

For school sites which are available for community use but that currently do not have any external hirers, one match equivalent session per week, per pitch has been accredited to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to them being completely unused.

Informal use

A number of football pitches in the area are on open access sites. As such, these pitches are subject to informal use in the form of dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Allerdale, peak time is considered to be Sunday AM for adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, and Saturday AM for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. Peak time is based on when the majority of teams are playing their competitive demand.

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In the table overleaf, please note that, on occasions, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than what exists overall. This is because the majority of use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period, therefore the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increases overall capacity.

Spare capacity

To determine actual spare capacity each site with potential capacity identified in the table above has been reviewed. A pitch is only said to have actual spare capacity if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecured tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed. The way this will be represented in Table 2.13 is as followed.

Table 2.12: Spare capacity examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means this is actual available spare capacity at peak period in match equivalent sessions.
-	If the cell has a dash in it, it means the pitch is played to capacity at peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity at peak period, however this is discounted due to unsecure tenure, poor pitch quality, the pitch not being available for community use or the pitch already being played to capacity or being overplayed so it cannot accommodate any additional demand.

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Table 2.13: Football pitch capacity analysis

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁸	Site capacity ⁹	Capacity balance ¹⁰	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
Aspatria	4	Beacon Hill Community School	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	2	Poor	2	2		2	Spare capacity discounted as pitches have no community use.
Aspatria	46	Memorial Park	Yes	Town council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Aspatria	56	Richmond Hill Primary School	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to unsecure tenure
Aspatria	68	St Michaels C of E Primary School	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to unsecure tenure
Cockermouth	11	Bridekirk Dovenby C of E Primary School	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch has no community use.
Cockermouth	12	Broughton Primary School Academy	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch has no community use.
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		2	Poor	3	2	1	-	Pitches are overplayed by 1 match equivalent session.
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	3	Poor	3.5	6	2.5	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to unsecure tenure
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	1	Poor	3	1	2	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 2 match equivalent sessions.
Cockermouth	27	Fairfield Primary School	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to unsecure tenure
Cockermouth	27	Fairfield Primary School	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Poor	1	1		1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted as pitch is at capacity.
Cockermouth	33	Grasmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RUFC)	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	1	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1		0.5	Pitch is considered played to capacity due to overmarking ¹¹ with rugby league.
Cockermouth	71	Tarn Close	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	5v5	4	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	-	Pitches are accumulatively overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions through overmarking.
						Youth ¹¹	9v9	1						
Cockermouth	76	Wakefield Road	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Cockermouth	78	Welfare Field (Broughton Recreation Ground)	Yes-unused	Parish council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Poor	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to poor quality.
Cockermouth	107	Dean C of E School	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to unsecure tenure.
Keswick (LDNP)	9	Braithwaite C of E Primary School	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to unsecure tenure.

⁸ Match equivalent sessions

⁹ Match equivalent sessions; based on pitch quality - the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

¹⁰ Red indicates overplay, green indicates potential spare capacity and amber indicates at capacity.

¹¹ Four mini 5v5 pitches overmarked on the youth 9v9 pitch.

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Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁸	Site capacity ⁹	Capacity balance ¹⁰	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	0.5	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session.
Keswick (LDNP)	22	Eaglesfield Paddle C of E Primary Academy	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch has no community use.
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	Yes	Trust	Secure	Mini	7v7	1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	-	Pitches are accumulatively overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions through overmarking.
						Youth	9v9	1						
						Adult ¹²		1						
Keswick (LDNP)	37	Keswick Football Club	Yes	Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Keswick (LDNP)	39	Keswick School	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	2	Poor	2	2		2	Spare capacity discounted as pitch has no community use.
Keswick (LDNP)	104	Borrowdale CE Primary School	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch has no community use.
Keswick (LDNP)	106	Boltons C of E Primary School	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch has no community use.
Keswick (LDNP)	109	Keswick School (Unattached Playing Fields)	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
Keswick (LDNP)	109	Keswick School (Unattached Playing Fields)	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
Maryport	19	Crosscanonby St. Johns C of E School	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Poor	1	1		1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch has no community use.
Maryport	21	Dearham Primary School	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to unsecure tenure.
Maryport	26	Ennerdale Road	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session.
Maryport	30	Flimby West Lane	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
Maryport	31	Flimby Junior Football Pitch	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Standard	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Maryport	32	Grasslot Welfare W.M.C. (Elbra Rangers ARLFC)	Yes	Community organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	1	Pitch is accumulatively overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions through overmarking with rugby league.
Maryport	43	Maryport ARLFC	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted as pitch is primarily used for Rugby league
Maryport	47	Milltoft Field	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult ¹³		1	Standard	2	2.75	0.75	-	Pitches are accumulatively overplayed by 0.75 match equivalent sessions through overmarking.
						Mini	5v5	1						
						Youth	9v9	1						
Maryport	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	2	Standard	2	4	2	2	Spare capacity discounted as pitches have no community use.
Maryport	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch has no community use.
Maryport	51	Netherhall Rugby Union FC	Yes	Sports club	Unsecure	Adult ¹⁴		1	Poor	1	3.25	2.25	-	Pitches are accumulatively overplayed by 0.75 match equivalent sessions through overmarking.
						Mini	7v7	1						
						Mini	5v5	11						

¹² Adult pitch is overmarked with mini 7v7 and youth 9v9 pitch.

¹³ Adult pitch is overmarked with mini 5v5 and youth 9v9 pitch.

¹⁴ Adult pitch is overmarked with mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 pitch.

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Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁸	Site capacity ⁹	Capacity balance ¹⁰	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
Maryport	54	Pottery Park	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2		0.5	Spare capacity discounted as pitch is played to capacity.
Maryport	75	Village Field	Yes-unused	Parish council	Secure	Mini	5v5	1	Standard	-	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session.
Maryport	75	Village Field	Yes-unused	Parish council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Standard	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session.
Silloth	1	Abbeytown Recreation Field	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult ¹⁵		1	Standard	4.75	2	2.75	-	Pitches are accumulatively overplayed by 2.75 match equivalent sessions through overmarking.
						Mini	7v7	1						
						Youth	9v9	1						
Silloth	24	Eden Street Playing Fields	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.
Silloth	24	Eden Street Playing Fields	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	7v7	1	Standard	2	4	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Silloth	24	Eden Street Playing Fields	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	9v9	1	Standard	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Silloth	35	Holm Cultram Abbey C of E School	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch has no community use.
Silloth	61	Skinburness Road Playing Field	Yes	Town council	Secure	Mini	5v5	1	Poor	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to poor quality.
Silloth	62	Solway Community School	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Standard	1	4	4	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch has no community use.
Silloth	62	Solway Community School	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	1	Standard	1	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch has no community use.
Silloth	62	Solway Community School	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Standard	1	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch has no community use.
Wigton	3	Barton Laws	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	1.5	Pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Wigton	23	East End Play Area and Soccer Pitch	Yes	Town council	Secure	Mini	7v7	1	Poor	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to poor quality.
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Adult		3	Poor	3	3		3	Spare capacity discounted as pitches are played to capacity.
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	2	Poor	2	2		2	Spare capacity discounted as pitches are played to capacity.
Wigton	55	Public Park at Wigton	Yes	Town council	Secure	Mini	7v7	1	Standard	2	4	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Wigton	55	Public Park at Wigton	Yes	Town council	Secure	Youth	9v9	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions discounted due to poor quality.
Wigton	73	Thursby Playing Fields	Yes	Parish council	Secure	Mini	7v7	1	Good	1.5	6	4.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Wigton	73	Thursby Playing Fields	Yes	Parish council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Good	1.5	4	2.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
Wigton	74	Thursby Primary School	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	2	Poor	2	4	2	2	Spare capacity discounted as pitches have no community use.
Wigton	81	Wigton Infant School	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to unsecure tenure.

¹⁵ Adult pitch is overmarked with a mini 7v7 and youth 9v9 pitch.

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Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁸	Site capacity ⁹	Capacity balance ¹⁰	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
Wigton	81	Wigton Infant School	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	2	Poor	2	4	2	2	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent sessions discounted due to unsecure tenure.
Workington	5	Beckstone Primary School	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to unsecure tenure.
Workington	7	Borough Park (Workington Reds FC)	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2		1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch is played to capacity.
Workington	20	Curwen Park	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Poor	1.5	3	1.5	2	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent sessions discounted due to poor quality.
Workington	20	Curwen Park	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Poor	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to poor quality.
Workington	36	Jane Pit	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2		-	Pitch is played to capacity.
Workington	48	Moorclose Playing Fields	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Poor	1	3	2	2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalent sessions discounted due to poor quality.
Workington	59	Seaton Juniors FC (Meadow Vale)	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	11v11	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Pitch overplayed by 1 match equivalent session.
Workington	59	Seaton Juniors FC (Meadow Vale)	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	9v9	1	Poor	3	1	2	-	Pitch is overplayed by 2 match equivalent sessions.
Workington	72	The Ranch	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	5	2	3	-	Pitch is overplayed by 3 match equivalent sessions.
Workington	72	The Ranch	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	-	Pitch has no spare capacity at peak time.
Workington	72	The Ranch	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Standard	4.5	4	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Workington	72	The Ranch	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Standard	2	2		-	Pitch is played to capacity.
Workington	77	Walker Road Pitches	Yes	Private ¹⁶	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Workington	77	Walker Road Pitches	Yes	Private ¹⁷	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to unsecure tenure.
Workington	77	Walker Road Pitches	Yes	Private ¹⁸	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions discounted due to unsecure tenure.
Workington	83	Workington Academy	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	11v11	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to unsecure tenure.
Workington	85	Workington Cricket Club (Ernest Valentine Cricket Ground)	Yes	Sports club	Unsecure	Mini	5v5	1	Standard	1	4	3	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
Workington	85	Workington Cricket Club (Ernest Valentine Cricket Ground)	Yes	Sports club	Unsecure	Mini	7v7	1	Standard	2	4	2	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
Workington	85	Workington Cricket Club (Ernest Valentine Cricket Ground)	Yes	Sports club	Unsecure	Youth	9v9	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	1	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session discounted due to unsecure tenure.

¹⁶ Impact Housing Association

¹⁷ Impact Housing Association

¹⁸ Impact Housing Association

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Spare capacity summary

When aggregated from the table above, actual spare capacity totals 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week across 12 pitches. This has been gathered up by area and by pitch type below.

Table 2.14: Summary of actual spare capacity

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Aspatia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cockermouth	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
Keswick (LDNP)	1.5	-	-	-	-	1.5
Maryport	1	1.5	-	-	1	3.5
Silloth	1	-	0.5	0.5	-	2
Wigton	-	-	-	1	-	1
Workington	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	1.5	0.5	1.5	1	8.5

Most actual spare capacity is identified on adult pitches and in Maryport Analysis Area, although some is also identified on the remaining pitch types. In comparison there is no spare capacity in the Aspatia or Workington analysis areas.

Overlay

Overlay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain, which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches in addition to overmarking. In Allerdale 26 pitches across 12 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 19 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.15: Summary of overlay

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
Aspatia	46	Memorial Park	Adult	1	0.5
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	Adult	2	1
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	(11v11)	1	2
Cockermouth	33	Grasmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RUFC)	Adult	1	0.5
Cockermouth	71	Tarn Close	(9v9) ¹⁹	5	1.5
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	Adult ²⁰	3	1.5
Maryport	32	Grasslot Welfare W.M.C. (Elbra Rangers ARLFC)	Adult ²¹	1	1.5
Maryport	47	Milltoft Field	Adult ²²	3	0.75
Maryport	51	Netherhall Rugby Union FC	Adult ²³	3	2.25
Wigton	3	Barton Laws	Adult	1	0.5
Workington	59	Seaton Juniors FC (Meadow	(11v11)	1	1

¹⁹ Overmarked by four mini 5v5 pitches

²⁰ Adult pitch is overmarked with mini 7v7 and youth 9v9 pitch.

²¹ Overmarked with rugby league

²² Adult pitch is overmarked with mini 5v5 and youth 9v9 pitch.

²³ Adult pitch is overmarked with mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 pitch.

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Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
		Vale)			
Workington	59	Seaton Juniors FC (Meadow Vale)	(9v9)	1	2
Workington	72	The Ranch	Adult	1	3
Workington	72	The Ranch	(7v7)	1	0.5
Workington	77	Walker Road Pitches	Adult	1	0.5
Total				25	19

The majority of overplay on sites is generated from the substantial levels of demand accessing poor quality pitch stock. In total, 12 match equivalent sessions of overplay is located on adult pitches, three match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11, 3.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 and 0.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches.

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any exported demand) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based solely on club aspirational demand as there is no anticipated growth driven by population increases.

Adult pitch analysis

Table 2.16: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Aspatia	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Cockermouth	0.5	1.5	1	-	1
Keswick (LDNP)	1.5	1.5		-	
Maryport	1	4.5	3.5	-	3.5
Silloth	1	-	1	-	1
Wigton	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Workington	-	3.5	3.5	0.5	4
Total	4	12	8	0.5	8.5

There is currently shortfall of adult pitches to meet demand, with eight match equivalent sessions of overplay and deficits existing in each analysis area apart from the Keswick and Silloth analysis areas. When considering future demand from club aspirational demand overplay slightly worsens to 8.5 match equivalent sessions.

²⁴ In match equivalent sessions

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Youth 11v11 pitch analysis

Table 2.17: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Aspatria	-	-		-	
Cockermouth	-	2	2	-	2
Keswick (LDNP)	-	-		-	
Maryport	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.5
Silloth	-	-		0.5	0.5
Wigton	-	-		-	
Workington	-	1	1	-	1
Total	1.5	3	1.5	0.5	2

There is currently a shortfall across the Borough on youth 11v11 pitches totalling 1.5 match equivalent sessions. When accounting for future demand, the shortfalls increase slightly to two match equivalent sessions per week.

It must also be noted that several youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, meaning shortfalls would greatly increase should these sides transfer to the correct pitch type.

Youth 9v9 pitch analysis

Table 2.18: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁶	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Aspatria	-	-		-	
Cockermouth	-	1.5	1.5	-	1.5
Keswick (LDNP)	-	-		-	
Maryport	-	-		0.5	0.5
Silloth	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	
Wigton	-	-			
Workington	-	2	2	1	3
Total	0.5	3.5	3	2	5

Similar to youth 11v11 pitches, there is currently a shortfall across the Borough on youth 9v9 pitches totalling three match equivalent sessions. When accounting for future demand, the shortfalls increase to five match equivalent sessions per week.

²⁵ In match equivalent sessions

²⁶ In match equivalent sessions

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Mini 7v7 pitch analysis

Table 2.19: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁷	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Aspatia	-	-		-	
Cockermouth	-	-		-	
Keswick (LDNP)	-	-		-	
Maryport	-	-		-	
Silloth	0.5	-	0.5		0.5
Wigton	1	-	1	--	1
Workington	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Total	1.5	0.5	1	-	1

Across Allerdale there is currently minimal spare capacity of one match equivalent session on mini 7v7 pitches. As future demand from clubs is non-existent for mini 7v7 pitches, with clubs instead planning to add mini teams at the lowest age group each year (mini 5v5 teams), the level of spare capacity remains at one match equivalent session.

Mini 5v5 pitch analysis

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁸	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Aspatia	-	-		-	
Cockermouth	-	-		-	
Keswick (LDNP)	-	-		-	
Maryport	1	-	1	1.5	0.5
Silloth	-	-		1	1
Wigton	-	-		-	
Workington	-	-		1	1
Total	1	-	1	3.5	2.5

Currently, mini 5v5 pitches have minimal spare capacity of one match equivalent session. However, due to median levels of future demand from clubs there is a future shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.

²⁷ In match equivalent sessions

²⁸ In match equivalent sessions

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2.6: Conclusions

It is determined that there is current spare capacity on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types with all remaining pitches showing evidence of overplay. After factoring in future demand from club aspirations, shortfalls on mini 5v5 pitches become evident with shortfalls worsening on all other pitch types.

Table 2.21: Summary of supply and demand

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	4	12	8	0.5	8.5
Youth 11v11	1.5	3	1.5	0.5	2
Youth 9v9	0.5	3.5	3	2	5
Mini 7v7	1.5	0.5	1	-	1
Mini 5v5	1	-	1	3.5	2.5

Most current overplay, is generated from high levels of demand across sites which contain poor quality pitches, in addition to a select number of pitches being overmarked by mini pitches. This worsens when accounting for the additional future demand.

Scenarios on how to address the identified shortfalls will be explored in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan including, but not limited to, improving pitch quality, reconfiguration of pitch type, securing access to sites with unsecure tenure and bringing back sites previously used.

Potential impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

It should be noted that the information above is based on 2019 demand, however, the current and future impact of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic (2020/21) needs to be taken under consideration.

The FA and FF have announced a number of guidelines, recommendations and potential funding streams for clubs which can be found at:

<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/news/coronavirus-update>

<https://www.thefa.com/about-football-association/covid-19>

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

Football – grass pitch summary

- ◆ **It is determined that there is current spare capacity on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types with all remaining pitches showing evidence of overplay. After factoring in future demand from club aspirations, shortfalls on mini 5v5 pitches become evident with shortfalls worsening on all other pitch types.**
- ◆ The audit identifies a total of 111 grass football pitches within Allerdale across 58 sites. Of these, 89 pitches are available, at some level, for community use across 45 sites.
- ◆ There are three disused and five lapsed sites which previously accommodated football pitches.
- ◆ There are plans to create a Community Sports Village within Workington involving Workington AFC and Workington Town RLFC.
- ◆ There are pitch access issues within the Maryport Analysis Area especially for Maryport Athletic FC and Maryport Amateurs FC.
- ◆ Cockermouth JFC has plans to develop Tarn Close.
- ◆ In total, 37 pitches are rated as standard quality and 50 as poor quality with just two pitches rated as good quality.
- ◆ Overmarking of pitches is a particular issue at Abbeytown Recreation Field, Netherhall Rugby Union FC, Fitz Park, Tarn Close, Milltoft Field, Grasslot Welfare W.M.C and Maryport ARLFC.
- ◆ There is security of tenure issues for Workington Reds JFC (The Ranch) and Maryport Amateurs FC (Netherhall Rugby Union FC).
- ◆ Deer Orchard FC, Workington JFC, Maryport Athletic FC, Silloth Juniors FC, Dearham Juniors FC and Cockermouth JFC all report aspirations to improve or create new ancillary provision.
- ◆ Through the audit and assessment, 223 teams are identified as playing within Allerdale. This consists of 37 adult men's, four adult women's, 47 youth 11v11 boys, three youth 11v11 girls, 35 youth 9v9 boys, two youth 9v9 girls and 95 mini teams.
- ◆ There is non league football from Workington AFC and Workington Reds Ladies FC.
- ◆ Six clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Through the clubs that quantified potential increase, there is a predicted growth of 13 teams. TGRs predict no future growth.
- ◆ Most clubs which express latent demand indicate they would be able to increase the number of teams if they have access to more or better ancillary provision or training provision including the use of floodlit 3G pitches.
- ◆ When aggregated, actual spare capacity totals 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week across 12 pitches.
- ◆ In Allerdale 26 pitches across 12 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 19 match equivalent sessions per week.

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PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard (IMS) tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality (previously FIFA One Star), as well as for training purposes.

World Rugby produced the Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby, more commonly known as Regulation 22 that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the RFL to meet its Performance Standard for Synthetic Turf Pitches. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, consequently World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements and are deemed suitable for rugby league use subject to passing an additional exclusive RFL performance standard test.

England Hockey's (EH) Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability

Surface	Sport	Comments
Rubber crumb	Rugby	Long pile surface (60mm) that is compliant to World Rugby regulation 22 and/or RFL Community Standard
Rubber crumb	Football	Performance standard to meet FIFA Quality after FIFA or IMS testing with the preferred surface medium pile (55-60mm)
Rubber crumb	Hockey	Short pile surface (40mm) for lower level hockey only

Many test contractors are able to offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity.

3.2: Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres; however, for the purposes of this report, all pitches measuring over 94 x 55 metres (exclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand they can accommodate. Nationally, many 3G pitches are slightly undersized due to being converted from sand-based provision (dimensions for hockey are smaller than for football).

There are two full size 3G pitches in Allerdale that fully comply with the above specification: one each in the Maryport and Workington analysis areas.

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Table 3.2: Full size 3G pitches in Allerdale

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Com use?	Floodlit?	Size ²⁹	Certification
Maryport	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	Yes	Yes	100 x 70	FA
Workington	40	Lakes College (West Cumbria)	Yes	Yes	114 x 72	FIFA / WR

Both pitches are floodlit and considered to be available for community use. The pitch at Lakes College is FIFA and World Rugby complaint whereas the pitch at Netherhall Community Sports Centre is only FA certified.

In addition to the two full size pitches, there are five smaller size floodlit 3G pitches across the Borough. One each in the Maryport and Silloth analysis areas and three in the Workington area.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size ³⁰	Certification
Maryport	43	Maryport ARLFC	1	Yes	Yes	64 x 32	FA
Silloth	24	Eden Street Playing Fields	1	Yes	Yes	40 x 30	-
Workington	86	Workington Leisure Centre	3	Yes	Yes	36 x 18	-

As the pitch at Maryport ARLFC is FA approved it can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches up to and including U10s level, which play on a Mini 7v7 pitch format. However, more commonly, smaller sized 3G pitches are used to accommodate training demand, commercial football leagues and social/recreational play.

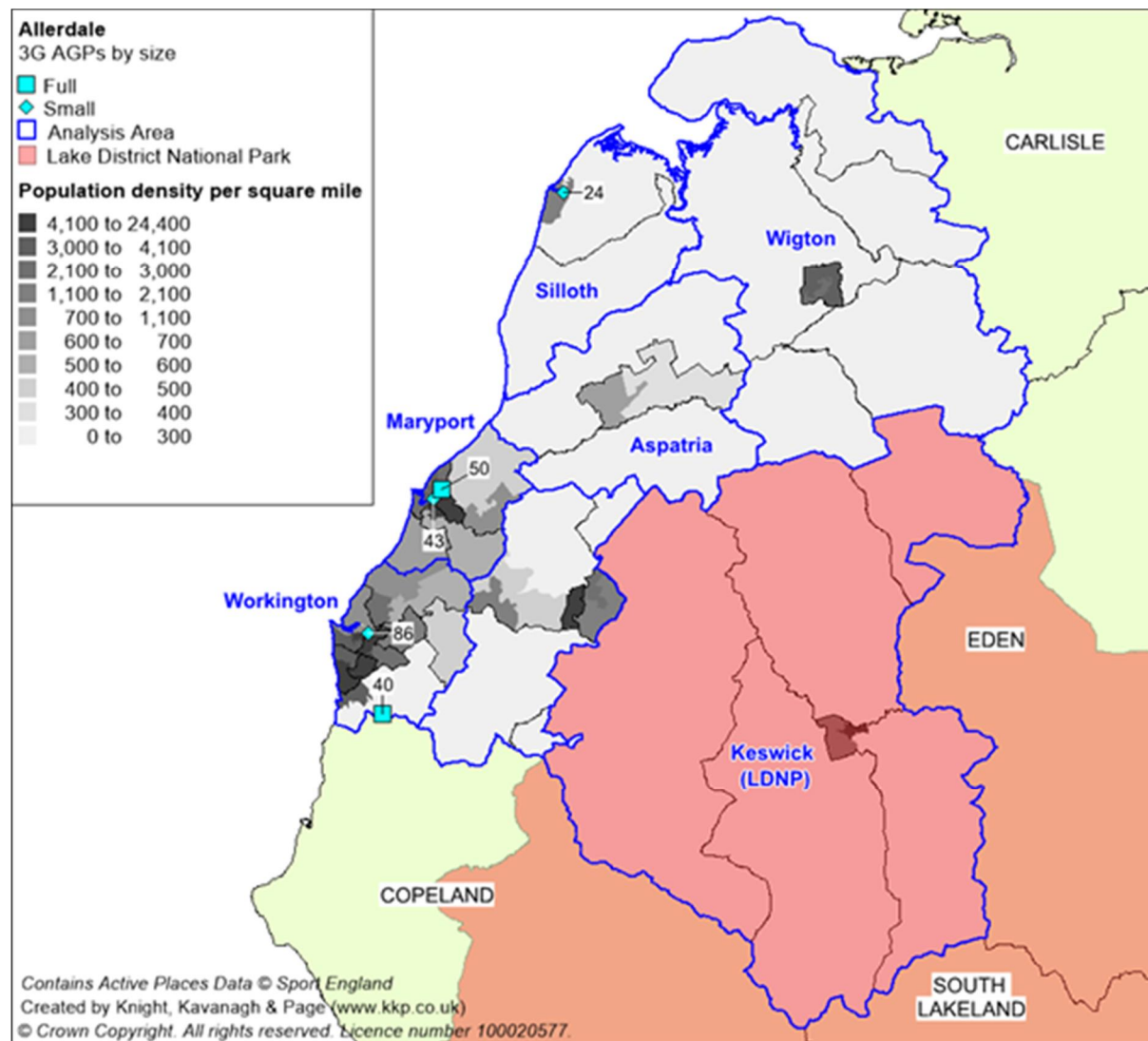
It should be noted that there is no 3G provision in the Aspatria, Cockermouth, Keswick (LDNP) or Wigton analysis areas.

²⁹ Size is in metres

³⁰ Size is in metres

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Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Allerdale



For a key to the map please see Table 3.2 and Table 3.3.

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Future provision

As discussed in Part 2: Football, Cockermouth JFC is in the process of developing Tarn Close (Cockermouth) after obtaining a long term lease on the site. Although its initial plans are to create additional grass pitches and ancillary provision it has a long term ambition to develop a full size 3G pitch in order to bring competitive and training demand from all its teams onto one location. If successful it will allow the Club to minimise expenditure in addition to providing an artificial surface to the locality of Cockermouth, which currently has no 3G provision.

St Joseph's Catholic High School (Workington) currently has a poor quality small size (52x34m) hockey suitable AGP that is used for curricular, extracurricular and community demand, however, this is limited due to its condition. The surface needs refurbishment and the School mentions it would prefer this to be a 3G surface to better cater for its own demand, in addition to increasing its community usage. England Hockey indicates is not actively used for hockey demand and is open to discuss its potential conversion. The School would require to look for potential funding options for its refurbishment. If the surface is refurbished it could potentially displace tennis demand, this is detailed later in the report in Part 8: Tennis Courts.

Workington Academy has recently put in a full planning application (FUL/2021/0129) for the construction of small size (61m x 43m) floodlit 3G pitch. This to date is still under consideration and is proposed to be available for community use.

Both Maryport Athletic FC and Maryport Amateurs FC report a need for additional 3G provision to be created in the locality of Maryport itself. The clubs both suggest that even if the pitch at Netherhall Community Sports Centre were to be refurbished there would still be need for another small size 3G pitch, similar to one located at Maryport ARLFC.

It has been suggested that a disused macadam area adjacent to Ennerdale Road could be an ideal location for such provision. This area has not previously been used as playing field and is primarily utilised for parking. There is potential for the provision to be located on the grass area however this may require additional works to flatten due to its topography. Any 3G provision could be linked with grass provision at Ennerdale Road in cohesion with creating additional pitches with any remaining playing field land in order to create a football hub for the area. It also has the scope to be linked to the adjacent schools (Our Lady & St Patricks Catholic Primary School and Ewanrigg Junior School).

The Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP), a Football Foundation (FF) plan for investment, for Allerdale identifies three priority 3G projects for the Borough; the creation of one full size 3G pitch to service the Workington area and the short term refurbishment of the surfaces at Netherhall Community Sports Centre (Maryport) and the long term refurbishment of Lakes College (Workington)

It should be noted that these are priorities identified by the FF and are not a strategic local authority plan. This being said consultation within the PPOSS indicate that each of these projects are still required. The priority of these projects will need to be revisited following the completion of the PPOSS.

Conversion to 3G surfaces

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way to replace a worn sand or water based carpet and generate increased revenue from hiring out a 3G pitch to football and rugby clubs and commercial football providers, and/or to meet the demand for other sports. This has often come at the expense

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of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams consequently displaced from their preferred local authority.

Due to its potential to impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface where planning permission is needed for a change of surface applicants will need to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and EH should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

Sport England consider that the operations required to convert a sand dressed/based pitch to 3G require planning permission as it is not just a change of carpet with the sub structure potentially needing to be changed as well. This would require engineering operations.

It should also be noted that, if the surface type is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and in some instances noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place. Conversion to a 3G surface will likely require a size increase; along with floodlighting improvements, the addition of a shock pad, fencing and noise attenuation. This too is likely to require planning permission.

A 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Providers proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance and in particular [Selecting the Right Artificial Surface](https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/outdoor-surfaces) <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/outdoor-surfaces>

FA Pitch Register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA Pitch Register, which can be found at: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch (previously FIFA One Star) or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch (previously FIFA Two Star), with pitches commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. This comes after FIFA announced changes to 3G performance in October 2015 following consultation with member associations and licenced laboratories.

The changes are part of FIFA's continued ambition to drive up performance standard in the industry and the implications are that all 3G pitches built through the FA framework will be constructed to meet the new criteria.

The changes from FIFA One Star to FIFA Quality will have minimal impact on the current hours of use guidelines, which suggests that One Star pitches place more emphasis on the product's ability to sustain acceptable performance and can typically be used for 60-85 hours per week with a lifespan of 20,000 cycles. In contrast, pitches built to FIFA Quality Pro performance standards are unlikely to provide the hours of use that some FIFA Two Star products have guaranteed in the past (previously 30-40 hours per week with a lifespan of 5,000 cycles). Typically, a FIFA Quality Pro pitch will be able to accommodate only 20-30 hours per week with appropriate maintenance due to strict performance measurements.

As mentioned above, the full size pitch at Lakes College is FIFA and World Rugby compliant whereas the full size pitch at Netherhall Community Sports Centre and the small size pitch at Maryport ARLFC is FA certified.

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RFL Compliant pitches³¹

The RFL in 2018 amended its rules to allow the use of 3G pitches in all of its competitions providing a pitch holds a Fields Test Certificate showing it fully complies with the relevant field test requirements of the RFL Performance and Construction Standards for Pitches. These can be seen in the table below.

Table 3.4: RFL 3G pitch certification

Level of competition		Category of field certification
Club Tiers One and Two (Super League and Championship)		Stadium
Club Tiers Three and Four (Community and training)	New provision	Community
	Existing provision	Community or World Rugby Turf Performance Specification

No 3G pitches in Allerdale are currently RFL certified, however, as the pitch at Lakes College is World Rugby compliant it does meet the criteria for competitive rugby league to take place. Furthermore, there is rugby league demand taking place on the small sized 3G pitch at Maryport ARLFC, however, this is only for non-contact training purposes and not competitive demand due to its size.

World Rugby (WR) compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, WR has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

In Allerdale the 3G pitch at Lakes College is also World Rugby compliant, with retesting required in November 2021.

Management

All community available full size 3G pitches in Allerdale are managed internally at education sites. This in turn affect each pitches availability, which is outlined below.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

As seen in the table below, each community available pitch is considered widely accessible between in the evenings during weekdays. In total they are both available 32 hours out of the 34 hours of peak period with both pitches only available to 16:00 at the weekend.

³¹

https://secure.rugby-league.com/ign_docs/RFLPerformanceStandardforsyntheticurf pitches2018.pdf

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Table 3.5: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Analysis area	Site ID	Site	Availability
Maryport	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	The pitch is available from 17:00-21:30 Monday to Friday and 09:00 to 16:00 Saturday and Sunday.
Workington	40	Lakes College (West Cumbria)	The pitch is available from 09:00-21:00 Monday to Friday and 09:00 to 16:00 Saturday and Sunday.

During the Pandemic access to both pitches has been temporarily restricted. However, this is on a provisional basis with each site indicating that provision will be available for community use when it is safe to do so whilst meeting any social distancing requirements.

Quality

It is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

In Allerdale, the full size 3G pitch at Lakes College is currently to be good quality, with no issues identified following user consultation. In contrast, the pitch at Netherhall Community Sports Centre is poor quality.

As seen in the table below, the pitch was originally constructed in 2005 meaning it is close to its recommended lifespan of ten years. The surface has not been maintained to a sufficient level within this time period with signs of wear and tear being apparent. In addition, several clubs indicate that too much rubber crumb has been spread over its surface resulting in a poor user experience.

Table 3.6: Age and quality of 3G pitches

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
Maryport	43	Maryport ARLFC	2018	Good
Maryport	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	2004/05	Poor
Silloth	24	Eden Street Playing Fields	2018	Good
Workington	40	Lakes College (West Cumbria)	2016	Good
Workington	86	Workington Leisure Centre	2016	Standard

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Ancillary facilities

The ancillary facilities at both Netherhall Community Sports Centre and Lakes College are considered to be good quality with no specific issue raised through consultation.

3.3: Demand

Current demand

Football

There is some usage of the 3G pitch at Lakes College and Netherhall Community Sports Centre by teams in Allerdale to play matches, with potential demand perceived to be much higher if availability was better. Nationally, many 3G pitches are used to accommodate matches, particularly for youth and mini football, and there is an increasing number being used to host central venue matches.

For training, accessing affordable floodlit facilities is a key issue for most clubs in the Borough, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams. Sand based AGPs that are heavily used for training also accommodate hockey demand and operate commercial small sided football leagues which limits availability. In addition, some teams export demand to neighbouring authorities to access full size 3G pitch provision, detailed later in this section. If these pitches are converted to 3G it is understood the demand will remain onsite as it is a preferable surface for football training.

In total, 13 football clubs that responded to consultation requests state a demand for additional training facilities, with all of them specifically identifying a need for increased access to 3G pitches.

Rugby union

There is one WR compliant 3G pitch located at Lakes College. This pitch is used for training primarily by Cockermouth RUFC within Allerdale, however, the RFU indicates there is some imported demand from clubs from surrounding local authority Copeland Borough Council such as Whitehaven RUFC.

During consultation Wigton RUFC, Cockermouth RUFC and Workington RUFC report they would access 3G training and competitive demand if it were more readily available.

Rugby league

During consultation Broughton Red Rose RLFC, Maryport RLFC, and Glasson Ranger RLFC all report accessing 3G pitch provision to accommodate partial training demand namely, Lakes College, Maryport ARLFC and Netherhall Community Sports Centre.

Moreover, all clubs, apart from Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC and Maryport RLFC, report a desire to access more additional floodlight 3G surfaces for training demand particularly during the winter period.

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Key trends and changes in demand for pitches

Football

Demand from football for 3G pitches has increased in recent years due to demand from clubs for training but also due to a growing acceptance by local leagues of use for competitive matches, where play on 3G pitches is now included within the FA Standard Code of Rules. This considered, the general condition of local authority pitches and increasingly limited budget for regular and adequate maintenance may lead more teams to consider AGPs as a possible alternative should it be financially viable.

A number of leagues around the country now use 3G pitches as central venues where all play takes place. Mini soccer leagues especially are increasingly adopting this approach either for whole seasons or a number of months throughout the winter because they can continually offer a high quality playing experience, in many cases beyond that of grass pitches which are generally of comparatively poorer quality. It also allows leagues to continue to run throughout the winter, largely unaffected by poor weather which has disrupted the football season over recent years, causing it to run into summer and clash more often with summer sports. The above trend is likely to increase in the future and more mini soccer, flexi and vetsöleagues could be played exclusively on 3G pitches.

Rugby union

Given the inclement weather often experienced throughout the winter months of the rugby union season, more clubs are becoming increasingly receptive towards training on artificial pitches. Clubs traditionally train on match pitches where floodlights are in place or one pitch designated for all training in particular, unless there is a separate floodlight grass training area. It often results in deterioration in pitch quality coupled with decreasing maintenance budgets.

The RFU strategy on investment in 3G pitches both at club and community based sites is indicative of the growing acceptance of 3G pitches amongst clubs nationally. Nationally clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.

Rugby league

Since rugby league switched from the winter to summer season in March 2012, the majority of teams have moved towards playing in summer. The improved weather and longer daylight hours throughout the summer mean that clubs tend to train on grass pitches or areas in order to reduce additional costs of hiring facilities because they require less access to floodlighting. This often leads to overuse of match pitches by clubs which consistently train on them, especially those which have several teams and train twice a week.

Nationally the use of 3G pitches for rugby league typically extends to pre-season or early season training when weather is often still poor and floodlights are required. It is likely that demand for 3G pitches for training will increase in future but that teams will continue to prefer grass training provision during most months of the season when weather is forgiving.

Rugby league is still played throughout the winter in schools, colleges and universities where 3G pitches are used often for both training and matches, where certified.

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3.4: Supply and demand analysis

FA training scenario including small size provision

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The FA can support intensive use and as such, pitches are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training, however, are increasingly used for competition which The FA wholly supports.

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research "AGPs State of the Nation March 2012" assuming that 51% of usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch at peak times. It is estimated that one full size 3G pitch can service 38 teams.

At present, there are two full size 3G pitches across the Study Area. Whilst neither of these pitches have been discounted, additional usage is not recommended to take place on the poor quality pitch located at Netherhall Community Sports Centre until they have been resurfaced.

In addition, there are also five smaller size community available 3G pitches servicing Allerdale across three different sites which accommodate training demand. The Maryport and Silloth analysis areas each have one pitch with three small size 3G pitches located in the Workington Analysis Area. There is no 3G pitch provision, of any kind, in the Aspatria, Cockermouth, Keswick or Wigton analysis areas.

The table below identifies the impact on the FA training scenario if the community available small size pitches were to be included in the current supply in addition to the full size pitches.

Due to their size, they do not equate to one full size pitch, therefore the following measurements have been made; Maryport ARLFC (Maryport Analysis Area) equates to 0.5 of a full size pitch, in comparison, Eden Street Playing Fields (Silloth Analysis Area) and each of the three pitches at Workington Leisure Centre (Workington Analysis Area) equate to 0.25 of a full size pitch.

Table 3.7: Current demand for 3G pitches in Allerdale for affiliated football team training (38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement ³²	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Aspatria	3	0.07 - 0	-	-
Cockermouth	34	0.89 - 1	-	1
Keswick (LDNP)	11	0.29 ñ 0.25	-	0.25
Maryport	38	1	1.5	-
Silloth	20	0.52 ñ 0.5	0.25	0.25
Wigton	16	0.42- 0.5	-	0.5
Workington	101	2.65 ñ 2.75	1.75	1

After factoring in small size provision, the overall shortfall across the Allerdale is three full size 3G pitches.

³² Rounded to the nearest whole number

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The largest shortfalls are located in the Cockermouth and Workington analysis areas each having a deficit of one full size pitch. This is followed by the Wigton Analysis Area with a shortfall 0.5 and the Silloth and Keswick areas each with a shortfall of 0.25 3G pitches.

When considering future demand in the table overleaf, the overall shortfall increases from three to 3.25 3G pitches. This is an increase of 0.25 in the Silloth Analysis Area.

Table 3.8: Future demand for 3G pitches in Allerdale for affiliated football team training (38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Future number of teams	3G requirement ³³	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Aspatia	3	0.07 - 0	-	-
Cockermouth	34	0.89 - 1	-	1
Keswick (LDNP)	11	0.29 ñ 0.25	-	0.25
Maryport	42	1.10 - 1	1.5	-
Silloth	24	0.63 ñ 0.75	0.25	0.5
Wigton	17	0.44- 0.5	-	0.5
Workington	105	2.76 ñ 2.75	1.75	1

It should be noted that due to the rural nature of Allerdale's topography it may be better logistically to address the overall shortfall for the Borough in more heavily populated areas such as Cockermouth, Maryport and Workington. These areas already have the infrastructure in place to support such projects, in addition, to a wider range of potential sites where new provision could be established. This in turn would mean teams from the remaining areas (Aspatia, Keswick, Silloth and Wigton) would need to travel to access suitable provision.

If this is not possible there would still be a need to create smaller size provision in the Keswick, Silloth and Wigton analysis areas.

3.5: Conclusion

For football, there is an insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future training demand based on the FA training model. As such, it is determined that an increase in provision is required. The proceeding Strategy and Action Plan will provide an indication of where new AGPs should be located in order to best address current unmet and future demand.

In addition, increasing access to the existing supply should be sought, especially during weekends to enable more match play to transfer from grass pitches. Only one of the existing pitches is readily available all day on Saturdays and Sundays.

There is some demand from community rugby league and rugby union clubs to access provision for contact elements of training, if not for match play, particular in the analysis areas which do not accommodate any 3G provision.

³³ Rounded to the nearest whole number

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3G– summary

- ◆ **For football, there is an insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future training demand based on the FA training model. The overall shortfall across the Allerdale is three full size 3G pitches.**
- ◆ **When considering future demand, the overall shortfall increases from three to 3.25 3G pitches.**
- ◆ There are two full size 3G pitches in Allerdale: one each in the Maryport and Workington analysis areas.
- ◆ Both pitches are floodlit and considered to be available for community use. The pitch at Lakes College is FIFA and World Rugby complaint whereas the pitch at Netherhall Community Sports Centre is only FA certified.
- ◆ In addition to the two full size pitches, there is five smaller size floodlit 3G pitches across the Borough. One each in the Maryport and Silloth analysis areas and three in the Workington area.
- ◆ There are ambitions to create 3G provision at the Workington Community Sports Village development, Tarn Close, St Joseph's Catholic High School and in the Maryport Analysis Area.
- ◆ All community available full size 3G pitches in Allerdale are managed internally at education sites.
- ◆ In Allerdale, the full size 3G pitch at Lakes College is currently to be good quality, with no issues identified following user consultation. In contrast, the pitch at Netherhall Community Sports Centre is poor quality.

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PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

Cumbria Cricket serves as the main governing and representative body for cricket across Allerdale with all of the clubs in the Authority affiliating to them. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.

The ECB's refreshed strategy called *Inspiring Generations* was announced in January 2019 and is further detailed within Appendix One: Sporting Context.

It should be noted that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the decision has been made to utilise 2019 demand data to inform this section of the report in order to give an accurate representation for the analysis of the sport across Allerdale. The Pandemic and subsequent lockdown/social distancing measures meant that the cricket season in 2020 was truncated with a reduced numbers of matches taking place. In addition, ECB initiatives such as Dynamos and All Stars did not take place. Where identified through consultation, 2020 information will be referenced as relevant and for comparison purposes. Supply information (non-technical assessments) were carried out towards the back end of the 2020 season.

Consultation

There are nine cricket clubs identified in Allerdale, of these, six replied to an online survey, resulting in an 67% response rate. The only non-responsive clubs were Keswick CC, Futamura CC and Cockermouth Academical CC with all the below replying:

- ▶ Braithwaite CC
- ▶ Caldbeck CC
- ▶ Cockermouth CC
- ▶ Isel CC
- ▶ Wigton CC
- ▶ Workington CC

Since the previous Playing Pitch Strategy in 2014, Baggrow & Blennerhasset CC, British Steels CC and Sealy CC have folded.

4.2: Supply

There are seven grass wicket squares in Allerdale located across six sites, all of which, are available for community use. The Keswick (LDNP) contains the most amount of grass squares with three, this is followed by the Cockermouth areas with the Wigton and Workington areas each having one square.

Table 4.1: Summary of grass wicket squares

Analysis area	No. of grass squares
Aspatria	-
Cockermouth	2
Keswick (LDNP)	3
Maryport	-
Silloth	-
Wigton	1
Workington	1
Total	7

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The Aspatria, Maryport and Silloth analysis areas do not accommodate any grass cricket provision.

Further to the above, it should be noted that there were previously four grass wickets accompanying the Non Turf Pitches (NTP) at Blennerhasset Playing Field. After Baggrow & Blennerhasset CC folded these wickets stopped being maintained. However, the NTP is still in use by Isel CC.

ECB Ball Strike

Where there is either new cricket provision being put in place, or more commonly where there is a development which may prejudice the use of an existing cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such, the ECB recommends that the clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken; further information can be provided by the ECB.

Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets.

In Allerdale, there are 11 NTPs, of which, four accompany grass wicket squares, with the remaining six being standalone. All but two NTPs are available for community use; these are Keswick School and Workington Academy.

Table 4.2: Summary of cricket pitches

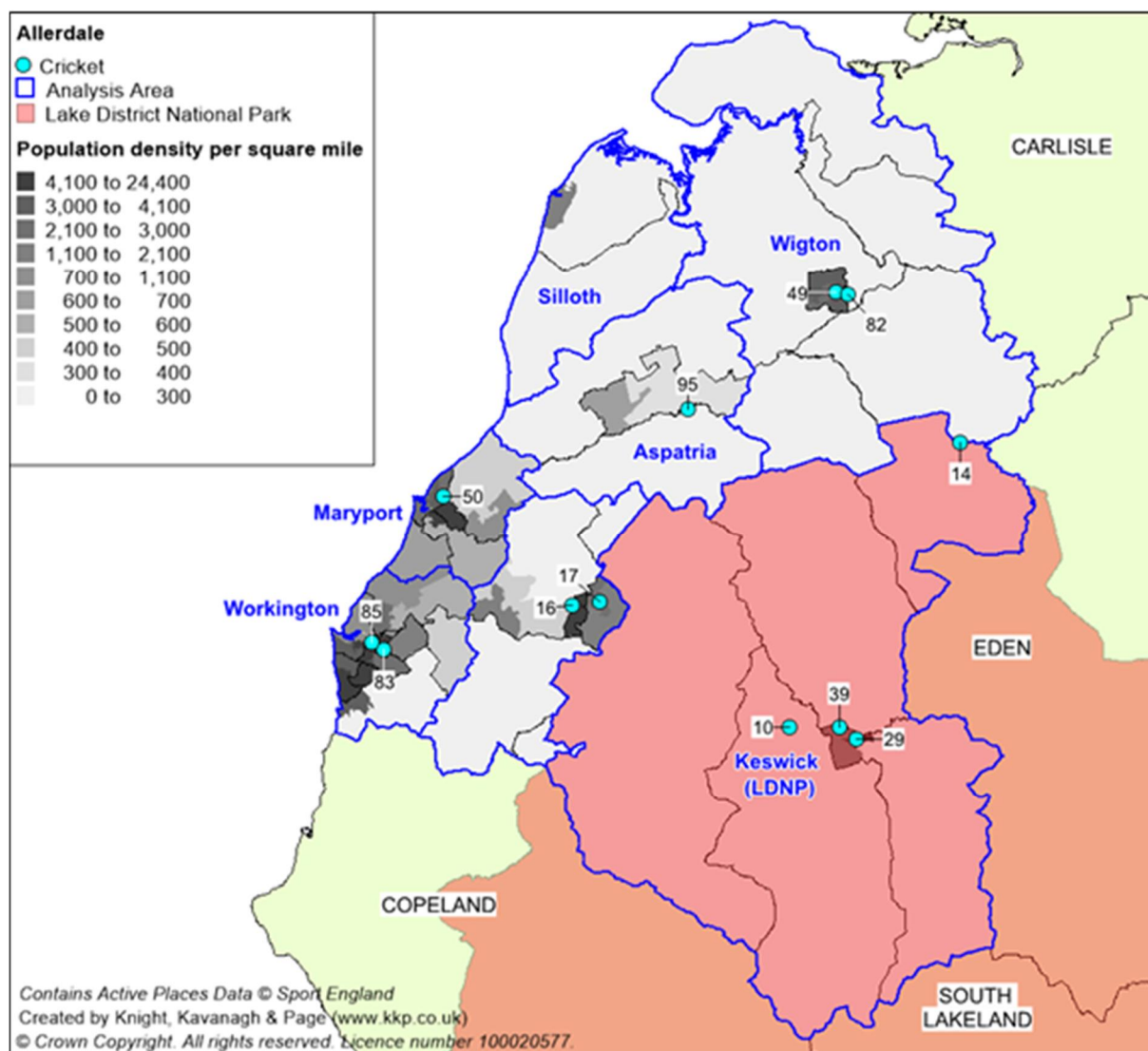
Analysis area	Site ID	Site	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
					grass	non-turf
Aspatria	95	Blennerhasset Playing Field	Yes	1	-	1
Cockermouth	16	Cockermouth Cricket Club	Yes	1	15	1
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	Yes	1	-	1
Keswick (LDNP)	14	Caldbeck Cricket Club	Yes	1	5	1
Keswick (LDNP)	39	Keswick School	No	1	-	1
Maryport	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	Yes	1	-	1
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	Yes	1	-	1
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	Yes	1	12	1
Workington	83	Workington Academy	No	1	-	1
Workington	85	Workington Cricket Club	Yes	2	15	1
					-	1

Unlike grass provision, there is community available NTPs in the six of the seven analysis areas. The Silloth Analysis Area is the only one not serviced by any form of cricket provision.

It should be noted that Nelson Tomlinson School reports the temporary removal of community access to its site during the Pandemic, however, it indicates this will return in due course.

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Figure 4.1: Location of cricket provision in Allerdale



For a key to the map please see Table 4.2

Security of tenure

Most clubs (77% or seven) in Allerdale have secure tenure at their home venues through ownership, long term lease or renting from the Council or parish/town councils.

For reference, a site is considered to have unsecure tenure if the cricket provision on the site is not guaranteed to be retained over the next three years. Unless known otherwise, town/parish council managed squares are considered to generally be secure, as part of the Council's maintained sports and leisure provision offering. The table below identifies tenure arrangements for all clubs where known.

Table 4.3: Summary of security of tenure

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Club	Tenure	Comments
Aspatria	95	Blennerhasset Playing Field	Isel CC	Secure	Rent from Parish Council

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Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Club	Tenure	Comments
Cockermouth	16	Cockermouth Cricket Club	Cockermouth CC	Secure	Freehold
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	Cockermouth Academical CC	Unsecure	Rent from School
Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	Braithwaite CC	Secure	Lease from Braithwaite Institute
Keswick (LDNP)	14	Caldbeck CC	Caldbeck CC	Secure	Freehold
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	Keswick CC	Secure	Rent from Town Council
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	Isel CC	Unsecure	Rent from School
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	Wigton CC	Secure	Lease from Wigton RUFC
			Futamura CC	Unsecure	Rent from Sports club
Workington	85	Workington Cricket Club	Workington CC	Secure	Freehold

The remaining clubs (Cockermouth Academicals CC, Futamura CC and Isel CC) are considered to have unsecure tenure as they rent the use of their home facilities, which are either sports club or educational sites, on an annually basis.

Tenure at education sites are considered unsecure due to schools/academies stating their own community access policies that are more likely to restrict levels of community use. For example, all though infrequent, they can stop the external use at any point devoid of any warning.

To prevent this happening, it is recommended that club users enter community use agreements with the schools that they access. Therefore, for the purposes of this report, unless known through consultation all educational sites are considered to have unsecure tenure.

Pitch quality

The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments³⁴ as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%).

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. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to nearby players.

³⁴ See Appendix 2 for the non-technical assessment for cricket squares

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The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares in Allerdale found all seven to be standard quality.

Table 4.4: Quality ratings for grass wicket squares (site by site)

Analysis area	Site ID	Site	No. of squares	Square quality
Cockermouth	16	Cockermouth Cricket Club	2	Standard
Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	1	Standard
Keswick (LDNP)	14	Caldbeck Cricket Club	1	Standard
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	1	Standard
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	1	Standard
Workington	85	Workington Cricket Club (Ernest Valentine Cricket Ground)	1	Standard

Cockermouth CC indicates it struggles to keep dog walkers off the site which results in dog foul on the pitches. Also due to its proximity to the River Derwent, the site has suffered from flooding in 2009 and 2015. Comparably, Workington CC reports that historic flooding of the site has resulted in subsidence.

It should be noted that all NTPs, apart from the one at Nelson Tomlinson School, are either standard or good quality with no specific issues raised through consultation. The provision at Nelson Tomlinson School is rated as poor as the School reports there are issues with waterlogging on playing field which forms the cricket outfield. It indicates it is in the process of developing a project on how best to improve onsite drainage.

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards, which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsman.

Table 4.5: Performance Quality Standard ratings

Quality rating	Details
Premier (High)	Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding minor county and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches
Club (Standard)	A Club pitch suitable for league, school and junior cricket
Basic	An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within tight financial limitations such as local authorities
Unsuitable	This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports (comprehensive/mini/verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

Ancillary facilities

The audit of ancillary facilities determines that all sites that currently accommodate grass squares are accompanied by good or standard quality changing rooms.

Table 4.6: Changing room quality

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Analysis area	Site ID	Site	No. of squares	Changing room quality
Cockermouth	16	Cockermouth Cricket Club	2	Standard
Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	1	Standard
Keswick (LDNP)	14	Caldbeck Cricket Club	1	Standard
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	1	Standard
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	1	Good
Workington	85	Workington Cricket Club	1	Good

There were no particular issues regarding the quality of clubhouses indicated through club consultation.

In comparison, Nelson Tomlinson School reports the ancillary provision accompanying its NTP to be poor quality. Facilities are worn and dated having been used for curricular, extracurricular and community demand for several years.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Caldbeck CC, Cockermouth CC, Cockermouth Academicals CC, Keswick CC, Isel CC, Wigton CC and Workington CC are all serviced by fixed bay practice nets and/or a NTP on their main square.

Braithwaite CC, the only club which does not have access to training facilities at its home site, reports a need for a NTP to accompany its grass square in addition to a mobile netting cage. Further to this Wigton CC, Caldbeck CC and Workington CC all report a need for a mobile netting cage in order to maximise their NTPs for training.

All though not covered within the PPOSS it should be noted there is a need for an indoor facility in Allerdale for practice and participation (indoor leagues) purposes. Keswick School and Nelson Tomlinson School have indoor provision however they are difficult to book due to levels of demand from other sports during the winter months.

4.3: Demand

There are nine cricket clubs playing in Allerdale, which in 2019, fielding a total of 46 teams. As referenced above, these are the figures which will be considered for the supply and demand analysis below as these teams played a full complement of league, cup and friendly fixtures.

Table 4.7: Summary of teams

Analysis area	Club name	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Aspatia	Isel CC	2	-	-	-
Cockermouth	Cockermouth CC	3	1	4	-
Cockermouth	Cockermouth Academical CC	1	-	-	-
Keswick (LDNP)	Braithwaite CC	1	-	-	-
Keswick (LDNP)	Caldbeck CC	5	-	4	-
Keswick (LDNP)	Keswick CC	4	1	2	-
Wigton	Futamura CC	1	-	-	-
Wigton	Wigton CC	6	-	4	-

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Analysis area	Club name	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Workington	Workington CC	3	-	4	-
Total		26	2	18	-

Through consultation, most clubs report using NTPs to accommodate Junior and Midweek senior competitive demand on NTPs. This will be acknowledged later in the capacity analysis below.

It should be noted that the women's team at Cockermouth CC and Keswick CC play softball cricket rather than hardball cricket which is often played on the cricket outfield rather than the actual square. Therefore, this demand will not be considered when evaluating the overall supply and demand analysis on the actual grass wickets. It will, however, be factored into potential spare capacity as the square cannot be used for competitive matches whilst the outfield is in use.

Exported demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to Allerdale based teams that are currently accessing facilities outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met. This is usually because of a lack of access to squares, in some cases quality issues, or stipulated league requirements for access to a certain standard of provision. There is no known imported demand into the Borough.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Allerdale due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. There is no known imported demand into the Borough.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

In addition, the ECB has a five-year media rights deals, from 2020-2024. The deal includes a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. Together, significant investment in participation and increased free to air media coverage could see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPS and the impact should therefore be reviewed over coming years. However, it is unknown if the Covid-19 pandemic will affect this.

Participation increases

No clubs indicate aspirations to increase the number of teams they field; however, this may be down to the ongoing Pandemic with clubs focusing on sustaining participation at this moment in time (2020). This needs to be monitored as part of the Stage E process of the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy.

Population forecasts

Team generation rates are used overleaf as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2030) based on population growth.

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Table 4.8: Boroughwide team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate ³⁵	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (18-55)	21,541	26	1:829	12,823	16	0
Senior Women's (18-55)	21,668	2	1:10,834	12,995	1	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	6,473	18	1:360	4,187	12	0
Junior Girls (7-18)	6,065	0	0	3,827	0	0

Using this demand data, it is anticipated team growth from population growth across Allerdale will not, by itself result in an increase in team numbers.

It is important to acknowledge that whilst application of team generation rates project team growth as a factor of population and existing teams, there are plans and strategies to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends suggest.

All Stars Cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine cricket clubs in Allerdale can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ✦ Increase cricket activity for five to eight year olds in the school and club environment
- ✦ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition
- ✦ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle
- ✦ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment
- ✦ Use fun small sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game

Workington, Keswick, Cockermouth and Wigton cricket clubs all successfully operate All Stars programmes.

Dynamos cricket

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of Inspiring Generations will be the Dynamos Cricket programme for 8-11 year olds which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars Cricket programme for 5-8 year olds established in 2017 and will develop the pathway to retain juniors progressing from All Stars Cricket into Dynamos Cricket.

Where All Stars Cricket seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos Cricket seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified soft ball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred, a new short format competition which also aimed to launch in 2020 (pre-COVID).

Similarly, to All Stars, Workington, Keswick, Cockermouth and Wigton cricket clubs all successfully operate Dynamos programmes.

³⁵ Please note TGR figures are rounded to the lowest whole number.

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Softball cricket

Softball cricket is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are played on the outfield and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

Keswick and Cockermouth cricket clubs have softball hub sections with the former club having 30 members whereas the latter has 28 members. In addition, Workington and Wigton have aspirations to start their own softball sections.

It should be noted that All Stars, Dynamos and Softball cricket generally takes place on the cricket outfields rather than the actual squares. Although this does not impact the carrying capacity of the square it does influence the accessibility of the squares as whilst the outfield is in use the main square cannot be used to accommodate fixtures. Therefore, this may limit the potential spare capacity whilst these activities are taking place, generally on midweek evenings or Sunday mornings.

Future demand summary

As there is no expressed future demand anticipated from TGRs or club aspirational demand in order to better represents potential growth a total of two women's teams and four junior teams will be brought forward to the supply and demand analysis below.

This is based on consultation with CCB and ECB which suggests the clubs which are currently partaking in growth initiatives such as All Stars, Dynamos and Softball cricket will see appropriate levels of growth within these areas. This equates to one women's team each for Cockermouth CC and Keswick CC as they both currently participate in softball festivals. In comparison, for junior demand, this amounts to one team each for Workington, Keswick, Cockermouth and Wigton cricket clubs which all have All Stars and Dynamo sections.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for cricket in Allerdale as Saturday for senior men's and Midweek for junior teams.

For junior cricket, peak time demand varies between Sundays and midweek, with clubs generally arranging the fixtures to best suit their needs. As a result, squares have greater capacity to carry junior demand as play can be spread across numerous days (providing the squares are not overplayed).

4.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per pitch per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets and number of NTPs. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

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For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not safe for play. In comparison an NTP has a capacity of 60 matches per season.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, the assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition. The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets potentially used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to a boundary, especially for senior matches. The idea is to showcase what the capacity is or could be if best practice is followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

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Table 4.9: Capacity of cricket squares (2019 demand)

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	No. of NTPs	Capacity of grass wickets (sessions per season)	Grass wickets Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Capacity (sessions per season)	NTPs Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
Aspatia	95	Blennerhasset Playing Field	Yes	Secure	1	Standard	-	1	-	-	-	60	6	54
Cockermouth	16	Cockermouth Cricket Club	Yes	Secure	2	Standard	15	1	60	35	25	60	12	48
							3	-	12	4	9	-	-	-
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	Yes	Unsecure	1	Standard	-	1	-	-	-	60	-	60
Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	Yes	Secure	1	Standard	6	-	24	10	14	-	-	-
Keswick (LDNP)	14	Caldbeck Cricket Club	Yes	Secure	1	Standard	5	1	20	22	2	60	49	11
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	Yes	Secure	1	Standard	16	-	64	48	16	-	-	-
Keswick (LDNP)	39	Keswick School	No	Unsecure	1	Standard	-	1	-	-	-	60	-	60
Maryport	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	Yes	Unsecure	1	Standard	-	1	-	-	-	60	-	60
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	Yes	Unsecure	1	Poor	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	6
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	Yes	Secure	1	Standard	12	1	48	34	14	60	39	21
Workington	83	Workington Academy	No	Unsecure	1	Standard	-	1	-	-	-	60	-	60
Workington	85	Workington Cricket Club (Ernest Valentine Cricket Ground)	Yes	Secure	1	Standard	15	1	60	50	10	60	8	52
							-	1	-	-	-	60	8	52

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Saturday spare capacity

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage at peak time. For senior cricket, peak time is Saturday as this is when most demand exists. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Saturday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Saturday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Saturday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.

Notwithstanding the above, there may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

As such, no sites that are over, at, or close to capacity are considered to have actual spare capacity (at least 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are required for an additional senior team to be accommodated) and neither are sites with unsecure tenure as future usage cannot be guaranteed.

Table 4.10: Summary of actual spare capacity for senior cricket

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (Grass)	Actual spare capacity (NTP)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated
Aspatia	95	Blennerhasset Playing Field	-	54	2 x teams
Cockermouth	16	Cockermouth Cricket Club	25	48	No additional capacity
Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	14	-	1 x team
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	16	-	No additional capacity
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	14	21	No additional capacity
Workington	85	Workington Cricket Club	10	52	No additional capacity

Although there are several sites that have the potential for spare capacity at senior peak period there are only two that have actual spare capacity.

Blennerhasset Playing Fields has capacity to accommodate two senior teams on a Saturday. This being said, any teams using the site would need to use the NTP as there are no grass wickets. Therefore, the provision would need to follow ECB TS6 guidance on performance standards suitable for high level senior play in addition to relevant League agreements. Alternatively, the grass wickets that were previously on the site could be reinstated.

In comparison Braithwaite Cricket Club has spare capacity to accommodate one further senior team on a Saturday.

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Sunday cricket spare capacity

Similar to Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Sunday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Sunday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Sunday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.

No sites that are over, at, or close to capacity are considered to have actual spare capacity (at least eight match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are required for an additional senior team to be accommodated) and neither are sites with unsecure tenure as future usage cannot be guaranteed.

Table 4.11: Summary of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (Grass)	Actual spare capacity (NTP)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated
Aspatria	95	Blennerhasset Playing Field	-	54	2 x teams
Cockermouth	16	Cockermouth Cricket Club	25	48	No additional capacity
Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	14	-	1 x team
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	16	-	No additional capacity
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	14	21	1 x team
Workington	85	Workington Cricket Club	10	52	1 x team

Similar to Saturday cricket, Blennerhasset Playing Fields has capacity to accommodate two senior teams on a Sunday. This being said, any teams using the site would need to use the NTP as there are no grass wickets. Therefore, the provision would need to follow ECB TS6 guidance on performance standards suitable for high level senior play in addition to relevant League agreements. Alternatively, the grass wickets that were previously on the site could be reinstated.

As mentioned earlier the accessibility of a square on a Sunday can be affected by Women & Girls Softball activity on the outfields. Meaning the square cannot be used whilst the outfield is in use. Therefore, if a site is used for women's and girls' softball it realistically can only accommodate one additional team on a Sunday if there is suitable spare capacity (based on being played on an alternate home and away basis). This results in an overall actual spare capacity of five teams which could be established for Sunday cricket.

Junior cricket spare capacity

For junior cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because junior matches are generally played during midweek, where matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two

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teams. Moreover, the presence of junior wickets at certain sites, as well as NTPs, provide further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for junior cricket, it must not be poor quality, have secure tenure, not be overplayed or have more than four match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average number of matches an additional junior team would play. Furthermore, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play junior fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars).

Table 4.12: Summary of actual spare capacity for junior cricket

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (Grass)	Actual spare capacity (NTP)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated
Aspatria	95	Blennerhasset Playing Field	-	54	5 x teams
Cockermouth	16	Cockermouth Cricket Club	25	48	3 x teams
Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	14	-	3 x teams
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	16	-	4 x teams
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	14	21	No additional capacity
Workington	85	Workington Cricket Club	10	52	2 x teams

As shown in the table above there are a total of five squares that can accommodate at least one additional junior team during the week.

As such, despite large amounts of actual spare capacity being identified for an increase in junior demand, capacity may still be an issue for clubs with large junior sections that may not be able to play all their matches on one square.

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Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain, which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches.

There are two sites which are overplayed in Allerdale which are Nelson Tomlinson School in the Wigton Analysis Area and Caldbeck Cricket Club in the Keswick Analysis Area.

The former site has a shortfall of six match equivalent sessions a season as the provision is rated at poor quality, indicated no demand should take place on the site. Comparatively the latter site is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions due to levels of demand accessing a standard quality square.

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent in which provision can accommodate current and future demand. This being said, there has been no identified future aspirational demand across Allerdale.

Senior cricket capacity balance (Saturday)

The below looks at actual spare capacity during the peak period (Saturday) for senior cricket against overplay.

Table 4.13 Capacity balance of cricket squares for senior Saturday cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions per season)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Aspatria	24	-	24	-	24
Cockermouth	-	-		-	
Keswick (LDNP)	12	2	10	-	10
Maryport	-	-		-	
Silloth	-	-		-	
Wigton	-	6	6	-	6
Workington	-	-		-	
Total	36	8	28	-	28

Analysis suggests that there is overall spare capacity for senior peak time (Saturday) cricket across the Borough. This being said there is no cricket demand in the Maryport or Silloth analysis areas and the Cockermouth and Workington areas are operating at capacity.

Senior cricket capacity balance (Saturday)

The below looks at actual spare capacity during the peak period (Sunday) for senior cricket against overplay.

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Table 4.14 Capacity balance of cricket squares for senior Sunday cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions per season)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Aspatria	16	-	16	-	16
Cockermouth	-	-		8	8
Keswick (LDNP)	8	2	6	8	2
Maryport	-	-		-	
Silloth	-	-		-	
Wigton	8	6	2	-	2
Workington	8	-		-	
Total	40	8	32	16	16

Analysis suggests that there is overall spare capacity for senior peak time (Sunday) cricket across the Borough. This being said there is no cricket demand in the Maryport or Silloth analysis areas and the Cockermouth and Workington areas are operating at capacity. This being said there are future shortfall in the Cockermouth and Keswick (LDNP).

Junior cricket capacity balance

The table below looks at actual spare capacity during the peak period (midweek) for junior cricket. For this, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams playing home and away) multiplied by four (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because additional demand at peak time is not limited to one day.

Table 4.15: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for junior cricket (midweek)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions per season)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Aspatria	20	-	20	20	
Cockermouth	12	-	12	12	
Keswick (LDNP)	20	2	18	28	10
Maryport	-	-		-	
Silloth	-	-		-	
Wigton	-	6	6	-	6
Workington	8	-	8	8	
Total	60	8	52	68	16

Similar to senior cricket, there is overall spare capacity to accommodate additional junior cricket across Allerdale. This is mainly due to the effective use of artificial wickets across the Borough. This being said there is a marginal deficit in the Wigton Analysis Area. However, when accommodating future demand there is an overall shortfall amounting to 16 match equivalent sessions per season.

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Potential impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

It should be noted that the recommendations above are based on 2019 cricket demand, however, the current and future impact of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic (2020/21) needs to be taken under consideration.

The ECB has announced a number of guidelines, recommendations and potential funding streams for clubs which can be found at: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1657168/cricket-and-covid-19-your-questions-answered>

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

Cricket – summary

- ◆ **Analysis suggests that there is overall spare capacity for both Saturday and Sunday cricket across the Borough. This being said there is no cricket demand in the Maryport or Silloth analysis areas and the Cockermouth and Workington areas are operating at capacity.**
- ◆ **Similar to senior cricket, there is overall spare capacity to accommodate additional junior cricket across Allerdale. This is mainly due to the effective use of artificial wickets across the Borough. This being said there is a marginal deficit in the Wigton Analysis Area. However when factoring in future demand there is a shortfall.**
- ◆ There are seven grass wicket squares in Allerdale located across six sites, all of which, are available for community use.
- ◆ In Allerdale, there are 11 NTPs, of which, four accompany grass wicket squares, with the remaining six being standalone. All but two NTPs are available for community use; these are Keswick School and Workington Academy.
- ◆ Most clubs (77% or seven) in Allerdale have secure tenure at their home venues through ownership, long term lease or renting from the Council or parish/town councils.
- ◆ The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares in Allerdale found all seven to be standard quality.
- ◆ The audit of ancillary facilities determines that all sites that currently accommodate grass squares are accompanied by good or standard quality changing rooms.
- ◆ There are eight cricket clubs playing in Allerdale, which in 2019, fielding a total of 44 teams.
- ◆ Although there are several sites that have the potential for spare capacity at senior peak period there are only two that have actual spare capacity.
- ◆ There are a total of five squares that can accommodate at least one additional junior team during the week.
- ◆ There are two sites which are overplayed in Allerdale which are Nelson Tomlinson School in the Wigton Analysis Area and Caldbeck Cricket Club in the Keswick Analysis Area.

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PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. Club Developers and community rugby coaches deliver core programmes in schools and clubs across the Allerdale.

Its variety of programmes, which include 15 aside, 10 aside, 7 aside, Tag and the O2 Touch programme, all aim to increase and retain participation within the game. In order to sustain and increase participation, facilities need to be appropriate, affordable and accessible.

It should be noted that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the decision has been made to utilise 2019 demand data, where applicable, to inform this section of the report in order to give an accurate representation for the analysis of the sport across Allerdale. The Pandemic and subsequent lockdown/social distancing measures meant that there was little to no rugby union played in the 2020/21 season. Where identified through consultation, 2019/2020 information will be referenced as relevant for comparison purposes.

Consultation

There are seven clubs currently playing within Allerdale, all of which, were sent online meeting and/or electronic survey consultation requests. All clubs responded resulting in a 100% response rate. Each of the seven clubs are listed below:

- ◆ Aspatia RUFC
- ◆ Cockermouth RUFC
- ◆ Keswick RUFC
- ◆ Netherhall RUFC
- ◆ Silloth RUFC
- ◆ Wigton RUFC
- ◆ Workington RUFC

Generally, the levels of supply and demand have remained the same since the previous PPS.

5.2: Supply

Within Allerdale there are 22 senior pitches, six junior pitches and two mini pitches provided, with all but three pitches being available for community use.

The largest number of pitches are in the Keswick (LDNP) Analysis Area (seven pitches or 23%), this is closely followed by the Cockermouth Analysis Area with six pitches (20%). The remaining provision is fairly evenly split between the remaining areas.

Table 5.1: Supply of rugby union pitches across Allerdale

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches	Total
Aspatia	2	1	-	3
Cockermouth	5	1	-	6
Keswick (LDNP)	4	1	2	7
Maryport	3	-	-	3
Silloth	3	-	-	3
Wigton	2	2	-	4
Workington	3	1	-	4

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Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches	Total
Total	22	6	2	30

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. However, it is common for junior and mini matches to be played on senior pitches via the use of cones and this is the case across Allerdale. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please see the table below.

Table 5.2: Pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ³⁶
U7	Mini	20 x 12
U8	Mini	45 x 22
U9	Mini	60 x 30
U10	Mini	60 x 35
U11	Mini	60 x 43
U12	Mini	60 x 43
U13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 ³⁷

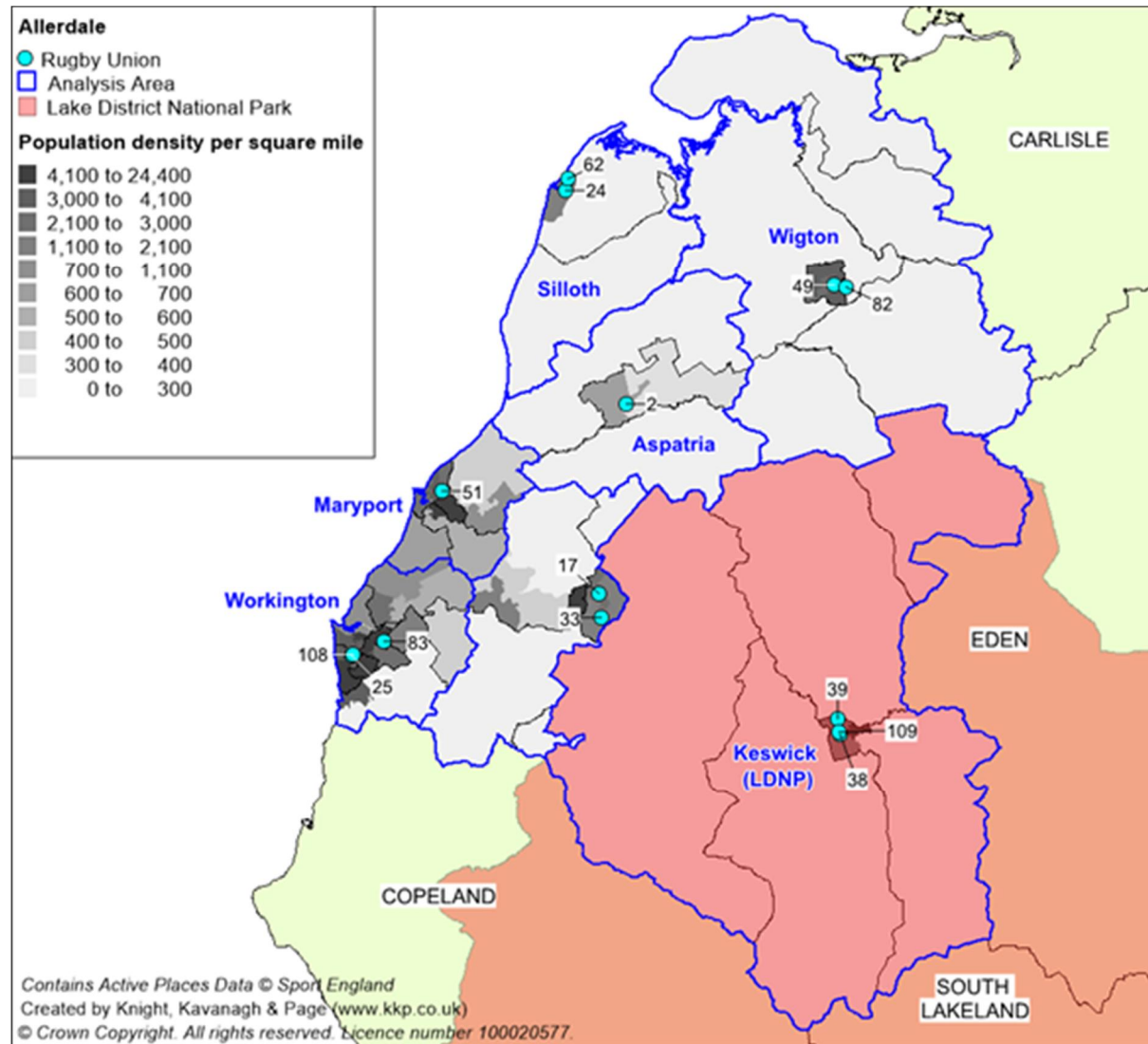
³⁶ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

³⁷ Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.

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Figure 5.1 identifies the location of the rugby union pitches. For a key to the map, see Table 5.7.

Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Allerdale



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Lapsed/disused sites

Playing field sites which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

As mentioned, a lapsed site was as a playing field more than five years ago. If development is proposed on a site not used more than five years ago Sport England's status changes from a statutory consultee to a non-statutory consultee. Nevertheless any planning application still needs to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria.

There is a disused site located behind Workington Fire Station. The site historically contained a rugby union pitch; however, it has most recently been utilised as an adult football pitch. The pitch has not been used for a number of seasons although the area of land is still being regularly maintained.

The previous site of Southfield Technology College (CA14 5BH), which closed in 2015, accommodates a playing field which consisted of two adult football pitches and one senior rugby union pitch, as well as a macadam area that hosted four tennis courts. The site has been left unused since its closure. The area of land is owned by the County Council which has indicated plans to develop it for extra care housing. If this were to occur it should be noted that any loss of provision would need to meet requirements outlined in the NPPF and outlined in Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

Security of tenure

Across the Borough each club is considered to have secure tenure. This is either through ownership or rental from the Council or town/parish councils, with such provision protected as part of an ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offering.

Table 5.3: Summary of club tenure

Analysis area	Club	Site ID	Site name	Tenure
Aspatria	Aspatria RUFC	2	Aspatria Rugby Union Football Club	Freehold
Cockermouth	Cockermouth RUFC	33	Grasmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RUFC)	Freehold
Keswick (LDNP)	Keswick RUFC	38	Keswick Rugby Football Club	Freehold
Marport	Netherhall RUFC	51	Netherhall Rugby Union FC	Freehold
Silloth	Silloth RUFC	24	Eden Street Playing Field	Lease from Town Council
Wigton	Wigton RUFC	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	Freehold
Workington	Workington RUFC	25	Ellis Sports Ground	Lease from the Ellis Trust
		108	The Paddock	Rental from the Council

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Workington RUFC plans to formalise a long term lease for the Paddock (Council), in addition to Jane Pit (Council) and Mossbay Road Football Pitch (Ellis Trust). The Club indicates wanting to bring the three sites, under the same lease arrangement as Ellis Sports Ground, to establish a multi-sport community sports hub. If successful it means potential investment could be made at each site to improve pitch quality. Furthermore, the Club states that if all sites were under one lease, they would all be able to access ancillary provision at the Ellis Sports Ground. It should also be noted that the Club has no plans to alter the provision on each site or stop access for other community clubs.

As mentioned in Part 2: Football, Maryport Amateurs FC currently utilises one of the senior pitches at Netherhall Rugby Union FC to accommodate the majority of its demand. However, as of next season (2021/22) it will no longer be able to access the site. Anecdotal evidence suggests the working relationship between the two clubs has deteriorated over recent years leading the football club to find alternative provision. The pitch will revert to sole rugby union use at this time.

Pitch quality

The quality of rugby pitches across Allerdale have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by RFU³⁸) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements: the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated. The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below.

A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen in the tables overleaf.

Table 5.4: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

Table 5.5: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

³⁸ See Appendix 2 for the non-technical assessment for rugby pitches

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Table 5.6: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

Of the community available pitches in Allerdale, six are assessed as good quality, nine as standard quality and 12 as poor quality.

Cockermouth RUFC indicate that two of its pitches at Grasmoor Sports Centre have poor drainage resulting in a reduced playing capacity. It is working to attract grants in order put in a drainage solution which hopefully address the issue and allow it to use the pitches more frequently.

Similarly, Netherhall RUFC indicates its pitches drain poorly which leads to waterlogging. It reports each pitch has drainage; however, this is old and ineffective as it has not been regularly maintained.

Wigton RUFC's two junior pitches are slightly worse quality, when compared to its senior pitch, due to their location. The two pitches are located next to a stream at the bottom of a slope and as a result hold water. The Club aspires to improve the pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance, however, cannot afford to carry out the remedial works such as aeration, top soiling and sand dressing at the frequency that is initially needed.

Silloth RUFC indicates that its pitch is generally standard quality however suffers from unauthorized access and dog fouling. The Club also mention a need for new goal posts as its current set is deemed a potentially dangerous.

Both Nelson Tomlinson School and Keswick School report their pitches to be poor quality due to issues with waterlogging/flooding resulting in patches of standing water in periods of bad weather. Each school indicate aspirations to improve the quality of their pitches, however, both would require external funding to carry out the works.

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Table 5.7: Site quality ratings

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
Aspatria	2	Aspatria Rugby Union Football Club	Yes	2	Senior	Yes	M2/D1	Good
				1	Junior	No	M1/D1	Standard
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	Yes-unused	3	Senior	No	M0/D0	Poor
Cockermouth	33	Grasmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RUFC)	Yes	1	Junior	No	M1/D0	Poor
				2	Senior	Yes	M1/D0	Poor
						No	M1/D1	Standard
Keswick (LDNP)	38	Keswick Rugby Football Club	Yes	2	Senior	Yes	M2/D2	Good
				2	Mini	No	M2/D2	Good
Keswick (LDNP)	39	Keswick School	Yes-unused	1	Junior	No	M1/D0	Poor
Keswick (LDNP)	109	Keswick School (Unattached playing fields)	Yes-unused	2	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
Maryport	51	Netherhall Rugby Union FC	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M1/D0	Poor
				2	Senior	No	M1/D0	Poor
Silloth	24	Eden Street Playing Fields	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
Silloth	62	Solway Community School	No	2	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M0/D0	Poor
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	Yes	2	Junior	No	M1/D0	Poor
				1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
Workington	25	Ellis Sports Ground	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
				1	Junior	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
Workington	83	Workington Academy	No	1	Senior	No	M0/D0	Poor
Workington	108	The Paddock (Workington RUFC)	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard

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Ancillary facilities

Of the clubs that responded to consultation, all but two (Wigton RUFC and Keswick RUFC), indicate their ancillary provision to be good quality stating no specific issues.

Wigton RUFC has plans to develop its ancillary provision in order to better cater for onsite sports clubs in addition to community demand. It wants to expand its gym facilities by converting an area of the grandstand to provide more indoor space which in turn will help generate higher revenue to reinvest into the sporting provision. It is actively looking for potential grants to help fund the project.

Keswick RUFC reports its ancillary provision to be poor quality and no longer fit for purpose after regularly being affected from flooding, most notably in 2005, 2009 and 2015. As a result, the building cannot be insured with the Club having to cover any costs to repair/refurbish the structure itself. In addition, the number of changing rooms are inadequate for the recent growth in women and girls' participation. The Club has plans to build a new clubhouse and is working with an architect to draw up options for the best location to protect it against flooding in the future. However, fundraising and applying for grant funding is problematic due to the Pandemic.

Aspatria RUFC has plans to make improvements to its ancillary provision. It is currently fundraising for clubhouse cladding, creation of a medical room in the grandstand and upgrades to the heating and ventilation systems.

5.3: Demand

Competitive play

There are seven community rugby union clubs based in Allerdale, providing a total of 56 teams. Broken down, this equates to 11 senior men's, two senior women's, 15 junior boys, six junior girls and 22 mini teams.

Table 5.8: Summary of club demand

Analysis area	Club	No. of rugby union teams					
		Senior (19+)		Junior (13-18)		Mini (6-12)	Total
		M	F	M	F	Mixed	
Aspatria	Aspatria RUFC	2	-	5	-	4	11
Cockermouth	Cockermouth RUFC	2	-	3	1	4	10
Keswick (LDNP)	Keswick RUFC	2	1	3	2	7	15
Marport	Netherhall RUFC	-	-		3	-	3
Silloth	Silloth RUFC	1	-	-	-	-	1
Wigton	Wigton RUFC	2	-	2	-	4	8
Workington	Workington RUFC	2	1	2	-	3	8
Totals		11	2	15	6	22	56

The largest club in the Borough is Keswick RUFC which fields 15 teams (28% of the Borough's demand), whereas Netherhall RUFC and Silloth RUFC rugby clubs currently only field three and one team, respectively.

Unusually for rugby union clubs all the demand from Netherhall RUFC is female with the club having three junior girls teams. Generally, for the sport only a few clubs offer any form of girls rugby.

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Training

Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of floodlighting. The table below summarises the training demand for all community rugby clubs across Allerdale.

Table 5.9: Summary of training demand

Club	Site ID	Site name	Floodlit training provision	MES ³⁹
Aspatria RUFC	2	Aspatria Rugby Union Football Club	Floodlit pitches	6
Cockermouth RUFC	33	Grasmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RUFC)	Floodlit pitch	2
	40	Lakes College	WR Compliant full size 3G	6
Keswick RUFC	38	Keswick Rugby Football Club	Floodlit pitches	8
Netherhall RUFC	51	Netherhall Rugby Union FC	Floodlit pitches	2
Silloth RUFC	24	Eden Street Playing Fields	Floodlit small size 3G	1
Wigton RUFC	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	Floodlit full size hockey suitable AGP	6
Workington RUFC	25	Ellis Sports Ground	Floodlit pitches	4

Wigton RUFC has ambitions to install floodlights on one of its senior pitches to better accommodate its training demand. Currently, it trains on the full size hockey AGP at Wigton Sports & Fitness Club which is not ideal as it cannot be used for contact sessions. It reports that if it can obtain funding to install floodlights it would reduce the amount of training demand on the AGP therefore allowing for more capacity for the other clubs.

Workington RUFC reports that if it manages to obtain long term tenure of The Paddock (Council), Jane Pit (Council) and Mossbay Road Football Pitch, as well as pitch improvements, it will look at the feasibility of creating more floodlighting and therefore capacity for both rugby and football training.

Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby, more commonly known as Regulation 22, that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

Nationally, clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost. Further detail on use of 3G pitches can be found in Part 3 of this report.

³⁹ Match equivalent session (MES)

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As seen above, Cockermouth RUFC and Silloth RUFC currently access 3G provision to cater for all/partial club training demand.

During consultation Wigton RUFC, Cockermouth RUFC and Workington RUFC report they would access 3G training and competitive demand if it were more readily available.

Exported demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to Allerdale based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. There is no known exported demand outside of the Borough.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Allerdale study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. There is no known imported competitive demand into the Borough. However, as mentioned in Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPS), the RFU indicates there is some imported demand from clubs from surrounding local authority Copeland Borough Council such as Whitehaven RUFC.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

The proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing developments within Allerdale.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2030).

Table 5.10: Team generation rates (2030)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2030)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (19-45)	13,599	11	1:1,236	8,600	7	0
Senior Womens (19-45)	13,472	2	1:6,736	8,458	1	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	3,130	15	1:209	2,263	12	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	2,948	6	1:491	2,079	4	0
Mini Mixed (7-12)	6,460	22	1:294	1,010	3	0

As seen in the table above, no additional rugby union teams are expected to be generated in Allerdale through population growth alone, however, future growth can also be measured by participation increases as detailed below.

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Participation increases

Each of the seven clubs that responded to consultation in Allerdale report future aspirations to increase the number of teams they field. In total this amounts to 15 teams which equates to six match equivalent sessions per week on senior pitches.

Table 5.11: Summary of club aspirational future demand

Analysis area	Club	Future team aspirations	Future aspirations in match equivalent sessions (MES) on a senior pitch ⁴⁰
Aspatria	Aspatria RUFC	1 x senior women's	0.5
Cockermouth	Cockermouth RUFC	1 x senior men's	0.5
		1 x junior girls	0.5
Keswick (LDNP)	Keswick RUFC	1 x senior women's	0.5
Maryport	Netherhall RUFC	2 x junior girls	1
		3 x junior boys	1.5
		1 x mini	0.25
Wigton	Wigton RUFC	1 x senior men's	0.5
		1 x mini	0.25
Workington	Workington RUFC	2 x junior girls	1
		1 x junior boys	0.5
Total			7

Netherhall RUFC is the most ambitious of the clubs with aspirations to increase by three junior boys, two junior girls and one mini team. Of the seven clubs that have ambitions to increase participation, five (71%) specifically state aspirations to directly expand their women and girls offering by at least one team.

Silloth RUFC aspires to increase participation however does not specifically quantify a number of teams.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior men's teams play at this time. Peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

5.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:

⁴⁰ Anticipated future junior demand is represented as 0.5 MES on a senior pitch whereas anticipated mini future demand is represented as 0.25 MES on a senior pitch.

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- ♦ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ♦ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
- ♦ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v 15 and use a full pitch.
- ♦ Mini teams (U6-U12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch.
- ♦ For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away).
- ♦ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.
- ♦ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ♦ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ♦ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ♦ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ♦ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, set out below.

Table 5.12: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the carrying capacity at such sites will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP.

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking.

Table 5.13 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed as a result of community use, school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.

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For school sites which are available for community use but that currently do not have any external hirers. one match equivalent session per week, per pitch has been accredited to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to them being completely unused.

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Table 5.13: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Allerdale

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
Aspatia	2	Aspatia Rugby Union Football Club	Yes	2	Senior	Good	Yes	M2/D1	1	1	3	1	Pitch has potential spare capacity.
									1.5	5	3	3.5	Pitch is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions.
				1	Junior	Standard	No	M1/D1	2	-	2		Pitch is played to capacity.
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	Yes-unused	3	Senior	Poor	No	M0/D0	1.5	-	1.5		Pitches are considered played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.
Cockermouth	33	Grasmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RUFC)	Yes	1	Junior	Poor	No	M1/D0	1.5	-	1.5		Pitch is considered played to capacity.
				2	Senior	Poor	Yes	M1/D0	1	-	1.5	0.5	Pitch has potential spare capacity.
						Standard	No	M1/D1	2.5	2	2	2.5	Pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
Keswick (LDNP)	38	Keswick Rugby Football Club	Yes	2	Senior	Good	Yes	M2/D2 ⁴¹	1	3	3	1	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
									3	5	3	5	Pitch is overplayed by five match equivalent sessions.
				2	Mini	Good	No	M2/D2 ⁴²	3.5	-	6	2.5	Pitch has potential spare capacity.
Keswick (LDNP)	39	Keswick School	Yes-unused	1	Junior	Poor	No	M1/D0	1		1.5	0.5	Pitch has potential spare capacity.
Keswick (LDNP)	109	Keswick School (Unattached playing fields)	Yes-unused	2	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D1	2	-	4	2	Pitches have potential spare capacity.
Maryport	51	Netherhall Rugby Union FC	Yes	1	Senior	Poor	Yes	M1/D0	0.5	1	1.5		Pitch is played to capacity from competitive and training demand.
				1	Senior	Poor	No	M1/D0	-	1	1.5	0.5	
				1	Senior ⁴³	Poor	No	M1/D0	-	-	1.5	2.25	Although the pitch is not used for rugby it is considered overplayed from football usage.
Silloth	24	Eden Street Playing Fields	Yes	1	Senior	Standard	Yes	M1/D1	0.5	-	2	1.5	Pitch has potential spare capacity.
Silloth	62	Solway Community School	No	2	Senior	Poor	No	M0/D1	2	-	3	1	Pitch has potential spare capacity.
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Poor	No	M0/D0	0.5	-	0.5		Pitch is considered played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	Yes	2	Junior	Poor	No	M1/D0	2	-	3	1	Pitch has potential spare capacity.
				1	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D1	1	-	2	1	Pitch has potential spare capacity.
Workington	25	Ellis Sports Ground	Yes	1	Senior	Standard	Yes	M1/D1	1	-	2	1	Pitch has potential spare capacity.
				1	Junior	Standard	Yes	M1/D1	1.25	4	2	3.25	Pitch is overplayed by 3.25 match equivalent sessions.
Workington	83	Workington Academy	No	1	Senior	Poor	No	M0/D0	0.5		0.5		Pitch is considered played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.
Workington	108	The Paddock (Workington RUFC)	Yes	1	Senior	Standard	No	M1/D1	1	-	2	1	Pitch has potential spare capacity.

⁴¹ Pitches are M2/D2 however due to issues with flooding they have been lowered to M2/D1 to give a more accurate representation of capacity.

⁴² Pitches are M2/D2 however due to issues with flooding they have been lowered to M2/D1 to give a more accurate representation of capacity.

⁴³ Pitches is overmarked with football pitches.

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Spare capacity

There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Furthermore, any pitches that are used to capacity at peak time, that are poor quality or that provide unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity. As such, the table below ascertains whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be used to accommodate an increase in senior play.

Table 5.14: Summary of actual spare capacity

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Potential capacity	Actual spare capacity	Comments
Aspatria	2	Aspatria Rugby Union Football Club	1	Senior	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
Cockermouth	33	Grasmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RUFC)	1	Senior	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
Keswick (LDNP)	38	Keswick Rugby Football Club	2	Mini	2.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
Keswick (LDNP)	39	Keswick School	1	Junior	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
Keswick (LDNP)	109	Keswick School (Unattached playing fields)	2	Senior	1	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
Maryport	51	Netherhall Rugby Union FC	1	Senior	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
Silloth	24	Eden Street Playing Fields	1	Senior	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
Silloth	62	Solway Community School	1	Senior	1	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch is not available for community use.
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness	2	Junior	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.

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Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Potential capacity	Actual spare capacity	Comments
		Club	1	Senior	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
Workington	25	Ellis Sports Ground	1	Senior	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
Workington	108	The Paddock (Workington RUFC)	1	Senior	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

There are 11 sites which display potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play in Allerdale, however, only four sites are available at peak time. This totals two match equivalent sessions per week on senior pitches.

For mini and junior rugby, the programming of matches can be unclear with regards to ascertaining spare capacity, especially at peak time as it varies from week to week. Junior rugby sections tend to play regular matches as part of a league format, whereas minis play organised friendly fixtures. Clubs tend to organise their mini age groups to play those from another club at once either at home or away. Teams will generally hold training sessions instead on the weeks that mini/junior sections do not have a fixture event arranged. This means that mini/junior sections require use of all home pitches for two or three mornings a month but may play an away fixture one week meaning none of the pitches are used that particular morning.

Overplay

There are six pitches across five sites in Allerdale which are overplayed by a total of 17.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 5.15: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Number of pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
Aspatria	2	Aspatria Rugby Union Football Club	Senior	1	3.5
Cockermouth	33	Grasmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RUFC)	Senior	1	2.5
Keswick (LDNP)	38	Keswick Rugby Football Club	Senior	1	1
Keswick (LDNP)	38	Keswick Rugby Football Club	Senior	1	5
Maryport	51	Netherhall Rugby Union FC	Senior	1	2.25
Workington	25	Ellis Sports Ground	Junior	1	3.25
Total				6	17.5

Each pitch that is overplayed is generally used to accommodate competitive and training demand. In the cases of Grasmoor Sports Centre and Netherhall Rugby Union FC this is further compounded by a low carrying capacity as a result of poor drainage.

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5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week. Future demand is based on both team generation rates, which are driven by population increases, as well as reported club development plans.

Table 5.16: Summary of supply and demand balance on rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁴⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand ⁴⁵	Future total
Aspatria	0.5	3.5	3	0.5	3.5
Cockermouth	-	2.5	2.5	1	3.5
Keswick (LDNP)	-	6	6	0.5	6.5
Marport	-	2.25	2.25	2.75	5
Silloth	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
Wigton	-	-		0.75	0.75
Workington	1	3.25	2.25	1.5	3.75
Total	2	17.5	15.5	7	22.5

Overall, there is a current minimal shortfall of 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand across Allerdale. This is further exacerbated when considering future demand, resulting in a future shortfall of 22.5 match equivalent sessions. Current and future shortfalls are evident in Aspatria, Cockermouth, Keswick, Maryport and Workington areas, whereas, the Wigton Analysis Area is currently played to capacity and has a future shortfall when taking into account future demand from Wigton RUFC.

Potential impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

It should be noted that the information above is based on 2019 demand, however, the current and future impact of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic (2020/21) needs to be taken under consideration.

The RFU has announced a number of guidelines, recommendations and potential funding streams for clubs which can be found at: <https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/running-your-club/coronavirus>

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

Clubs across Allerdale anecdotally suggest that, to date there has not been a significant decrease in participation. However, the longer restrictions stay in place the larger the clubs expect the drop off to be, particularly with older members which may find it difficult to restart the game after a substantial period away from playing. Therefore, clubs would like to see the season extended to get some play in the 2020 season or, at a minimum, some form of contact training/competitive matches commence before the start of the 2021 season.

⁴⁴ In match equivalent sessions per week

⁴⁵ Anticipated future junior demand is represented as 0.5 MES on a senior pitch whereas anticipated mini future demand is represented as 0.25 MES on a senior pitch.

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Rugby union - summary

- ◆ **Overall, there is a current minimal shortfall of 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand across Allerdale. This is further exacerbated when considering future demand, resulting in a future shortfall of 22.5 match equivalent sessions.**
- ◆ Within Allerdale there are 22 senior pitches, six junior pitches and two mini pitches provided, with all but three pitches being available for community use.
- ◆ Across the Borough each club is considered to have secure tenure. This is either through ownership or rental from the Council or town/parish councils, with such provision protected as part of an ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offering.
- ◆ Of the community available pitches in Allerdale, six are assessed as good quality, nine as standard quality and 12 as poor quality.
- ◆ Of the clubs that responded to consultation, all but two (Wigton RUFC and Keswick RUFC), indicate their ancillary provision to be good quality stating no specific issues.
- ◆ There are seven community rugby union clubs based in Allerdale, providing a total of 56 teams. Broken down, this equates to 11 senior men's, two senior women's, 15 junior boys, six junior girls and 22 mini teams.
- ◆ Each of the seven clubs that responded to consultation in Allerdale report future aspirations to increase the number of teams they field. In total this amounts to 13 teams which equates to six match equivalent sessions per week on senior pitches.
- ◆ There are 11 sites which display potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play in Allerdale, however, only four sites are available at peak time. This totals two match equivalent sessions per week on senior pitches.
- ◆ There are six pitches across five sites in Allerdale which are overplayed by a total of 17.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 6.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Playing Level	Playing Level
England Hockey Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	Essential International Hockey - Training and matches	Desirable Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards England
England Hockey Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	Desirable All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential All adult and junior club training and league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	Desirable
England Hockey Category 4	All 3G surfaces	Essential None	Desirable Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types England Hockey reports it is currently trialling a different multi sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand and other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type known as Gen 2⁴⁶ is a versatile surface that will ensure sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience. It will be a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and utilised provision to full potential.

⁴⁶ <http://www.englishhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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For senior teams, a full size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides & three metres at the ends. England Hockey preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided that the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek and requires access to a pitch and floodlights.

It should be noted that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the decision has been made to utilise 2019 demand data, where applicable, to inform this section of the report to give an accurate representation for the analysis of the sport across Allerdale. The Pandemic and subsequent lockdown/social distancing measures meant that the hockey season in 2020/21 was truncated with a limited number of matches taking place.

Consultation

There are three hockey clubs identified as playing with Allerdale: Dalston Ladies HC, Keswick HC and Wigton HC. Each club responded to an online survey resulting in a 100% response rate.

6.2: Supply

The audit identifies four hockey suitable AGPs in Allerdale, all of which, are floodlit and available for community use. There are two full size pitches which measure the necessary requirements for competitive hockey these are located at Cockermouth School and Wigton Sports & Fitness Club.

There are also two smaller size pitches located at Beacon Hill Community and St Joseph's Catholic High School. Whilst not large enough to accommodate senior hockey matches, smaller AGPs can be used for training activity as well as for some junior matches (if large enough).

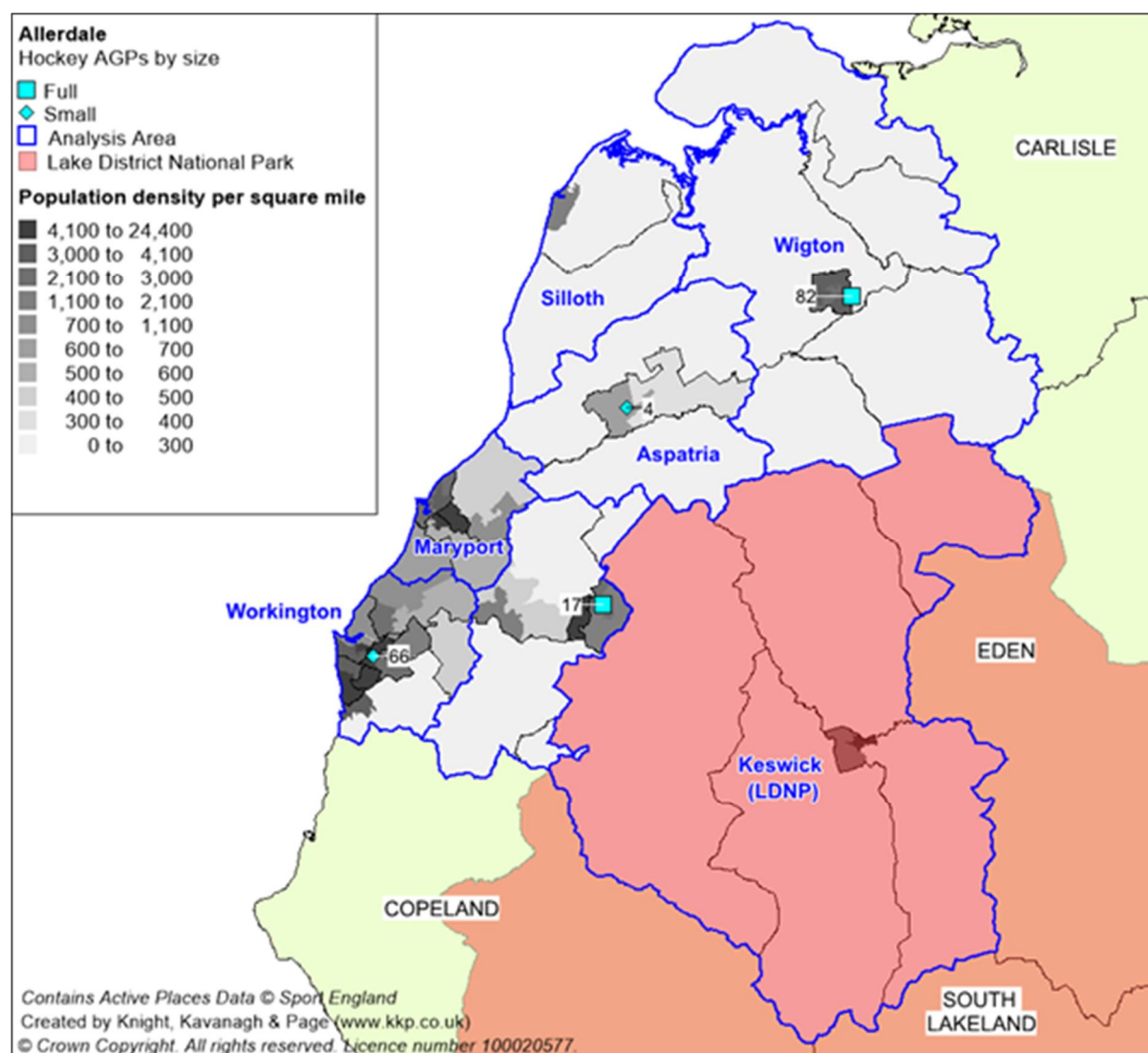
Table 6.2: Full size hockey suitable pitches in Allerdale

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name (Year built / refurbished)	Community use?	Surface type	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
Aspatria	4	Beacon Hill Community School (2008)	Yes	Sand filled	Yes	39x36
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School (2015)	Yes	Sand dressed	Yes	97x60
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club (2009)	Yes	Sand dressed	Yes	96x60
Workington	66	St Joseph's Catholic High School (2006)	Yes	Sand filled	Yes	52x34

It should also be noted that there is a lapsed small size hockey suitable AGP at Grasslot Welfare W.M.C (Elbra Rangers ARLFC). It should be noted that the Club indicates this is lapsed due to its quality. It does not state any plans regarding this provision.

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 6.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in Allerdale



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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Future developments

Three macadam courts at Grasmoor Sports Centre, that were previously used by Cockermouth TC, are now disused. The owners of the site, Cockermouth RUFC, report after the tennis club folded a number of years ago the courts stopped being used. Cockermouth RUFC indicate plans to refurbish this area as a sand based AGP in addition to upgrading the floodlighting. It wants the area to be used for multi-sport purposes and to accommodate club and community demand and is actively looking for external funding to achieve the conversion.

Keswick School aspires to create a multi-use games area, however, does not outline specific plans regarding the area this would be located or its surface type. However, it indicates that potential users would be Keswick HC, Keswick FC, Braithwaite FC and Keswick & Braithwaite TC. In order to accommodate their demand, the surface would need to be a sand based or sand filled.

Cockermouth School and St Joseph's Catholic School have both referenced through consultation an ambition to refurbish their hockey AGP with a 3G surface. It should be noted that the former site is actively used for community hockey (Keswick HC) whereas the latter is not. Neither school (February 2021) have made any formal plans for conversion with the abovementioned desire to convert their surfaces aspirational at this stage.

Conversion to 3G surfaces

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way to replace a worn sand or water based carpet and generate increased revenue from hiring out a 3G pitch to football and rugby clubs and commercial football providers, and/or to meet the demand for other sports. This has often come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams consequently displaced from their preferred local authority.

Due to its potential to impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface where planning permission is needed for a change of surface applicants will need to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and EH should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

Sport England consider that the operations required to convert a sand dressed/based pitch to 3G require planning permission as it is not just a change of carpet with the sub structure potentially needing to be changed as well. This would require engineering operations.

It should also be noted that, if the surface type is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and in some instances noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place. Conversion to a 3G surface will likely require a size increase; along with floodlighting improvements, the addition of a shock pad, fencing and noise attenuation. This is likely to require planning permission.

A 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Providers proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance and in particular [Selecting the Right Artificial Surface](https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/outdoor-surfaces) <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/outdoor-surfaces>

Management and security of tenure

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The AGP located at Cockermouth School (Academy) is managed and operated internally by the School, whilst the pitch at Wigton Sports & Fitness Club is controlled by Wigton RUFC, the freeholders of the site.

Each club rents the use of their pitch on a seasonal basis, Keswick HC at Cockermouth School and Wigton HC and Dalston Ladies HC at Wigton Sports & Fitness Club. As there is no long-term agreement in place for the any of the Club's usage, tenure on site is considered to be unsecure.

It should be noted that none of the clubs report through consultation issues with their current arrangements.

Neither of the small size hockey suitable pitches at Beacon Hill Community School or St Joseph's Catholic High School are currently used for hockey.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

At Cockermouth School, the AGP is reserved for curricular use from 09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday, before opening to the community from 17:00 to 21:00. At weekends the pitch is available to the community from 09:00-16:00 on a Saturday and 09:00-13:00 on a Sunday. Therefore, the pitch is available for 29 hours out of 34 hours per week of peak period.

Keswick HC indicates that since the School became an Academy, several years ago, there has been a reduction in the availability of the pitch, particularly at the weekend. As a result, the Club reports it can realistically only accommodate three matches on a Saturday and limited amounts of junior demand on a Sunday. Anecdotal evidence suggests this is due to staffing issues/cost implications at the School.

The AGP at Wigton Sports & Fitness available 10:00 to 21:30 Monday to Friday and 09:00 to 18:00 at the weekend, as such, it is available for the full 34 hours per week.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that many providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed.

Table 6.3: Full size hockey suitable pitches in Allerdale

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Year built / refurbished	Surface type	Quality
Aspatria	4	Beacon Hill Community School	2008	Sand filled	Poor
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	2015	Sand dressed	Poor
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	2009	Sand dressed	Poor
Workington	66	St Joseph's Catholic High School	2006	Sand filled	Poor

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All hockey suitable pitches in Allerdale (full size and small size) are assessed as poor quality. Three of the four pitches are beyond their recommended lifespan and as such have evidence of moss, lichen, holes/rips in the surface as well as tired/dated surrounding fencing, posts and goals.

The full size pitch at Cockermouth School (Academy) is also assessed as poor quality even though it was refurbished in 2015. Keswick HC reports that even though the pitch is only six years old it has significant quality issues such as flooding resulting in a dangerous and slippery playing surface. Issues with the drainage were not addressed when the pitch was resurfaced meaning it can become unusable in a matter of hours during periods of bad weather. In addition, the School utilises the pitch to meet its curricular and extracurricular demand which has impacted on the overall quality through overuse.

Ancillary provision

Keswick HC reports that it accesses changing facilities at Cockermouth School which are of standard quality. It indicates they can be too small when multiple teams are trying to access them, particularly to meet its junior demand.

Wigton HC and Dalston Ladies HC both indicate ancillary provision to be standard quality at Wigton Sports & Fitness Club. The clubs access the onsite cricket changing rooms which are not next to the pitch, or heated, however, neither clubs report this to be overly problematic.

6.3: Demand

There are three clubs classified as being based in Allerdale. In total, these clubs accommodate 19 teams: four men's, five women's and seven dedicated junior/mini teams. The two larger clubs in the authority are Wigton and Keswick, which have ten and eight teams respectively. In comparison, the smallest club is Dalston Ladies HC that has one women's team.

Table 6.4: Summary of hockey demand playing in Allerdale (19/20)

Name of club	No. of teams			Total
	Men's	Women's	Junior / Mini	
Dalston Ladies HC	-	1	-	1
Keswick HC	3	2	3	8
Wigton HC	1	2	7	10
Total	4	5	7	19

The table below examines each club's participation figures for the 2019/20 season for all Category One and Category Two players. These are the participants that must access hockey suitable AGPs for their demand.

Table 6.5: England Hockey affiliation figures 2019/20 (Category One and Two)

Name of club	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior boys (14-16)	Junior girls (14-16)	Junior boys (11-13)	Junior girls (11-13)	Mini mixed (5-10)	Total
Dalston Ladies HC	-	23	-	2	-	-	-	25
Keswick HC	43	24	14	19	6	11	16	133

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Wigton HC	24	43	17	21	12	30	34	181
Total	67	90	31	42	18	41	50	339

It should be noted that each club, during consultation, indicated that the current levels of participation/number of teams is broadly the same as in 2019/20, with the Pandemic, to date, not having an overly negative effect on membership numbers.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within England Hockey's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years.

Keswick HC aspires to generally increase the number of teams it accommodates across all age groups; however, it specifically identifies future demand for one senior men's team. Similarly, Wigton HC reports future aspirations to grow by one senior men's team.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Keswick HC and Wigton HC indicate latent demand relating to capacity issues at Cockermouth School and Wigton Sports & Fitness Club, respectively. Neither club imply they would be able to accommodate more demand if they had access to more provision.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within Allerdale due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

Dalston Ladies HC technically imports its demand into Allerdale from the neighbouring authority of Carlisle. The Club relocated into the Borough after it stopped being able to access Caldew School in Carlisle due to capacity issues a number of years ago.

It therefore considers Wigton Sports & Fitness Club to be its home venue and for the purposes of this report is considered a Allerdale club. It should be noted that the settlement of Dalston, although in a different authority, is situated in close proximity to Wigton and is not considered to be an issue for the Club.

Further to this there is some imported demand onto the pitch at Cockermouth School by Western Lakes HC. England Hockey reports the Club has recently lost access to the site it uses Copeland Bowls and Sports Centre (Cleator Moor) in the neighbouring authority of Copeland and as a result imports its single team into the Allerdale.

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing provision for home fixtures outside of Allerdale, despite being from the Borough. There is no known exported hockey demand outside of the Authority.

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Hockey Heroes⁴⁷

Hockey Heroes is a six-week hockey programme aimed at beginners (children aged five to eight) that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey skills such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development including teamwork, communication, perseverance and respect. There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in or around Allerdale

Back to Hockey⁴⁸

Back to Hockey sessions are fun, social and informal and are aimed at people who either have not played for a number of years or that are looking to play for the first time. They are generally hosted by clubs, with EH providing guidance on how to deliver the programme. Benefits of clubs being involved include:

- ◆ More members
- ◆ More casual players
- ◆ Additional income
- ◆ Extra publicity
- ◆ New volunteers

There are no current Back to Hockey sessions in Allerdale, however, Wigton HC reports it has previously run sessions at Wigton Sports & Fitness Club.

Peak time demand

For matches, all senior hockey activity in Allerdale takes place on a Saturday, whereas junior activity occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is midweek evenings, although preference is generally given for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

Match play

The PPS Guidance suggests that a floodlit pitch is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday. With teams playing on a home and away format, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight homeöteams. One team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its homeöAGP. However, Cockermouth School has a capacity of three match equivalent sessions (six home teams) based on consultation with Keswick HC.

Keswick HC fields five senior teams at peak time at Cockermouth School, in addition to one imported team from Western Lakes HC and on this basis the pitch is considered to be played to capacity.

In comparison, the pitch at Wigton Sports & Fitness Club, being used collectively by four senior teams at peak time, has overall spare capacity for hockey. This equates to spare capacity for a potential four additional teams at Wigton Sports & Fitness Club, dependant on effective fixture scheduling.

⁴⁷ <https://play.englishhockey.co.uk/HockeyHeroes>

⁴⁸ <https://play.englishhockey.co.uk/BackToHockey>

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Based on the above there is enough supply to meet current levels of demand, however, there may be issues moving forward to actualise future and latent levels of demand. It should also be noted that as a matter of priority both pitches need to be refurbished as a hockey suitable surface in order to improve quality.

For junior hockey, the provision of two full size AGPs is also considered sufficient to accommodate match play demand. This is because there are fewer junior teams and because there is no conflict with senior demand with matches mostly being played on a Sunday.

Furthermore, some of the younger aged participants only require half of a pitch, meaning multiple matches can be played at the same time should demand increase to a point where that becomes necessary. However, extending access at Cockermouth School needs to be addressed to allow for further growth in junior demand for Keswick HC.

Training

Keswick HC reports no issues with fielding its training demand on the one pitch at Cockermouth School. In comparison both Wigton HC and Dalston Ladies HC report issues accessing the pitch at Wigton Sports & Fitness Club for training demand. Each club indicates they are given unfavourable hours of usage for training with football and rugby union clubs being prioritised. Both Wigton and Dalston Ladies aspire to have dedicated times to use the pitch which meet their requirements.

Potential impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

It should be noted that the recommendations above are based on 2019 hockey demand, however, the current and future impact of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic (2020/21) needs to be taken under consideration.

England Hockey has announced a number of guidelines, recommendations and potential funding streams for clubs which can be found at:

<http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2633§ionTitle=Covid%2D19+Club+Support>

It is currently unknown what the future impact of COVID-19 and the Lockdowns will have on participation and the quality of provision for hockey. However due to the way hockey is played (on artificial surfaces) the impact on supply is likely to be minimal. This being said, it is acknowledged that as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy Stage E process, the review of the documents should ensure that any recommendations made are still accurate based on future levels of supply and demand.

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Hockey – summary

- ◀ **Based on the above there is enough supply to meet current levels of demand, however, there may be issues moving forward to actualise future and latent levels of demand.**
- ◀ **It should also be noted that as a matter of priority both pitches need to be refurbished as a hockey suitable surface in order to improve quality.**
- ◀ **If either full size pitch becomes unusable due to quality, or is refurbished to 3G, this would have a detrimental effect on hockey in Allerdale. Therefore both pitches should be refurbished with a hockey suitable surface as soon as possible.**
- ◀ The audit identifies four hockey suitable AGPs in Allerdale, all of which, are floodlit and available for community use. There are two full size pitches which measure the necessary requirements for competitive hockey these are located at Cockermouth School and Wigton Sports & Fitness Club.
- ◀ The AGP located at Cockermouth School is managed and operated internally by the School, whilst the pitch at Wigton Sports & Fitness Club is controlled by Wigton RUFC, the freeholders of the site.
- ◀ At Cockermouth School, the AGP is reserved for curricular use from 09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday, before opening to the community from 17:00 to 21:00. At weekends the pitch is available to the community from 09:00-16:00 on a Saturday and 09:00-13:00 on a Sunday. Therefore, the pitch is available for 29 hours out of 34 hours per week of peak period.
- ◀ All hockey suitable pitches in Allerdale (full size and small size) are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Keswick HC reports that it accesses changing facilities at Cockermouth School which are of standard quality.
- ◀ There are three clubs classified as being based in Allerdale. In total, these clubs accommodate 19 teams: four men's, five women's and seven dedicated junior/mini teams.
- ◀ Dalston Ladies HC technically imports its demand into Allerdale from the neighbouring authority of Carlisle (Caldew School). Further to this there is some imported demand onto the pitch at Cockermouth School by Western Lakes HC. Western Lakes HC previously used provision at Copeland Bowls and Sports Centre (Cleator Moor - Copeland Council).

PART 7: RUGBY LEAGUE

7.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in England. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK.

Most community club rugby league is now played throughout the summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is considered as a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training is required throughout the winter months.

Senior rugby league is played on a field measuring 100 x 68 metres. The preferred pitch size for u7s, u8s and u9s is 60 x 40 metres, whereas for u10s and u11s it is 80 x 30 metres. U12s and above generally play on senior pitches. Teams from u7s to u11s are known as primary teams, with teams from u12s to u18s known as junior teams.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, all rugby league matches and training sessions were cancelled throughout summer 2020. This meant that very few matches were played in relation to the normal summer season. As such, similar to the approach for cricket, this section of the report utilises 2019 demand data in order to give a more accurate and representation of how rugby league is normally played across Allerdale.

Consultation

There are eight community clubs playing in Allerdale:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ◀ Aspatia Hornets RLFC | ◀ Glasson Rangers RLFC |
| ◀ Broughton Red Rose RLFC | ◀ Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC |
| ◀ Cockermouth Titans RLFC | ◀ Maryport RLFC |
| ◀ Ellenborough Rangers RLFC | ◀ Seaton Rangers RLFC |

In addition to the above there is one semi-professional club in the Borough, Workington Town RLFC, which was consulted with via an online meeting.

All remaining clubs were sent an online survey to complete with each one completed, resulting in a 100% response rate.

Since the previous PPS study in 2014 the following clubs have folded; Flimby RLFC which played at Flimby West Lane and Salterbeck RLFC which played at Salterbeck Road. The former site is currently used for football whilst the latter is classed as disused.

7.2: Supply

Nationally, most rugby league pitches are classified as being senior size, with cones used to mark out pitches for primary and junior teams. However, there may be instances (particularly on school sites and large club sites) where designated junior or primary pitches are provided.

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Table 7.1: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	No. of pitches available for community use			
	Senior	Junior	Primary	Total
Aspatria	1	-	-	1
Cockermouth	3	-	1	4
Keswick (LDNP)	-	-	-	-
Maryport	3	-	-	3
Silloth	-	-	-	-
Wigton	-	-	-	-
Workington	3	-	-	3
Allerdale	10	-	1	11

In Allerdale, the audit identifies a total of 11 grass rugby league pitches (ten senior and one mini) across nine sites, all of which, are available for community use.

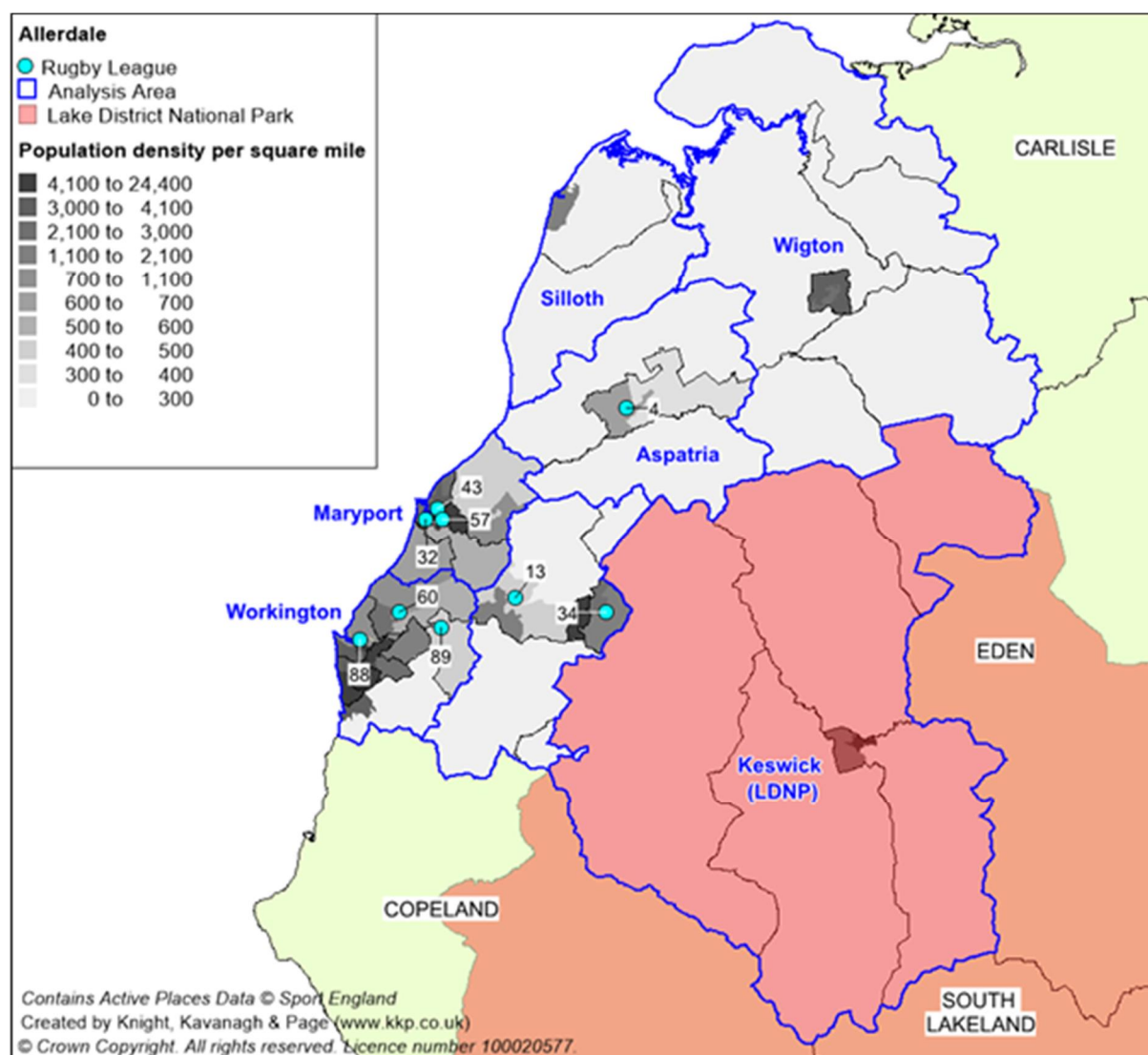
Provision is evenly spread across three analysis areas, Cockermouth with four pitches and Maryport and Workington with three pitches each. The remaining pitch is located in Aspatria Analysis Area. There is no rugby league provision of any kind in the Keswick, Silloth and Wigton areas.

Whilst there are no disused or lapsed rugby league sites in Allerdale (as all sites that previously provided rugby league pitches are still in sporting use), there are two that previously accommodated provision that no longer do so having been reconfigured to instead accommodate other sports.

As mentioned earlier, since the completion of the previous Playing Pitch Strategy, two clubs have folded. This in turn has led to the provision that was being utilised to become disused. Flimby RLFC and Salterbeck used one senior pitch each at Flimby West Lane (Maryport Analysis Area) and Salterbeck Road (Workington Analysis Area), respectively. Both sites are managed by the Council.

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Figure 7.1: Location of rugby league pitches in Allerdale



Future developments

Workington Community Sports Village

As mentioned in Part 1: Introduction and Methodology, Workington AFC and Workington Town RLFC are in discussions with the Borough Council over the creation of a new Community Sports Village (CSV) in Workington. Below is the synopsis of consultation with Workington Town RLFC.

Workington Town RLFC operates out of Derwent Park and has one semi-professional team playing in League One (third-tier competition), having been relegated from the Championship (in 2015). The team plays and trains on a pitch that is good quality. Similarly, to Borough Park, all the ancillary provision at Derwent Park meets the requirements for the level of rugby league being played, however, it is in need of modernisation.

The RFL indicates that Cumbria is a strategic area for rugby league. As such, the Club identifies that the proposed Workington CSV can be used as a mechanism to assist in the growth of the sport in the Borough. It will also protect the longevity of the Club whilst

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establishing a sporting community infrastructure for the benefit of residents of Workington and surrounding areas.

Aspatia Hornets RLFC

The Club reports ambitions to create a second pitch at Beacon Hill Community School in addition to creating a pitch barrier and floodlights.

Seaton Rangers ARLFC

During consultation, the Club reports plans to create a secondary pitch at its site, however, cannot obtain relevant funding to do so due to tenure issues as detailed further below.

Ellenborough Rangers RLFC

The Club states plans to install fencing on the site to stop the rugby ball, during match play and training, ending up on a railway line neighbouring the site. It should be noted that the Club indicates there is also a small size floodlit hockey suitable AGP on the site, however, this is disused due to its quality. It does not state any plans regarding this provision.

Glasson Rangers RLFC

The Club is in the early stages of developing an area of land next to its current pitch for training and/or potential additional pitch space, however, it should be stated that this project is in its infancy.

Ownership/management

Site ownership is varied between clubs renting on an annual basis, leasing provision on a long term agreement or those clubs which have ownership of their sites. Tenure in Allerdale is considered secure if a club has a long-term lease or there is a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years.

Table 7.2: Summary of security of tenure

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Club	Tenure	Comments
Aspatia	4	Beacon Hill Community School	Aspatia Hornets RLFC	Secure	Lease from Beacon Hill school until 2031
Cockermouth	13	Broughton Red Rose ARLFC	Broughton Red Rose RLFC	Secure	Freehold
Maryport	32	Grasslot Welfare W.M.C	Ellenborough Rangers RLFC	Secure	Lease from Grasslot Welfare Sports and Social Club
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	Cockermouth Titans RLFC	Secure	Lease from the Borough Council until 2044
Maryport	43	Maryport ARLFC	Maryport RLFC	Secure	Lease until 2035
Maryport	57	Sandy Lonning Community Sports Field	Glasson Rangers RLFC	Secure	Freehold
Workington	60	Seaton Rangers	Seaton Rangers	Unsecure	Annual rolling

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Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Club	Tenure	Comments
		ARLFC	RLFC		agreement with CISWO
Workington	89	Rosemary Gardens Playground (William Street)	Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC	Secure	Lease from Clifton PC until 2029

Based on the information above, the only club to not have secure tenure is Seaton Rangers RLFC. In fact, the Club reports that it has attempted to secure a lease arrangement with CISWO, however, has been unsuccessful to date. This in turn has meant it cannot effectively apply for funding streams to develop additional pitches at Seaton Rangers ARLFC.

Pitch quality

Non-technical site assessments⁴⁹ were carried out for all rugby league pitches in the Borough and assessed as one of three categories, 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor'. Carrying capacity of a pitch is dependent upon the quality of a pitch which is outlined below:

Table 7.3: Summary of quality and carrying capacity for rugby league pitches

Category	Capacity
Good	3 matches per week
Standard	2 matches per week
Poor	1 match per week

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The table below summarises pitch quality following the site visits to all pitches (including those not available for community use).

Table 7.4: Summary of pitch quality

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Pitch size	Number of pitches	Quality
Aspatria	4	Beacon Hill Community School	Senior	1	Standard
Cockermouth	13	Broughton Red Rose ARLFC	Senior	1	Poor
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	Primary	1	Poor
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	Senior	2	Poor
Maryport	32	Grasslot Welfare W.M.C.	Senior	1	Standard
Maryport	43	Maryport ARLFC	Senior	1	Standard
Maryport	57	Sandy Lonning Community Sports Field	Senior	1	Standard
Workington	60	Seaton Rangers ARLFC	Senior	1	Standard
Workington	88	Workington Town RLFC (Derwent Park)	Senior	1	Good
Workington	89	Rosemary Gardens Playground (William Street)	Senior	1	Poor

In Allerdale, there is an equal number of poor and standard quality pitches, with five of each (90% of all provision). The remaining 10% (one pitch) is good quality and is located at Workington Town RLFC which receives high levels of maintenance due to the level of rugby league being played at the site.

⁴⁹ See Appendix 2 for the non-technical assessment for rugby pitches

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Aspatria Hornets RLFC has plans to improve pitch quality at Beacon Hill Community School in addition to creating a secondary pitch. It aspires to eventually obtain a pitch barrier and floodlights; however, funding is yet to be obtained. It also indicates the pitch has improved in quality due to intensive remediation works, however, still has a major drainage issue. It is likely that planning permission would be required for such a development with nothing yet submitted by the Club.

Broughton Red Roses RLFC reports its pitch is undersized, located on a slope and is too hard resulting in the surface to crack.

Cockermouth Titans RLFC is in the process of enhancing the poor quality of its pitches at Highfield in preparation for the 2021 season. The Club indicates it has secured monies from the Borough Council, RFL and Sport England to carry out the pitch improvements.

As mentioned earlier, Ellenborough Rangers RLFC's main issue is not related specifically with pitch quality. It aspires to erect fencing around the pitch in order to stop the ball landing on the neighbouring railway tracks. It does not have any funding to date for the project, however, it is looking for potential funding streams.

Comparably, Maryport RLFC states it has secured funding to instal a pitch barrier which should be completed before the start of the 2021 season.

Overmarked pitches

Overmarking of pitches is an issue at some sites in the Borough. This sustained and intense use over short periods of time can impact on pitch quality and allows little time for the surface to rest and recover. It is not uncommon for pitches to be dually used for more than one grass pitch sport; particularly at schools where the curriculum may be structured in a way that the pitches are used for one sport for a number of weeks followed by another within the same season. The most common overmarking in Allerdale is football with rugby league, with many of the sites having combination goals on the pitches in question. Some pitches are also used throughout the summer for various activities; the following sites have dual pitches with football and rugby league:

- ◆ Grasslot Welfare W.M.C
- ◆ Maryport ARLFC

Ancillary facilities

Generally, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing rugby league clubs across Allerdale is either standard (44%) or good quality (33%). In fact, only one site has poor quality provision, and one other site has no ancillary provision at all.

Table 7.5: Summary of pitch quality

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Club	Ancillary provision quality
Aspatria	4	Beacon Hill Community School	Aspatria Hornets RLFC	Good
Cockermouth	13	Broughton Red Rose ARLFC	Broughton Red Rose RLFC	Poor
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	Cockermouth Titans	Good

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Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Club	Ancillary provision quality
			RLFC	
Maryport	32	Grasslot Welfare W.M.C	Ellenborough Rangers RLFC	Standard
Maryport	43	Maryport ARLFC	Maryport RLFC	Standard
Maryport	57	Sandy Lonning Community Sports Field	Glasson Rangers RLFC	Standard
Workington	60	Seaton Rangers ARLFC	Seaton Rangers RLFC	Good
Workington	88	Workington Town RLFC (Derwent Park)	Workington Town RLFC	Standard
Workington	89	Rosemary Gardens Playground (William Street)	Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC	N/A

Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC reports there are no ancillary facilities at Rosemary Gardens Playground (William Street). It indicates if there were facilities available it would be able to generate more demand through hosting festivals and competitions.

In comparison, Broughton Red Roses RLFC indicates ancillary provision at its home ground is poor quality, too small to meet current levels of demand and extremely basic. Further to this it references the site is regularly subject to vandalism such as locks being smashed, bins being set on fire and general damages to the building and dugouts.

As Workington Town RLFC is in discussion about the potential creation of a Community Sports Village it has reduced the levels of maintenance and upkeep on its current site Derwent Park. As a result, the Club indicate the current quality of ancillary provision is standard bordering on poor. If the Club does not relocate, investment is required at Derwent Park to modernise it.

Maryport RLFC reports being unsuccessful in applying for funding to make improvements to its clubhouse. Considering this, it has secured a bank loan which it will use to build a new storage facility and refurbish its changing rooms.

7.3: Demand

Demand for rugby league pitches in Borough tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

Competitive play

There is a total of 49 competitive rugby league teams playing in Borough, including the one team from semi-professional club, Workington Town RLFC. The largest club in Allerdale is Seaton Rangers RLFC with 11 teams which is closely followed by Maryport RLFC with nine teams. In comparison, not considering Workington Town RLFC, the smallest club is Ellenborough Rangers RLFC with two senior teams. Similarly, Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC only has three teams, however, these are all primary age groups.

Table 7.6: Summary of demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Club	Teams			
		Senior	Junior	Primary	Total
Aspatria	Aspatria Hornets RLFC	1		5	6
Cockermouth	Broughton Red Rose RLFC	-	2	3	5

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Analysis area	Club	Teams			
		Senior	Junior	Primary	Total
Cockermouth	Cockermouth Titans RLFC	1	1	5	7
Maryport	Ellenborough Rangers RLFC	2	-	-	2
Maryport	Maryport RLFC	1	2	6	9
Maryport	Glasson Rangers RLFC	1	-	4	5
Workington	Seaton Rangers RLFC	2	3	6	11
Workington	Workington Town RLFC	1	-	-	1
Workington	Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC	-	-	3	3
Total		9	8	32	49

Across Allerdale the demand is spread accordingly, Aspatria Analysis Area with six teams (12%), Cockermouth Analysis Area with 12 teams (24%), Maryport Analysis Area with 16 teams (33%) and the Workington Analysis Area with 15 teams (31%).

Training

Winter rugby league training is accommodated across a combination of AGPs, indoor sports halls and gyms. Little training takes place on competitive pitches in the winter as few clubs have floodlit facilities. However, since the transition to a summer season, clubs tend to train on match pitches when extended daylight hours allow, eliminating the need for access to floodlighting. Many clubs attempt to train on grass areas around the perimeter of pitches to reduce impact on surface quality, but in practice a significant proportion of training takes place on the competitive pitches. Training for the clubs in Allerdale is detailed below.

Table 7.7: Summary of training demand

Club	Site ID	Site name	Training provision	Usage (MES) ⁵⁰
Aspatria Hornets RLFC	4	Beacon Hill Community School	Grass rugby league	4
Broughton Red Rose RLFC	40	Lakes College	Full size floodlit 3G	2
Ellenborough Rangers RLFC	32	Grasslot Welfare W.M.C	Grass rugby league	2
Cockermouth Titans RLFC	34	Highfield	Grass rugby league	2
Maryport RLFC	43	Maryport ARLFC	Grass rugby league	4
			Small size floodlit 3G	2
Glasson Rangers RLFC	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	Full size floodlit 3G	4
Seaton Rangers RLFC	60	Seaton Rangers ARLFC	Grass rugby league	4
Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC	89	Rosemary Gardens Playground (William Street)	Grass rugby league	2

As seen, six of the clubs utilise some form of grass pitch provision, which is likely to impact significantly on the carrying capacity of these pitches for matches. This is reflected through consultation with the clubs, with many revealing high demand for additional floodlit grass pitches in order to take usage away from existing pitches that are also needed for matches.

⁵⁰ Match equivalent sessions (MES)

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Furthermore, all clubs, apart from Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC and Maryport RLFC, report a desire to access more additional floodlight 3G surfaces for training demand particularly during the winter period.

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack pitches or appropriate facilities.

As mentioned earlier, Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC suggests it would be able to create more demand if it had access to ancillary provision at Rosemary Gardens Playground (William Street),

Aspatia Hornets RLFC indicates that if it had access to a second pitch at Beacon Hill Community School in addition to making pitch improvement, such as a pitch barrier and floodlighting, it would be able to increase demand.

Neither Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC or Aspatia Hornets RLFC quantify their latent demand with a specific number of teams.

Displaced/exported demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to Allerdale based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. There are no known instances of displaced/exported rugby league demand outside of the Borough.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. TGRs are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Population increases

Table 7.8: Borough wide team generation rates (TGR)

Age group	Current pop within age group	Current no. of teams	TGR	Future pop within age group (2030)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (19-45)	13,599	9	1:1,511	8,490	6	0
Senior Women (19-45)	13,472	0	0	8,332	0	0
Junior Boys (12-18)	3,666	8	1:458	2,514	6	0
Junior Girls (12-18)	3,427	0	0	2,263	0	0
Primary rugby mixed (7-11)	5,445	32	1:170	3,078	18	0

As seen in the table above, no additional rugby league teams are expected to be generated in Allerdale through population growth alone.

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It is important to note that team generation rates are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives, such as social rugby or coaching within schools, or the forthcoming Rugby League World Cup.

Social rugby

Consultation with the RFL anticipates a growth in participation through social rugby programmes above those suggested by TGRs. The RFL is expanding formats such as Touch Rugby, Primary Rugby, Tag Rugby, X League and Masters Rugby as a method to increase levels of demand above those associated with affiliated clubs. It anticipates that this demand will assist in the growth of the clubs within Allerdale, however, at this stage it is difficult to quantify.

Rugby League World Cup 2021

The Rugby League World Cup is set to take place in 2021 between Saturday 23rd October and Saturday 27th November. It will have men's, women's and wheelchair tournaments taking place at the same time. In total there will be 61 matches played across venues in Bolton, Coventry, Doncaster, Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Preston, Sheffield, St Helens, Tees Valley, Trafford, Warrington, Wigan & Leigh and York.

The RFL is identifying opportunities for investment and facility development through the Rugby League World Cup inspired by 2021's Legacy Programme. This comprises of three key strands; volunteers, facilities and community engagement and will look to use the tournament as a catalyst to develop the game.

It is currently unknown what impact this will have for participation within Allerdale; however, it is anticipated that it will only be positive in growing the sport within the Authority.

Participation increases

Three clubs intend to increase their number of teams for next season. This is summarised in the table below. However, where clubs do not presently have access to primary pitch provision it is considered that primary teams will play on senior or junior pitches currently accessed and as such will require only half of a senior/junior pitch, equating to 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 7.9: Summary of future demand reported by clubs

Analysis area	Club	Future demand	Match equivalent sessions per week (on a senior pitch)
Aspatia	Aspatia Hornets RLFC	1 x senior men's team	0.5
		2 x junior boys' teams	1
Cockermouth	Broughton Red Rose RLFC	1 x primary team	0.25
	Cockermouth Titans RLFC	1 x junior boys' team	0.5
		1 x junior girls' team	0.5
		1 x primary team	0.25
Maryport	Ellenborough Rangers RLFC	1 x junior boys' team	0.5
	Maryport RLFC	1 x senior men's team	0.5
		2 x junior boys' teams	1
	Glasson Rangers RLFC	2 x junior boys' teams	1
		3 x primary team	0.75

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Analysis area	Club	Future demand	Match equivalent sessions per week (on a senior pitch)
Workington	Seaton Rangers RLFC	1 x junior boysöteam	0.5
		1 x junior girlsöteam	0.5
	Workington Town RLFC	1 x senior menö's team	0.5
	Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC	1 x primary team	0.25
Totals		20 x teams	8.5

In total across the Borough there is total demand equating to 8.5 match equivalent sessions (on a senior pitch) or 20 teams. All clubs report an aspiration to increase the number of teams they field, with the most ambitious being Glasson Rangers RLFC with five teams.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. For senior rugby league matches the peak period is considered to be Saturday afternoon as all senior teams play at this time. In comparison peak period for junior and mini rugby league teams is Sunday AM.

7.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and peopleö's enjoyment of playing. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

As a guide, The RFL has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following was concluded in the Borough:

Pitch quality	Match equivalent sessions (MES) per week
Good	3
Standard	2
Poor	1

Table 7.10 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified öpotential capacityöcan be deemed öactual capacityö There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

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For senior and youth teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions (MES) per week for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away). For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 MES per week for each match played across half of one senior/junior pitch, based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.

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Table 7.10: Rugby league pitch provision and level of current use within Allerdale

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Security of tenure	Community use	Pitch type	Floodlit	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Current competitive demand (MES per week)	Current training demand (MES per week)	Site capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)	Comments
Aspatria	4	Beacon Hill Community School	Secure	Yes	Senior	No	Standard	1	1.75	4	2	3.75	Pitch is overplayed by 3.75 match equivalent sessions.
Cockermouth	13	Broughton Red Rose ARLFC	Secure	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	1	1.75	-	1	0.75	Pitch is overplayed by 0.75 match equivalent sessions.
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	Secure	Yes	Primary	No	Poor	1	2	-	1	1	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent session.
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	Secure	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	2	1	-	1		Pitch is considered played to capacity due to overmarking with football.
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	Secure	Yes	Senior	No	Poor		0.75	2	1	1.75	Pitch is overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions.
Maryport	32	Grasslot Welfare W.M.C. (Elbra Rangers ARLFC)	Secure	Yes	Senior	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	2	1.5	Pitch is considered to be overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions as it is used for competitive and training demand in addition to being Over marked with football.
Maryport	43	Maryport ARLFC	Secure	Yes	Senior	No	Standard	1	3	4	2	5	Pitch is considered to be overplayed by 5 match equivalent sessions as it is used for competitive and training demand in addition to being over marked with football.
Maryport	57	Sandy Lonning Community Sports Field	Secure	Yes	Senior	No	Standard	1	1.5	-	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
Workington	60	Seaton Rangers ARLFC	Unsecure	Yes	Senior	No	Standard	1	4	4	2	6	Pitch is overplayed by 6 match equivalent sessions
Workington	88	Workington Town RLFC	Secure	Yes	Senior	Yes	Good	1	-	-	-		Pitch is considered played to capacity through the competitive and training demand from semiprofessional club; Workington Town RLFC.
Workington	89	Rosemary Gardens Playground	Secure	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	1	0.75	2	1	1.75	Pitch is overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions.

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Spare capacity

Only one site shows potential spare capacity in Allerdale, Sandy Lonning Community Sports Field. As there is currently only one senior team playing at peak time there is actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is the only spare capacity in the Borough with all other pitches considered to be played to capacity or overplayed.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain, which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. Across Allerdale the majority of rugby league sites are overplayed by a total of 21 match equivalent sessions.

Please note the overplay in the table below has been equated to senior pitch equivalents. For senior and youth teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions (MES) per week for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away). For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 MES per week for each match played across half of one senior/junior pitch, based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.

Therefore, the overplay on the primary pitch of one match equivalent sessions at Highfield has been equated to 0.5 match equivalent sessions to give a total site overplay of 2.25 match equivalent sessions.

Table 7.11: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
Aspatria	4	Beacon Hill Community School	3.75
Cockermouth	13	Broughton Red Rose ARLFC	0.75
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	2.25
Maryport	32	Grasslot Welfare W.M.C. (Elbra Rangers ARLFC)	1.5
Maryport	43	Maryport ARLFC	5
Workington	60	Seaton Rangers ARLFC	6
Workington	89	Rosemary Gardens Playground	1.75
Total			21

Overplay can only be alleviated by improving pitch quality or providing more pitches or areas to be used for training. Potential options on how overplay can be alleviate will be examined in greater detail in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan.

7.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions per week.

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Table 7.12: Supply/demand balance of senior pitches at senior peak time

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total demand
Aspatria	-	3.75	3.75	1.5	5.25
Cockermouth	-	3	3	1.5	4.5
Keswick (LDNP)	-	-		-	
Maryport	0.5	6.5	6	3.75	9.75
Silloth	-	-		-	
Wigton	-	-		-	
Workington	-	7.75	7.75	1.75	9.5
Total	0.5	21	20.5	8.5	29

The table above shows that currently there is a substantial shortfall of rugby league pitches across Allerdale which only worsens when taking into consideration future demand. This is a result of significant levels of competitive and training demand accessing poor quality pitch stock. In addition, a number of pitches that are used for rugby league are also used for football, such as Highfield, Grasslot Welfare W.M.C and Maryport ARLFC, which is exacerbating overplay issues.

Potential impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

It should be noted that the information above is based on 2019 demand, however, the current and future impact of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic (2020/21) needs to be taken under consideration.

The RFL has announced a number of guidelines, recommendations and potential funding streams for clubs which can be found at: <https://www.rugby-league.com/coronavirus>

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

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Rugby league – summary

- ◀ **There is a substantial shortfall of rugby league pitches across Allerdale which only worsens when taking into consideration future demand. This is a result of significant levels of competitive and training demand accessing poor quality pitch stock.**
- ◀ **In addition, a number of pitches that are used for rugby league are also used for football, such as Highfield, Grasslot Welfare W.M.C and Maryport ARLFC, which is exacerbating overplay issues.**
- ◀ In Allerdale, the audit identifies a total of 11 grass rugby league pitches (ten senior and one mini) across nine sites, all of which, are available for community use.
- ◀ Workington Town RLFC (Community Sports Village), Aspatria Hornets RLFC, Seaton Rangers ARLFC, Ellenborough Rangers RLFC and Glasson Rangers RLFC all have aspirations to develop rugby league provision.
- ◀ Tenure for rugby league clubs in Allerdale is considered secure if a club has a long-term lease or there is a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years.
- ◀ In Allerdale, there is an equal number of poor and standard quality pitches, with five of each (90% of all provision). The remaining 10% (one pitch) is good quality and is located at Workington Town RLFC which receives high levels of maintenance due to the level of rugby league being played at the site.
- ◀ Generally, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing rugby league clubs across Allerdale is either standard (44%) or good quality (33%). In fact, only one site has poor quality provision, and one other site has no ancillary provision at all.
- ◀ There is a total of 49 competitive rugby league teams playing in Borough, including the one team from semi-professional club, Workington Town RLFC.
- ◀ Only one site shows potential spare capacity in Allerdale, Sandy Lonning Community Sports Field.
- ◀ Across Allerdale the majority of rugby league sites are overplayed by a total of 21 match equivalent sessions.

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PART 8: TENNIS COURTS

8.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Allerdale. The LTA strategic approach to target a number of national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

The assessment of tennis has been completed using 2020 demand data. This is based on Tennis as a sport being able to adapt to social distancing measures in a shorter period of time due to the way the sport is played. Its season in 2020 was reduced, however, not to the extent of other summer sports such as cricket or rugby league.

Consultation

There are seven tennis clubs identified as playing in Allerdale, of these, six replied to an online survey, resulting in an 86% response rate. The only non-responsive club was Harrington TC with all the below replying:

- ✦ Keswick & Braithwaite TC
- ✦ Kirkbride & Anthorn TC
- ✦ Lorton TC
- ✦ Maryport TC
- ✦ Silloth TC
- ✦ Wigton TC

Since the previous PPS in 2014, Cockermouth TC has folded. The Club previously utilised the courts located at Grasmoor Sports Centre.

8.2: Supply

There are 54 tennis courts identified in Allerdale across 18 sites, with 50 of these being available for community use across 47 sites. In comparison four courts across two sites are unavailable for community use. All unavailable courts are located at education managed sites.

Table 8.1: Summary of tennis courts across Allerdale

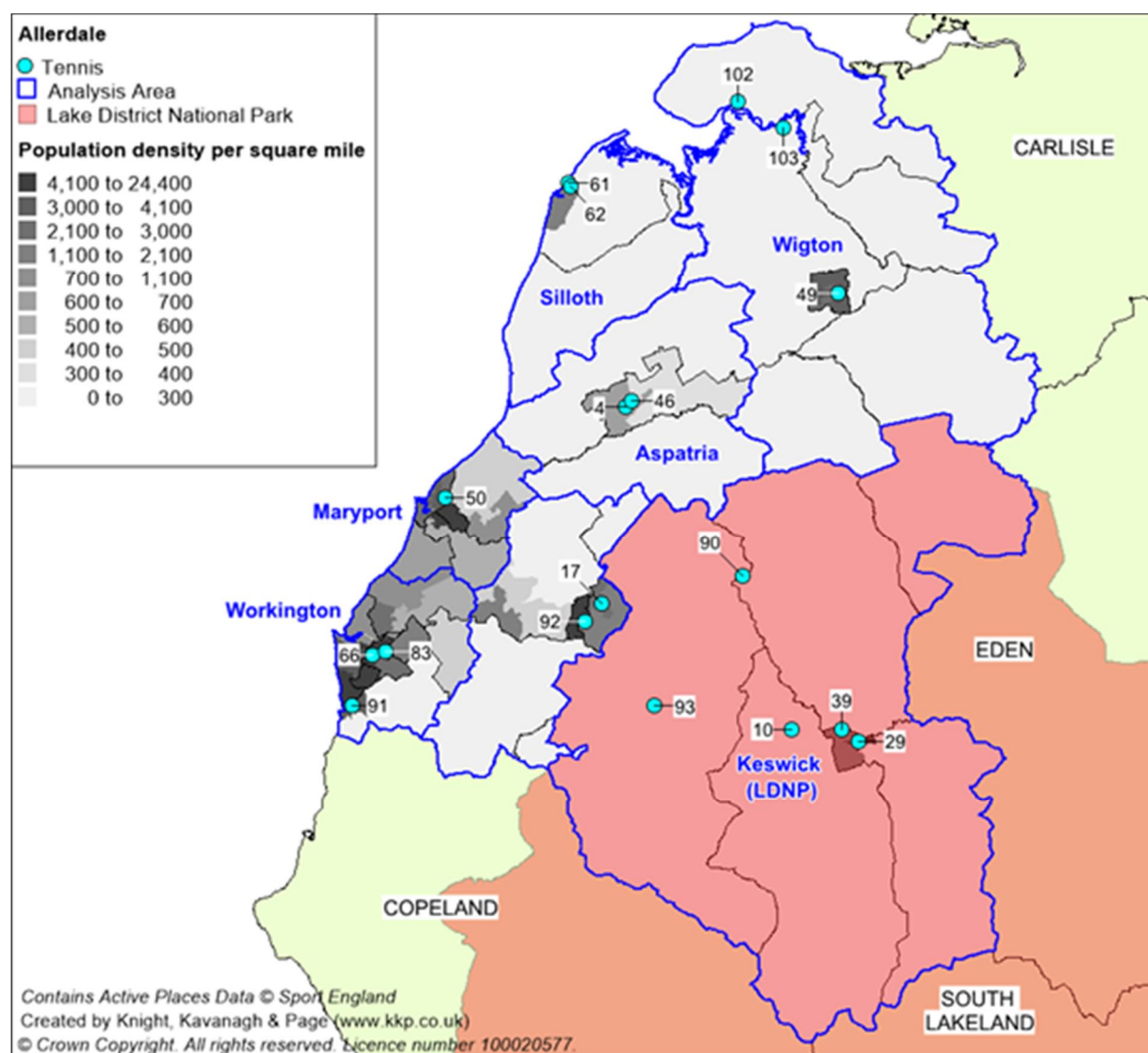
Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use	Total
Aspatria	1	2	3
Cockermouth	5	-	5
Keswick (LDNP)	19	-	19
Maryport	4	-	4
Silloth	2	2	4
Wigton	10	-	10
Workington	9	-	9
Total	50	4	54

As seen in the table above, the highest number of courts are found in the Keswick (LDNP) Analysis Area, whilst the fewest number found in the Aspatria Analysis Area which accommodates just three courts.

For the purposes of this report, availability for community use refers to courts in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management recorded as being available for hire by individuals, teams or clubs. This also includes availability for social use and pay and play.

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Figure 8.1: Summary of tennis courts in Allerdale



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Table 8.2: Summary of provision site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Community club /users	Available for community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type
4	Beacon Hill Community School	Aspatria	Education	-	No	2	No	Macadam
46	Memorial Park	Aspatria	Town Council	-	Yes	1	No	Macadam
17	Cockermouth School	Cockermouth	Education	-	Yes	3	No	Macadam
92	Harris Park	Cockermouth	Borough Council	-	Yes	2	No	Macadam
10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	Keswick (LDNP)	Sports club	Keswick & Braithwaite TC	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam
10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	Keswick (LDNP)	Sports club	Keswick & Braithwaite TC	Yes	2	No	Macadam
29	Fitz Park	Keswick (LDNP)	Town Council	Keswick & Braithwaite TC	Yes	5	No	Grass
29	Fitz Park	Keswick (LDNP)	Town Council		Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
39	Keswick School	Keswick (LDNP)	Education	-	Yes	4	No	Macadam
90	Armathwaite Hall Hotel	Keswick (LDNP)	Private	-	Yes	1	No	Macadam
93	Lorton Tennis Club	Keswick (LDNP)	Sports club	Lorton TC	Yes	1	No	Macadam
93	Lorton Tennis Club	Keswick (LDNP)	Sports club	Lorton TC	Yes	2	Yes	Artificial
50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	Maryport	Education	Maryport TC	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam
61	Skinburness Road Playing Fields	Silloth	Town Council	Silloth on Solway TC	Yes	2	No	Macadam
62	Solway Community School	Silloth	Education	-	No	2	No	Macadam
49	Nelson Tomlinson School	Wigton	Education	Wigton TC	Yes	3	Yes	Artificial
49	Nelson Tomlinson School	Wigton	Education	Wigton TC	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
102	Anthorn Sports Club	Wigton	Sports club	Kirkbride & Anthorn TC	Yes	2	No	Macadam
103	Kirkbride Tennis Courts	Wigton	Sports club	Kirkbride & Anthorn TC	Yes	2	No	Grass
66	St Joseph's Catholic	Workington	Education	Tenniswise	Yes	3	Yes	Artificial

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Community club /users	Available for community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type
	High School							
83	Workington Academy	Workington	Education	-	Yes	2	No	Macadam
91	Harrington Lawn Tennis Club	Workington	Sports club	Harrington TC	Yes	2	No	Clay
91	Harrington Lawn Tennis Club	Workington	Sports club	Harrington TC	Yes	2	No	Grass

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Loss of provision

Since the previous PPS in 2014 there are three sites which have either lost or reduced the number of courts they accommodate.

The two courts at Lakes College (West Cumbria), which were previously identified, have been built upon and are no longer in situ. Sport England reports no record of being consulted with on the loss of these courts which it should have been.

The previous site of Southfield Technology College (CA14 5BH), which closed in 2015, includes a lapsed playing field which consisted of two adult football pitches and one senior rugby union pitch, as well as a macadam area that accommodated four tennis courts. The site has been left unused since its closure. The area of land is owned by the County Council which has indicated plans to develop it for extra care housing. If this were to occur it should be noted that any loss of provision would need to meet requirements outlined in Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

Keswick School has four active tennis courts; however, it also has two courts which are now solely marked out for netball. In the previous study these were marked for tennis.

Three macadam courts at Grasmoor Sports Centre, that were previously used by Cockermouth TC, are now disused. The owners of the site, Cockermouth RUFC, report after the Club folded a number of years ago the courts stopped being used. Cockermouth RUFC indicate plans to refurbish this area as a sand based AGP in addition to upgrading the floodlighting. It is keen for the area to be used for multi sports purposes by club and community demand and it is actively looking for external funding to accomplish this conversion.

Since the production of the original draft of the assessment report it has been confirmed by Sport England that submitted planning permission has been approved for development at Grasmoor Sports Centre. Plans for the application included works to the courts although not included in the description.

Although not identified in the previous PPS there has historically also been three courts located at Vulcan Park (Workington). These courts have not been utilised as tennis provision for several years due to insufficient levels of demand. It should be noted that Vulcan Park includes a playing pitch area of 0.2 hectares therefore the courts form part of this provision and are protected under the NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy.

Ownership and management

The table below identifies the management at club sites known through consultation.

Table 8.3: Summary of management at club sites

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Community club	Management
Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	Keswick & Braithwaite TC	Annual lease from Braithwaite Institute
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	Keswick & Braithwaite TC	Rent from Town Council
Keswick (LDNP)	93	Lorton Tennis Club	Lorton TC	Freehold
Maryport	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	Maryport TC	Annual rental from the School
Silloth	61	Skinburness Road Playing Fields	Silloth on Solway TC	Rent from Town Council

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Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Community club	Management
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	Wigton TC	Annual rental from the School
Wigton	102	Anthorn Sports Club	Kirkbride & Anthorn TC	Rental from Sports club
Wigton	103	Kirkbride Tennis Courts	Kirkbride & Anthorn TC	Rental from Kirkbride Bowling Club
Workington	91	Harrington Lawn Tennis Club	Harrington TC	<i>Unknown</i>

It should be noted that Keswick & Braithwaite TC and Kirkbride & Anthorn TC each use two sites to meet all their demand. The former club uses provision at Braithwaite Cricket Club and Fitz Park whereas the latter uses provision at Anthorn Sports Club and Kirkbride Tennis Courts. Each club reports utilising two sites in order to meet all year round demand through the utilisation of macadam and grass courts.

Most of the remaining courts are predominately managed either through sports clubs or by schools.

Table 8.4: Courts available for community use by ownership

Private	Council	Town council	Sports club	Education
1	2	11	18	22

Floodlighting

Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being particularly key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that floodlights allow for a 35% increase in available courts time on an annual basis.

In Allerdale, four clubs are serviced by some level of floodlit provision, with 13 floodlit courts existing across all club sites. However, Silloth on Solway TC, Kirkbride & Anthorn TC and Harrington TC do not have access to floodlit provision at their home sites.

Lorton TC indicates plans to upgrade its floodlighting on its courts to LED in order to reduce running costs. In addition, Keswick & Braithwaite TC reports aspirations to install floodlights on the remaining courts at Braithwaite Cricket Club in order to maximise utilisation.

In contrast, just 20% of community accessible non club courts are floodlit. It should be noted that the LTA is currently working to strategically assess its stock of courts and implement different ways in which they can be developed which includes the installation of floodlighting.

Court type

Most community available courts in Allerdale have a macadam surface (62%). The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. The LTA reports that this should cost £1,200 a year per macadam court (which includes on-going maintenance costs). In comparison it indicates an approximate sinking fund of £1,800 needed to refurbish an artificial court surface or one floodlit macadam court.

The remaining courts have either an artificial turf surface (sand-based / tiger turf), clay-based or grass. Such provision generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during

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inclement weather spells, as well as requiring less frequent maintenance. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is more expensive despite the lifespan being similar.

Quality

Following a non-technical assessment, of the 50 community available courts, 14 were assessed as good quality, 11 as standard quality and 25 as poor quality.⁵¹

Table 8.5: Site by site quality ratings of community available courts

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	No. of courts	Court type
Aspatria	46	Memorial Park	1	Poor
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	3	Poor
Cockermouth	92	Harris Park	2	Good
Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	1	Good
Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	2	Good
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	5	Standard
Keswick (LDNP)	29	Fitz Park	3	Standard
Keswick (LDNP)	39	Keswick School	4	Poor
Keswick (LDNP)	90	Armathwaite Hall Hotel	1	Standard
Keswick (LDNP)	93	Lorton Tennis Club	1	Good
Keswick (LDNP)	93	Lorton Tennis Club	2	Good
Maryport	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	4	Good
Silloth	61	Skinburness Road Playing Fields	2	Poor
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	3	Poor
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	3	Poor
Wigton	102	Anthorn Sports Club	2	Good
Wigton	103	Kirkbride Tennis Courts	2	Standard
Workington	66	St Joseph's Catholic High School	3	Poor
Workington	83	Workington Academy	2	Poor
Workington	91	Harrington Lawn Tennis Club	2	Poor
Workington	91	Harrington Lawn Tennis Club	2	Poor

Table 8.6: Summary of community available court quality

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
Aspatria			1
Cockermouth	2	-	3
Keswick (LDNP)	6	9	4
Maryport	4	-	-
Silloth	-	-	2
Wigton	2	2	6
Workington	-	-	9
Total	14	11	25

It should be noted that the Workington, Aspatria and Silloth areas are only serviced by poor quality courts which may affect levels of community demand.

⁵¹ See Appendix 2 for the non-technical assessment for tennis courts

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Lorton TC reports the assistance provided by the Borough Council in 2018 allowed it to resurface two of its courts at Lorton Tennis Club. This in turn has led to an increase in participation and provide a provision for all year-round use.

Comparatively the poor quality community available courts are located at the following eight sites:

- ◀ Cockermouth School
- ◀ Harrington Lawn Tennis Club
- ◀ Keswick School
- ◀ Memorial Park
- ◀ Nelson Tomlinson School
- ◀ St Joseph's Catholic High School
- ◀ Workington Academy

Wigton TC indicates the courts it uses at Nelson Tomlinson School have reduced in quality over the past three years. The School reports it wants to actively work with the Club to improve the quality of provision.

St Joseph's reports aspiration to convert its poor sand based AGP, which is also marked out for tennis, to a 3G pitch in order to better accommodate levels of curricular and extracurricular demand, in addition to community demand in its locality. Community users of the site report that if it were to be resurfaced it would move its tennis demand indoors at the school (on the basis that there is capacity to do so) and maximise the new surface for other sporting use.

Additionally, most of the courts unavailable for community use are also poor quality, with schools reporting they are often unsafe and only used as recreational spaces for curricular and extracurricular purposes. The quality of the courts in turn gives schools a perceived notion they will have no external demand and therefore any potential community access is limited. This is further compounded as the majority of educational stakeholders indicate they cannot improve court quality and explore growing community accessibility due to financial constraints.

Generally, the LTA indicates that the need to refurbish a court is based typically on its current quality. Good quality courts will need resurfacing in eight years (or more), standard quality courts between four and seven years and poor quality courts within the next three years. In Allerdale, the poor quality courts suffer from a build-up of moss and lichen and receive limited maintenance, whilst the ageing macadam surfaces have begun to break up in areas.

Most clubs, indicate through consultation, having either plans or a sinking fund in place to refurbish their courts as and when required. An example of this is Keswick & Braithwaite TC indicates aspiration to put in a weed containment system around the perimeter of its courts at Braithwaite Cricket Club and surrounding hard standing areas.

A potential solution for alleviating quality issues, particularly at open access local authority sites (or town/parish council sites), is to explore using technology such as gate accessing system accompanied with online booking systems. Installation of these technologies would create a seamless customer experience whilst enabling the promotion of the courts. In addition, this would allow for usage to be tracked whilst generating revenue to contribute to a sinking fund for refurbishments. Such an approach is known as Clubspark, which is further explored later on within this section of the report.

Impact/potential impact of Covid-19 on quality

General consultation with clubs suggests the Pandemic, in comparison to other outdoor sports within the PPOSS, has had a minimal impact on the overall quality of provision across

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Allerdale. This is due to most courts in the Borough having a macadam surface which requires marginal amounts of regular maintenance.

In fact, only Kirkbride & Anthorn TC reports the impact to be negative as it could not carry out the required maintenance to its grass courts at Kirkbride Tennis Courts. The Club also indicates that as a result of the Pandemic, it has not been able to obtain subscription income as it has seen little to no play throughout 2020.

Ancillary provision

The ancillary facilities servicing the tennis clubs that responded to consultation varies between venues.

Wigton TC reports ambitions to develop more ancillary provision at Nelson Tomlinson School. The School is currently working on enhancing its sports facilities and is open to discuss potential options to support the Club.

Silloth on Solway TC does not have access to any ancillary facilities at Skinburness Road Playing Fields. It indicates it would prefer to be based at Eden Street Playing Fields where it could access suitable provision, however, understands this may not be a feasible option.

Lorton TC and Maryport TC do not indicate any specific issues with ancillary provision at Lorton Tennis Club and Netherhall Community Sports Centre, respectively, with both facilities rated as standard quality.

Comparably, Keswick & Braithwaite TC and Kirkbride & Anthorn TC rate the ancillary provision they access to be standard quality.

For non-club courts, the ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Often, the facilities predominately service football and cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users. Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes, encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest and sustain suitable ancillary amenities.

8.3: Demand

There are seven tennis clubs in Allerdale, of the clubs which responded to consultation, and answered the relevant questions, there is a combined membership equating to 362 members.

This figure does not include demand from Harrington TC or Silloth on Solway TC. As discussed earlier the former club did not respond to consultation whereas the latter club reports it is in the process of revitalising and is not currently affiliated to the LTA.

Table 8.7: Summary of club membership

Name of club	Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Senior membership	Junior membership	Total membership
Harrington TC	Workington	91	Harrington Lawn Tennis Club	<i>Unknown</i>		
Keswick & Braithwaite TC	Keswick (LDNP)	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	80	5	85
	Keswick	29	Fitz Park			

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Name of club	Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Senior membership	Junior membership	Total membership
	(LDNP)					
Kirkbride & Anthorn TC	Wigton	102	Anthorn Sports Club	20	20	40
	Wigton	103	Kirkbride Tennis Courts			
Lorton TC	Keswick (LDNP)	93	Lorton Tennis Club	100	36	136
Maryport TC	Maryport	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	32	3	35
Silloth on Solway TC	Silloth	61	Skinburness Road Playing Fields	-	-	-
Wigton TC	Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	12	54	66
Total				244	118	362

Most demand (61%) is located in the Keswick (LDNP) Analysis Area with a total of 222 members. This is followed by the Wigton Analysis Area with 106 members and the smallest amount of demand located in Maryport with 35 members. There is no club demand in the Aspatria or Cockermouth analysis areas.

It should be noted that Maryport TC reports the Netherhall Community Sports Centre to be supportive of tennis on the site, however, it could benefit further through a dedicated tennis coach.

Tenniswise

In addition to the above there is also a proactive coaching company (Tenniswise) that operates out of St Joseph's Catholic High School and Silloth on Solway TC. It works actively within the local community, within all age groups, to provide an avenue for growth for both competitive and recreational demand. Under normal circumstance Tenniswise runs regular mini and teen tennis sessions at St Joseph's Catholic High School on Saturdays.

As mentioned above, there are ambitions at the school to refurbish the surface to 3G. Tenniswise reports that if this were to occur it would transfer its demand to indoors and try to maximise the outdoor for other community sporting demand such as walking football and health and fitness classes.

Participation trends

The table overleaf identifies participation trends over the previous five years for both senior and junior membership for clubs that responded to consultation.

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Table 8.8: Summary of club participation trends

State of senior members in the previous five years		
Increased	Stayed the same	Decreased
Lorton TC Maryport TC	Keswick & Braithwaite TC Kirkbride & Anthorn TC Silloth on Solway TC	Wigton TC
State of junior members in the previous five years		
Increased	Stayed the same	Decreased
Lorton TC Wigton TC	Kirkbride & Anthorn TC Silloth on Solway TC	Keswick & Braithwaite TC Maryport TC

Most clubs indicate their membership at a senior level has remained static or increased within the last five years. Only one club, Wigton TC, reports an overall decrease within the same time period.

In comparison, across the Borough, junior participation has remained constant with two clubs indicating membership has increased in the same time period, two clubs stating it has stayed the same and two clubs reporting a decrease.

It should be noted that no clubs report that the Pandemic has resulted in the reduction of membership. However, the effects of 2020/21 should be monitored moving forward to understand any potential future impact on club demand.

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack provision or appropriate facilities.

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool⁵² enables an analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis within Allerdale but are not currently doing so. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,717 people, 178 (10%) of which are within the segment 'im settling down males'.

Latent demand across Allerdale is moderate compared to current levels of active participation. This suggests that there is a large body of players that would like to play if a number of barriers were addressed. LTA insight suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket nationally each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low quality facilities were addressed. Therefore, there is a potential opportunity to work with the Council to address these barriers at council operated sites, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage at these sites.

Although no clubs report latent demand for access to more courts, three tennis clubs (including Silloth on Solway TC and Keswick & Braithwaite TC) report that if they had access to more/better quality ancillary provision at their home sites they would be able to increase

⁵²

<https://segments.sportengland.org/results.aspx?query=Sports#output=table&map=polygon&polygonType=OA&attachmentType=focus&querySource=Sports&queryType=CharPop&sportBox=1&sport=84&sportPlay=want-to&focusType=LA&focusName=2>

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levels of participation. Wigton TC indicates that if it had access to better ancillary provision, as well as better quality of courts, it would also be able to increase its active membership.

Future demand

Of the clubs which responded to consultation, two indicate plans to increase membership, equating to an additional 22 junior and 30 senior members.

Table 8.9: Potential future demand identified by clubs

Club	Senior future demand	Junior future demand	Total future demand
Keswick & Braithwaite TC	20	12	32
Kirkbride & Anthorn TC	10	10	20
Total	30	22	52

Silloth on Solway TC also reports aspirations to increase its participation, however, it does not quantify a specific amount.

Parks tennis

Parks tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are run by Local Tennis Leagues which affiliates to the LTA and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

The LTA reports that it has capacity to explore the opportunity of launching park tennis leagues with each individual local authority. Whilst not essential, park tennis leagues have been found to work well alongside an online booking system, enabling players to reserve their courts to ensure fixtures can regularly occur.

There are no Park tennis leagues in Allerdale with the nearest one located at Bitts Park in Carlisle.

Tennis for Kids⁵³

Tennis for Kids is a six week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £29.99, kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing. To date nearly 25,000 kids have participated in the Tennis for Kids programme this year.

Tennis for Free⁵⁴

Tennis for Free is a community sports charity that work in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low income areas. Tennis For Free offer a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the

⁵³ <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids>

⁵⁴ <https://www.tennisforfree.com/index.php>

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charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite' to unlock the large number of two court community venues that could benefit from the offer. Through its offer it aims to:

- ◀ Reinvigorate under-used public facilities
- ◀ Make tennis a sport for all
- ◀ Make tennis more financially accessible in the UK
- ◀ Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local communities through tennis.

British Tennis Weekend⁵⁵

The British Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts two dedicated weekends a year which are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

Informal tennis

It is considered that all community available courts in Allerdale that are not accessed by clubs have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not recorded at every site due to many being open access. It is generally considered that courts are at their busiest during summer months, with little activity taking place outside of this. The LTA has developed a package of support for LA to grow the use of park tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access and can be used individually or in combination.

ClubSpark

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions of their venue(s) including:

- ◀ Managed Website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed Coaching - set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ◀ Membership Management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch. Take online payments, manage direct debits and monitor revenue streams with ease. Membership modules can also be used to take 'Season Ticket' payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee. 'Season Tickets' can be configured to allow court bookings to be made for free or at a reduced rate by players who hold one, whilst still allowing non-holders to book.
- ◀ Organise Payments - Set the way you want payments to be taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package

⁵⁵ www.lta.org.uk/gbtw.

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- ◀ Court Bookings ñ Reduced admin for managing bookings. Give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◀ Scheduling - Set unique booking and price rules to suit your venue. Enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ◀ Book and Pay remotely - Customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders. This allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

RALLY

Rally is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via partner venues ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. Rally allows players to search for venues close to them, and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book. Rally provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the LA.

Gate Access

The LTA has developed three Gate Access systems that work in association with ClubSpark, to secure your courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and will receive a four digit access code via email, to enter using the courtside keypad. The system will allow entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

Nationally the LTA has reported that in the last three years sites with gate access installed have attracted 64,841 unique players to make bookings, leading to 609,671 courts being booked, and has generated £1.1m of income.

There are three gate options available Smart Access Premium, Smart Access Lite and Solar Access. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue will determine the most appropriate system for each site.

Pay and play

All clubs are asked to provide information in regard to whether their courts are available for pay and play when they register with the LTA. Using this, in Allerdale, Keswick & Braithwaite, Kirkbride & Anthorn TC Lorton and Maryport tennis clubs offer pay and play.

This is featured on the LTA's Find a Court Tool, typically used by non-club members to identify local opportunities to play. The LTA strongly encourage tennis clubs to ensure that this information is kept up to date.

It should be noted that clubs which offer pay and play tennis can generate additional income and usage of courts, as well as helping them attract potential future members.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate 40 members whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. For air domed courts, membership of 100 is considered applicable and permanent indoor courts can accommodate 200 members. It should be noted that the abovementioned figures relate to LTA viability guidelines for clubs

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and are not the maximum capacity. The figure relates to what most clubs, based on the level of provision, would find sustainable. As grass courts are only available for 12 weeks of the year they are not included in membership numbers.

However, analysing tennis across Allerdale in such a manner may give an inaccurate representation of supply and demand due to its geographical size and rurality. Many courts, although not at capacity regularly service demand from local communities and provide a crucial way for people in rural areas to remain active.

Clubs are considered viable as long as they have the appropriate levels of membership to sustain their courts and accompanying ancillary facilities. Therefore, clubs that have lower levels of participation in comparison to the remaining clubs within the Authority may have issues maintaining their provision.

Improving the quality of and accessibility to existing tennis courts will likely improve the capacity for provision to accommodate increase levels of demand. This will be examined in greater detail in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan.

All remaining publicly available non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity. When this is accompanied by the substantial amount of expressed latent demand there is a clear need to actualise further usage of these courts. As such, the focus should be on improving quality, both in terms of the courts and the accompanying ancillary facilities, as well as providing a smoother booking system for potential users. Initiatives such as Tennis for Kids, Tennis for Free and the Great British Tennis Weekend can also be used at such sites to encourage the increase of tennis participation.

It should be noted that there is an evident lack of good quality community available tennis courts within the Workington Analysis Area. Given the population density in the area there is a need to explore potential options to increase tennis participation. These will be explored in greater detail in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

Potential impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

It should be noted that the above supply and demand analysis is based on 2019 tennis demand, however, the current and future impact of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic (2020/21) needs to be taken under consideration.

The LTA has announced a number of guidelines, recommendations and potential funding streams for clubs and all tennis players which can be found at: <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/tennis-news/news-and-opinion/general-news/2020/march/coronavirus-covid-19---latest-advice>

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

Tennis - summary

- ◆ Clubs are considered viable as long as they have the appropriate levels of membership to sustain their courts and accompanying ancillary facilities.
- ◆ It should be noted that there is an evident lack of good quality community available tennis courts within the Workington Analysis Area. Given the population density in the area there is a need to explore potential options to increase tennis participation.
- ◆ There are 54 tennis courts identified in Allerdale across 18 sites, with 50 of these being available for community use across 47 sites.
- ◆ Since the previous PPS in 2014 there are three sites which have either lost or reduced the number of courts they accommodate.
- ◆ Lorton TC and Keswick & Braithwaite TC indicate plans to upgrade its floodlighting.
- ◆ Most community available courts in Allerdale have a macadam surface (62%).
- ◆ Following a non-technical assessment, of the 50 community available courts, 14 were assessed as good quality, 11 as standard quality and 25 as poor quality.
- ◆ The ancillary facilities servicing the tennis clubs that responded to consultation varies between venues.
- ◆ There are seven tennis clubs in Allerdale, of the clubs which responded to consultation, and answered the relevant questions, there is a combined membership equating to 362 members.
- ◆ Of the clubs which responded to consultation, two indicate plans to increase membership, equating to an additional 22 junior and 30 senior members.
- ◆ Although no clubs report latent demand for access to more courts, three tennis clubs (including Silloth on Solway TC and Keswick & Braithwaite TC) report that if they had access to more/better quality ancillary provision at their home sites they would be able to increase levels of participation.
- ◆ Wigton TC indicates that if it had access to better ancillary provision, as well as better quality of courts, it would also be able to increase its active membership.

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PART 9: ATHLETICS

9.1: Introduction

Athletics is administered across the United Kingdom by UK Athletics, including responsibility for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of the sport, anti-doping protocol, health and safety, facilities and welfare, training and coach education and permitting and licensing. Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics.

England Athletics has three key facility priorities which are:

- ◀ Ensure that the allocation of resources to new and existing track and field facilities is prioritised to those that have the greatest potential to impact positively on general participation, club membership growth and retention, and improved personal performance.
- ◀ Actively encourage athletics and running facilities to be used to their fullest possible extent by the sport and by all sections of the community in order to maximise viability.
- ◀ Encourage innovative approaches to the location and design of facilities for individual components of the sport in order to increase reach and create sustainability and viability.

Consultation

There are no dedicated athletics clubs which operate solely in Allerdale. However, consultation was carried out with a key representative for athletics across Cumbria to gain an understanding of supply, demand and issues across the Borough. In addition, electronic surveys were sent out to running and athletics clubs in the surrounding areas with Seaton Athletics Club responding.

9.2: Supply

There are no formal athletics tracks in Allerdale with the nearest provision located at Cumbria Sports Academy (Copeland Borough Council) or Sheepmount Athletics Stadium (Carlisle City Council). Considering population density and sustainability, England Athletics considers that the facilities at Sheepmount Athletics Stadium and the Cumbria Sports Academy sufficiently service the demand for traditional 400m training and competition facilities in Allerdale.

It should be noted that there is a lapsed cinder track at Tarn Close. As discussed in Part 2: Football, as of July 2021 Cockermouth JFC has submitted a planning application (FUL/2021/0109) to create a clubhouse, however, this has been objected by Sport England due to the permanent loss of the cinder track. As a result, Sports England has requested the moving of the proposed clubhouse and works off the track which would allow the objection to be removed. England Athletics are interested in supporting local clubs to get access to the track.

TrackMark

TrackMark⁵⁶ is a UK athletics quality assurance scheme for outdoor track & field facilities. Accreditation of a facility can demonstrate to hirers, athletes, clubs etc, that a facility is well managed, well maintained, and accessible to all potential users.

For reference the track at Cumbria Sports Academy and Sheepmount Athletics Stadium are both currently working towards their TrackMark accreditation.

9.3: Demand

⁵⁶ <https://www.uka.org.uk/governance/facilities/>

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There are no athletics clubs based in Allerdale with many people who want to participate in specific disciplines, that require dedicated facilities, exporting their demand outside of the Borough to clubs such as Border Harrier AC or Seaton AC which use provision at Border Harrier Athletics Club or Cumbria Sports Academy.

Clubs such as Borrowdale Fell Runners, Cumberland Fell Runners, Derwent AC Ellenborough AC, Keswick AC and Netherhall AC, all cater for demand within Allerdale accessing road networks and open spaces within the Borough for their demand.

Consultation with key representatives for the sport indicates historically that athletics has not been well provided for in Allerdale in keeping with other authorities within Cumbria. Athletics is a very multi-faceted sport, both in terms of its appeal to girls and women, the range of events (caters for all body types) and its potential appeal across the age ranges, provided other essential infrastructure is in place (enough coaches for example - and support for schools, including links to clubs).

As a result, improving the level of athletics provision in the Borough needs to be strategically placed with appropriate community operating structures in place in order to maximise usage and ensure long term sustainability.

Both Seaton AC and the representative for athletics across Cumbria agree with this, adding that any new facilities will need to be used to their full potential, in addition to having a comprehensive development plan for coaching, coach development, schools athletics including links to coaches and clubs across the Borough, in situ.

Furthermore, they suggest any plan created for Allerdale should support an overarching County Plan with England Athletics co ordinating and supporting such a development. This would need to acknowledge that demand imports and exports across many local authorities across Cumbria in order to access facilities.

If this governance structure was in place the primary aspirations for athletics is an indoor space for technical development for sprints, hurdles, jumps and throws. Discussions suggest this would be best suited around the locality of Workington in order to meet demand within Allerdale and also accommodate demand from surrounding local authorities. It should be noted that the nearest indoor athletics facilities are located in Wigan or Gateshead, some distance from Allerdale.

This would accommodate indoor demand in the western parts of the Borough, however, there would still be a strategic need to locate compact/mini all weather outdoor facilities in the Keswick LDNP, Wigton and Aspatria analysis areas. It is suggested these would be best suited at community accessible educational sites in order to maximise usage.

Other demand

Parkrun

Parkrun is a series of weekly five kilometre (k) runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of parks and open space across 850 locations in 12 countries including the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Parkrun events are all ability runs open to all aged 14 years and older, whilst there are shorter 2k Junior parkrun events available on Sunday mornings for runners aged four to fourteen years old.

There are four Parkrun events across Allerdale, these are accommodated at Bower Park (Aspatria), Workington Leisure Centre (Workington), Whinlatter Forest (Keswick LDNP) and

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Fitz Park (Keswick LDNP). In addition, there is one junior Parkrun in the Borough which is also located at Fitz Park in the Keswick LDNP Analysis Area.

It should also be noted that the Council, pre-Pandemic, was attempting to start a new Parkrun event in the locality of Maryport. However, this has been put on hold until deemed safe.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise. The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the National Health Service particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Allerdale Borough Council actively supports the initiative and offers advice and guidance through Active Cumbria Partnership⁵⁷.

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack provision or appropriate facilities.

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool⁵⁸ enables an analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in Athletics within Allerdale but are not currently doing so. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,967 people, 235 (11.9%) of which are within the segment 'I'm settling down males'.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

Across Allerdale there is a clear identified shortfall of athletics provision to meet current levels of demand with participation having to travel to clubs in surrounding local authorities in order to access suitable provision. There are also several running clubs and Park Run events in the Borough, in addition to sizeable levels of latent demand, which suggests there is an appetite for the sport and therefore a need for purpose built provision.

⁵⁷ <https://www.activecumbria.org/activities/couch-2-5k/>

⁵⁸

<https://segments.sportengland.org/results.aspx?query=Sports#output=table&map=polygon&polygonType=OA&attachmentType=focus&querySource=Sports&queryType=CharPop&sportBox=1&sport=84&sportPlay=want-to&focusType=LA&focusName=2>

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Before any provision is built there is need for a wider piece of work to fully establish a strategic development plan for athletics across Allerdale and Cumbria and to understand levels of supply and demand and to implement a comprehensive network of coaches, volunteers, coach development and schools athletics to ensure the longevity of the sport.

Once this is agreed the feasibility of an indoor facility in the locality of Workington and compact/mini all weather outdoor facilities in the Keswick LDNP, Wigton and Aspatria should be examined.

Athletics –summary

- ◆ **Across Allerdale there is a clear identified shortfall of athletics provision to meet current levels of demand with participation having to travel to clubs in surrounding local authorities in order to access suitable provision.**
- ◆ There are no formal athletics tracks in Allerdale with the nearest provision located at Cumbria Sports Academy (Copeland Borough Council) or Sheepmount Athletics Stadium (Carlisle City Council).
- ◆ There are no athletics clubs based in Allerdale with many people who want to participate in specific disciplines, that require dedicated facilities, exporting their demand outside of the Borough to clubs such as Border Harrier AC or Seaton AC which use provision at Border Harrier Athletics Club or Cumbria Sports Academy.
- ◆ If this governance structure was in place the primary aspirations for athletics is an indoor space for technical development for sprints, hurdles, jumps and throws.
- ◆ There is also a need to locate compact/mini all weather outdoor facilities in the Keswick LDNP, Wigton and Aspatria analysis areas. It is suggested these would be best suited at community accessible educational sites in order to maximise usage.

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

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Recover and reinvent: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

Connecting communities: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

Positive experiences for children and young people: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

Connecting with health and wellbeing: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

Active environments: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2021)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out The Government's planning policies for England. 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.

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The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-2028)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. To 2020, a LFFP will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

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Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

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

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

- ◀ ***Grow and nurture the core***
 - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
 - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
 - ◀ Invest in club facilities
 - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
 - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions

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- ◀ **Inspire through elite teams**
 - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
 - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
 - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
 - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ **Make cricket accessible**
 - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
 - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
 - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
 - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
 - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
 - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
 - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
 - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
 - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
 - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
 - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
 - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ **Support our communities**
 - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
 - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
 - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
 - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021's ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

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

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

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

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

***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)*⁵⁹**

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

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

⁵⁹ Although now outdated, this strategy has not been updated since the period 2013-2017 and is therefore still in use by EH.

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

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

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

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP), that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium-term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities.

‘The right pitches in the right places’⁶⁰

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90s. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System ñ clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately placed to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation ñ clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment.
- ◀ Sustainability ñ hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

England Hockey Strategy

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

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<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

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These are:

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

LTA Facilities Investment Strategy – Vision for the 2020 and beyond

The LTA has developed a programme of action based on seven core strategies. These are:

- ◀ Visibility ñ Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
- ◀ Innovation ñ Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
- ◀ Investment ñ Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
- ◀ Accessibility ñ Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
- ◀ Engagement ñ Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game.
- ◀ Performance ñ Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ◀ Leadership ñ Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.

The LTA Facilities Investment Framework sets out how it intends to deliver the investment to support community accessible tennis facilities. The focus will be on:

- ◀ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ◀ Park tennis
- ◀ Tennis clubs
- ◀ Schools and other educational establishments

The key principles of the framework are to:

- ◀ Help fund projects through interest free loans.
- ◀ Invest in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◀ Invest where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◀ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◀ Targeted investment that is demand-led.
- ◀ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

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

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

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and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

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

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

UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)

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

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

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

Key outcomes:

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

APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football											
Please complete one form per pitch											
Site reference:				Site Name:							
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s):							
Number of football pitches on site:				Pitch size:		(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)					
Availability				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?							
				If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues							
Weather at time of visit & date of visit											
Pitch Issues:											
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)											
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)		Rating						Guidance notes		Comments	
Playing surface											
Grass Cover		Good >80%			Adequate 60-80%			Poor <60%			Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?		Yes - as per the FA recommended size			Within FA recommended guidelines			No			See size chart below for recommended dimensions
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)		Flat			Moderate			Severe			
Length of grass		Good			Too long			Too short			Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less
Evenness of pitch		Good			Adequate			Poor			
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks		None			Yes - some			Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface		None			Yes - some			Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage		No evidence of standing water or poor drainage			Some evidence of poor drainage			Yes, poor drainage			
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)											Section total
Grass cutting		Yes, as required			Yes, but not frequent enough			No			
Seeded		Yes, as required			Not known			No			
Aerated (per year)		Three or more times			Once/ twice			No			
Sand dressed		Within the last 12 months			Within the last 2 years			No			
Fertilised		Within the last 12 months			Within the last 2 years			No			
Weed killed		Within the last 12 months			Within the last 2 years			No			
											Section total
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.											
				PITCH SCORE		0.0%		RATING		Poor	

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Cricket pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Cricket									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference				Site Name					
6 figure grid reference				No of Pitches:					
Pitch ID				No of wickets:		Natural		Non turf	
Weather at time of visit:									
Availability									
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
General comments/observations									
*You will need a cricket ball and ruler to assess wicket quality as indicated									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer).									
Element	Rating				Guidance notes	Site comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)			
About the cricket outfield									
Grass coverage	Good		Acceptable		Poor		<80% falls below the ECB basic standard		
Length of grass	Good		Acceptable		Poor		Ideally 12mm - 25mm		
Evenness		Even			Uneven		Ball should run without deviation or ramp		
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None		Yes		Immediate action required		May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager		
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None		Yes		Immediate action required		e.g. informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager		
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None		Yes		Immediate action required		e.g. from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and foxes etc may also wish to refer to user survey		
Artificial Wickets						section total			
Is the wicket and surrounds married in		Yes			No		There should be no trip points		
Evenness of wicket		Even			Uneven		There should be no contours in surface levels		
Stump holes		Yes			No		Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball		
Moss or materials in the surface		Yes			No		There should be none		
Rips or surface lifting		Yes			No		If yes contact site manager		
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases		Yes			No		If yes contact site manager		
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?		Yes			No				
Grass Wickets						section total			
Presence of line markings		Yes			No				
Evidence of rolling		Yes			No		i.e. is wicket smooth and uniform		
Evidence of straight cut and height		Yes			No		3mm on match wicket/12mm rest of square		
Evidence of repair work on old wickets		Yes			No				
Grass coverage (square and wickets)		Yes			No		Scale: 80%+ = Yes, 80%> = No Please note that <80% falls below the ECB basic standard		
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound/bounce?		Yes			No				
Changing/ Pavilion						section total			
Umpires provision		Yes			No				
Toilets		Yes			No				
Hot/cold water		Yes			No				
Heating		Yes			No				
Condition of building	Good		Acceptable		Requires attention				
Non Turf Cricket Practice Nets						section total			
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)		Yes			No				
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)		Even			Uneven				
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)		Yes			No				
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)		Yes			No				
No rips or surface lifting		Yes			No				
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease		Yes			No				
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down		Yes			No				
Is the steel frame/ posts upright?		Yes			No		Ideally assessed with a spirit level but can be achieved by eye.		
Are steel cross members detached?		Yes			No				
Are all posts and net fixings in place?		Yes			No				
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?		Yes			No				
Is appropriate safety/ supervisory signage present?		Yes			No				
Maximum score						section total			
	180	Scoring		Score	Percentage Score	Facility Present?	Potential Rating:		
				0	0%	No			
				0	0%	No			
				0	0%	No			
				0	0%	No			
				0	0%	No			
				0	0%	No			
				0	0%				

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Rugby union pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union													
Please complete one form per pitch													
Site reference					Site Name								
6 figure grid reference					Pitch ID(s)								
Date of assessment					Pitch size	(Senior, Mini/Midi)							
Number of pitches on site					Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?								
Availability	Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused				If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues								
Weather at time of visit													
General comments/observations													
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)													
Qualitative information (gathered on site)		Rating						Guidance notes		Comments			
Grass Coverage		Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor					
Size of pitch		Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.					
Length of grass		Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm					
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling		None		Yes - some		Yes lots							
GOALPOSTS													
Are goalposts installed?		Yes		No									
Is there any obvious danger on posts?		Yes		No									
Are the posts stable in the ground?		Yes		No									
Is the crossbar fixed securely?		Yes		No									
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?		Yes		No									
ANCILLARY													
Is the pitch floodlit?		Yes		No									
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?		Yes		No									
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?		Yes		No									
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below													
Aerated (per year)		three or more times		twice		once		never					
Sand dressed (per year)		three or more times		twice		once		never					
Fertilised (per year)		three or more times		twice		once		never					
Weed killed (per year)		three or more times		twice		once		never					
Chain harrowed		every week		fortnightly		monthly		never					
Pitch Maintenance Score													
Drainage		Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season Natural (inadequate) = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.	

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference			Site Name						
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID						
Number of AGPs on site			Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)			
Availability			Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused						
Type of pitch {	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)		Short Pile 3G (40mm)				
	Sand Dressed		Sand Filled		Water based				
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Site comments	
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.		
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes		No						
Are there dug outs?	Yes		No						
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes		No						
Maximum score	93	Scoring:	Poor	<=50	Total Score	0			
			Standard	51-79	Potential Rating	Poor			
			Good	80+					

Tennis court non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Courts											
KKPref											
Site name:											
Number of courts -		Tennis		Netball		Basketball		Five-a-side			
General Playground or specific sports court area?											
Court surface				Management				Community Use?			
	Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale				Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School						
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)											
Element	Rating						Comments				
About the courts											
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate						
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate						
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Changing Accomodation											
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No								
About the equipment											
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes		No								
Practice wall	Yes		No								

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Athletics Track non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks

[illegible]

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Rugby league non-technical assessment

Non Technical Quality Assessment - Rugby League										
Please complete one form per pitch										
Site reference				Site Name						
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s)						
Number of rugby league pitches on site				Pitch size		(Senior, Junior, Primary)				
Availability?				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?						
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused										
Weather at time of visit										
Pitch Issues:										
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)										
Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments	Scores	
Playing surface										
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% Good <80% Poor		0	
Size of pitch	Preferred size		Meets minimum Size		No - not adequate		See RFL Pitch Size Guidance: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk		0	
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Good		Adequate		Poor				0	
Length of grass	Good		Adequate		Poor		20mm - 60mm: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/		0	
Evenness of pitch	Flat		Moderate		Severe				0	
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				0	
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				0	
Typical weekly usage (match equivalent sessions)	6 or less		7 - 9		10 plus		Refer to club surveys & other information gathered		0	
Does the maintenance schedule meet RFL requirements	Yes		In part		No		See RFL Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/		0	
Pitch ancillary facilities									Section total	0
Are goalposts safe?	Yes		No						0	
Is the site secure or open	Secure		Open						0	
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No						0	
Is the pitch enclosed by perimeter fence?	Yes		No						0	
Is there a training area separate to match pitch(es)?	Yes		No						0	
Is there a covered stand?	Yes		No						0	
Ancillary facilities									Section total	0
Is there a clubhouse on site?	Yes		No						0	
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No						0	
Adequacy of changing accommodation (exterior)?	Good		Adequate		Poor				0	
Adequacy of changing accommodation (interior)?	Good		Adequate		Poor				0	
Is there an officials room?	Yes		No						0	
Is there a dedicated medical room?	Yes		No						0	
Are accessible facilities provided?	Yes		No						0	
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No						0	
Section total									0	
Total score							0			
Maximum score							95			
Potential Rating							Poor			