



ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2021

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BC	Bowls Club
CCB	Cumbria Cricket Board
CFA	County Football Association
CSV	Community Sports Village
CUA	Community use agreement
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football club
FF	Football Foundation
FE	Further Education
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LMS	Last Man Stands
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MES	Match equivalent sessions
MUGA	Multi use games area
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non Turf Pitch
PC	Parish Council
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
SE	Sport England
TBTT	Transforming British Tennis Together
TC	Tennis Club
WR	World Rugby

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COVID-19 Addendum

The PPOSS has been undertaken during the Covid-19 global pandemic, which has resulted in England entering into unprecedented restrictions that have fluctuated since March 2020. 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 a had 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 throughout the Strategy, 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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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) for Allerdale. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2030 (in line with the Council Strategy).

The Strategy has been developed to provide:

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

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

The Strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch providers, including the public, private and third sectors;
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, picking up on particular local demand issues;
- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas;
- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision;
- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision;
- ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study;
- ◀ Supporting funding applications;
- ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Allerdale which should be realised over the Council's strategy. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.

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

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1.1: Scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities are included in the Strategy:

- ✦ 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

All facilities are included for the relevant sports, regardless of ownership and/or management i.e. whether in the public, private, education, or third sector.

Pitch sports (e.g. football, rugby union, hockey and cricket) are assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy.

Non-pitch sports (e.g. tennis and athletics) are assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). This requires a different methodology to assess supply and demand to that used for pitch sports.

1.2: Study area

The study area comprises of the full local authority area, including what is located within the Lake District National Park boundary. The Lake District National Park Authority has recently completed an Open Space audit to supplement its Local Plan and this is used to inform the PPS, whilst population figures (both current and future) are also fed in.

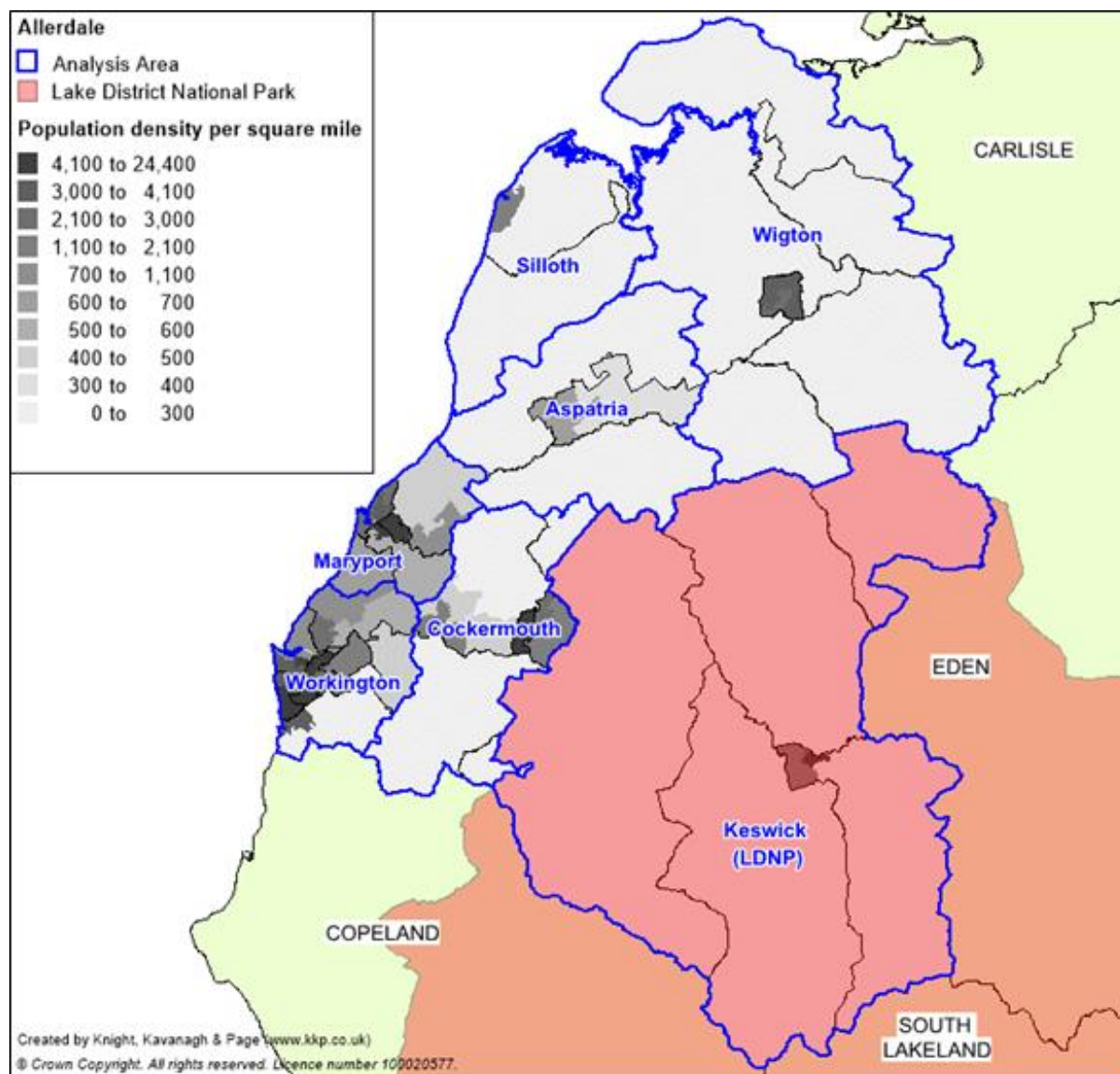
Analysis areas (or sub areas) are also used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Allerdale as a whole. These are based on the seven main towns in Allerdale:

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

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

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Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



1.3: Context

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

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

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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.

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 and Workington Town 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).

It should be noted that the above would need to meet NPPF and Exception E4 of playing fields policy (this is explained in greater detail later in the report). This in reference to the rugby league provision used by Workington Town RLFC (One senior rugby league pitch) at Derwent Park and the football provision at Workington AFC (One adult pitch meeting Step requirements) at Borough Park.

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 accommodate as well as training demand. They indicate such provision would also provide capacity for other clubs in the locality (e.g. Workington Reds Ladies FC and Workington Reds 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 stadia development or included within the accompanying provision outside of the stadium facility. Acknowledgement needs to be given to the fact that two pitches being condensed to just pitch (for both sports) would be a net loss of provision and therefore not meet NPPF or Playing Fields Policy.

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

Please see Part 4 of this report for various scenarios and recommendations relating to the potential creation of the CSV.

1.4: Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. MES stands for match equivalent sessions and has been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken.

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 for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions.

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football, rugby league and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket is able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

The PPOSS guidance does not advocate the conversion of MES to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed. For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

For artificial surfaces (AGPs and 3G pitches), how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, whole pitches are used as the comparable unit. Similarly, for the other non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis etc) where it is not as easy to determine carry capacity, whole facilities are used as the comparable unit.

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Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2030) ¹
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Aspatia	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Cockermouth	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Keswick (LDNP)	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Maryport	Adult	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 3.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 0.5
	Silloth	Adult	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
	Wigton	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Workington	Adult	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 1
		Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
Football (3G pitches) ^[2]	Aspatia	Full size / small size, floodlit	At capacity	At capacity
	Cockermouth		Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
	Keswick (LDNP)		Shortfall of 0.25	Shortfall of 0.25
	Maryport		At capacity	At capacity
	Silloth		Shortfall of 0.25	Shortfall of 0.5
	Wigton		Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
	Workington		Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1

¹ Please note future demand for football and cricket are referenced in Part 4: Sport Specific Issues Scenarios and Recommendations

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

^[2] Based on accommodating 38 teams on one full size pitch

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Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2030) ¹
Cricket	Aspatria	Senior	Spare capacity of 24	Spare capacity of 24
		Junior	Spare capacity of 20	Spare capacity of 20
	Cockermouth	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
		Junior	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
	Keswick (LDNP)	Senior	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
		Junior	Spare capacity of 20	Spare capacity of 20
	Maryport	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
		Junior	At capacity	At capacity
	Silloth	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
		Junior	At capacity	At capacity
	Wigton	Senior	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
		Junior	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
	Workington	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
		Junior	Spare capacity of 8	Spare capacity of 8
Rugby union	Aspatria	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3.5
	Cockermouth	Senior	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 3.5
	Keswick (LDNP)	Senior	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6.5
	Maryport	Senior	Shortfall of 2.25	Shortfall of 5
	Silloth	Senior	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
	Wigton	Senior	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.75
	Workington	Senior	Shortfall of 2.25	Shortfall of 3.75
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Allerdale	Full size, floodlit	Enough capacity but quality improvements required	Potential shortfalls and quality improvements required
Rugby league	Aspatria	Senior	Shortfall of 3.75	Shortfall of 5.25
	Cockermouth	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 4.5
	Keswick (LDNP)	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Maryport	Senior	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 9.75
	Silloth	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Wigton	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Workington	Senior	Shortfall of 7.75	Shortfall of 9.5
Tennis	Allerdale	Courts	Shortfalls in Workington	Shortfalls in Workington
Athletics	Allerdale		Shortfalls	Shortfalls

Conclusions

From a quantitative perspective, the existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the creation of shortfalls for some pitch types and in some areas where demand is currently being met and the exacerbation of existing shortfalls.

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For football, 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. Nevertheless, it is considered that football shortfalls can be met through the better utilisation of existing provision, such as via pitch re-configuration, improving quality and encouraging or enabling access to unused/unavailable provision.

Similarly, for rugby league and rugby union, there is a need to improve the quality of existing facilities to reduce shortfalls. However, there is, in addition, likely to be a need to also create new provision to fully meet current and future levels of demand.

A shortfall of 3G pitches can only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, thus reducing overplay, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.

Where demand is being met and actual spare capacity is expressed, this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to overcoming current or future shortfalls of other pitch/facility types. There is a resultant need to protect all existing outdoor sport provision (pitch and non pitch which fall within the Playing Pitch definition) until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exceptions. Further to this provision can also be protected to meet any wider open space needs evidenced in the Councils open space or Green Infrastructure documents.

Recommendations on how to alleviate the expressed shortfalls are identified below in the Part 4: Sport Specific Issues Scenarios and Recommendation and Part 6: Action Plan.

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PART 2: VISION

Vision

As set out at the beginning of the study, below is a vision for Allerdale regarding its outdoor sports provision. It sets out to capture the corporate themes within the authority to provide an all-encompassing vision.

'Develop an appropriate, sustainable approach to facility provision over the next 5 years, through the development or rationalisation of sites, protecting valuable facilities, improving key sites and catering for the demand now and in the future.'

Key objectives

To achieve this vision, the Strategy will seek to deliver the following objectives:

- ◆ Provide the qualitative and quantitative evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision as well identifying lapsed/disused sites (including ancillary facilities)
- ◆ Account for potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programs
- ◆ 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 well-being.
- ◆ Look to develop a more creative way of using current sites to deliver more than one sport.

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PART 3: AIMS

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

AIM 1

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

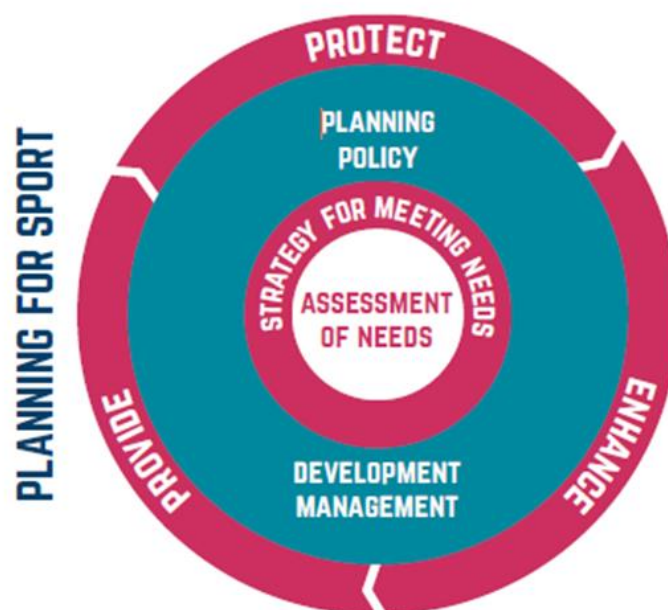
AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 3.1: Sport England themes



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

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

In addition, and before the individual sport specific recommendations, there is a detailed scenario regarding the Workington Community Sports Village as referenced in the proceeding Assessment Report.

4.1: Workington Community Sports Village

Summary

As outlined in the Assessment Report, Workington AFC, Workington Town RLFC, wider community clubs/groups and Allerdale Borough Council are in discussions over the creation of a new Community Sports Village (CSV) in Workington. Each club currently operates and manages their own sites, namely Borough Park and Derwent Park.

Initial thoughts indicate 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 complete, the CSV will be the new home for both clubs and their relevant demand in addition to being a facility for the wider community to access. In order to meet the demand from the clubs it would need to have, as a minimum², one good quality floodlit adult/senior pitch and suitable ancillary provision to meet appropriate league requirements (allowing the clubs to progress through their respective pyramid structures). This being said this would provide limited capacity for the wider community.

Community demand

Through consultation, it has been acknowledged there is a need for ancillary provision to service wider community demand (e.g. through classrooms/multi-function rooms) and provide increased potential to generate income through hospitality (e.g. through bar and kitchen areas). This is in addition to meeting the requirements for abovementioned clubs.

Furthermore, additional space exists as part of the proposed development for more pitch provision to be provided, in addition to the adult/senior pitch referenced above. This is considered a key element of the project as this will ensure provision for the wider community of Workington. Such provision could also provide capacity for other clubs in the locality, such as Workington Reds Ladies FC and Workington Reds Juniors FC, community groups (e.g. walking football) and any future demand.

Workington AFC

Workington AFC plays at Step 4 (Nother Premier League – North West Division) in the football pyramid, although Borough Park currently meets all requirements for Step 3 football, in case of promotion. The ancillary provision at the site 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 existing adult grass pitch at Borough Park accommodates competitive demand from the Club's 1st, Development and U18s teams in addition to one team from Workington Red

² Providing only one pitch would not release any existing pitch for development. Only one pitch would not box off the site as an E4 replacement.

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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.

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

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.

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 grass senior pitch that is good quality. As with Borough Park, the ancillary provision at Derwent Park meets the requirements for the level of rugby league being played, albeit modernisation is required.

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

Scenarios

Before potential facility mix options are analysed for the CSV, there first must be an analysis of the levels of demand that will be utilising the site in order to understand what provision would best suited for the development. This is based on identified levels of current and future demand, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report.

Table 4.1: Summary of current and future match play demand

Club	Teams	Match equivalent sessions ³	Future demand	Total match equivalent sessions	Pitch size required
Workington AFC	1 st team	0.5	-	0.5	Adult
	Development	0.5	-	0.5	Adult
	U18s	0.5	-	0.5	Adult
Workington Red Ladies FC	1st	0.5	-	0.5	Adult
Workington Town RLFC	1st	0.5	0.5	1	Senior
Total		2.5	0.5	3	-

As seen in the table above, based on the current users of Borough Park (Workington AFC and Workington Red Ladies FC) and the demand from Workington Town RLFC, there would be a need to accommodate three match equivalent sessions of competitive demand. This would equate to a need for one good quality, dual use grass pitch which meets the dimensions for both adult football and senior rugby league. That being said, the pitch would immediately be played to capacity with any further play on the pitch making it overplayed.

³ One team equates to 0.5 match equivalent sessions playing on a home and away basis.

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Table 4.2: Potential capacity ratings for an adult/senior pitch

Poor quality capacity rating ⁴	Standard quality capacity rating ⁵	Good quality capacity rating ⁶
2	1	0

With no capacity existing for additional play, no further demand could be accommodated from the community or for training. Taking this into consideration, six options have been considered as to how the remainder of the site could be utilised to satisfy the clubs and improve the sporting landscape in the area.

Option One - the minimum requirement based on Sport England's Playing Fields Policy

To determine this requirement, the size of the loss of playing field land at Derwent Park needs to be established, with this then needing to be provided at Borough Park as new playing field land. What is provided on the land should then replicate, as a minimum, what is currently provided across the two sites in terms of pitches and ancillary facilities. The overarching need is for there to be no overall loss in terms of playing field hectareage and in terms of quantity and quality.

Whilst this option will satisfy planning policy, it will have no impact on shortfalls across the area, capacity issues will still be prevalent and it will not be cost effective in the longer term.

Option Two - the creation of one stadia facility with a suitable adult/senior grass pitch and an accompanying good quality grass pitch for the community

This will also meet Option One requirements providing that there is no overall loss of land. The addition of a second pitch will also provide additional provision that can be utilised by the wider community and cater for any increases in demand (up to six teams). However, it will not provide a suitable training surface for the clubs or the area, despite there being a clear need for such a facility.

The external grass pitch, if built to a good quality, would have a total capacity of three match equivalent sessions. This equates to six match a week as long as they are scheduled effectively and not all at peak times.

It should be noted that this scenario should, at a minimum, cover the requirements in Option one. This being said without a full feasibility study taking place on the relocation the exact requirements to meet Sport England's Playing Fields Policy is to be determined.

Option Three – the creation of one stadia facility with a suitable grass pitch and an accompanying full size floodlit 3G pitch

This will provide both clubs with a suitable match facility and a separate training facility that can also accommodate a significant amount of both internal demand and external use by the wider community (for both matches and training). There is a shortfall of 3G provision in the area which this will help alleviate, in turn, reducing capacity issues on grass pitches as some play can transfer. Furthermore, the 3G provision will provide a significant income source that can assist in making the whole site more sustainable.

⁴ The capacity of a poor quality adult/senior pitch equates to one match equivalent session.

⁵ The capacity of a standard quality adult/senior pitch equates to two match equivalent session.

⁶ The capacity of a good quality adult/senior pitch equates to three match equivalent session.

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Option Four – the creation of one stadia facility with a full size 3G pitch and an accompanying good quality grass pitch

Similar to Option Three, this will provide both clubs with suitable match and training facilities and the 3G provision can help meet some external community demand. However, the specification of a stadia 3G pitch will need to be higher than that of a community 3G pitch due to the level the clubs play at and/or aspire to play at. A FIFA Quality Pro Pitch will need to be installed to future proof the site, which is limited to 20-30 hours of usage per week to protect quality, thus limiting income potential and demand outcomes. In comparison, a FIFA Quality Pitch could be installed as the community pitch and this has the capability of accommodating 60-80 hours of use a week. A FIFA quality Pro pitch will also meet the requirements for RFL certification; however, it would just require a separate test.

The external grass pitch, if built to a good quality, would have a total capacity of three match equivalent sessions. This equates to six match a week as long as they are scheduled effectively and not all at peak times.

Option Five – the creation of one stadia facility with a full size 3G pitch and an accompanying full size floodlit 3G pitch

With two 3G pitches, this option would provide the best outcomes in terms of meeting demand and catering for the wider community. However, it will increase costs significantly compared to other options, with the cost of installing a 3G pitch being substantially more than that of a grass pitch. Moreover, the FA model suggests that 38 teams are required in an area to support the creation of a 3G facility and initial indications are that such demand does not currently exist within Workington to warrant the establishment of two pitches.

As a guide, for two pitches to be sustainable, 76 teams would generally need to be playing within the area that they service. Currently, there are 98 teams in Workington, equating to the need for 2.5 pitches; however, with one full size pitch already provided at Lakes College, the overall shortfall is only 1.5 pitches. As such, the creation of two 3G pitches as part of the CSV is questionable, at present.

If there is an aspiration for two 3G pitches to be provided at the site, it is considered that this should instead be a long-term aspiration as part of a phased approach i.e. one 3G should be created as part of the initial development together with a grass pitch, then the grass pitch could to be converted later down the line once it has been shown that the operational structure and demand is in place to support it. Gaining external funding for the second 3G pitch is also more likely via this approach.

Option Six – hybrid stadia pitch

If an option for a grass stadia pitch is pursued, there are concerns that this may result in quality issues as the football and rugby league seasons overlap, meaning there is no window for post-season remedial work. With a stadia 3G potentially not viable (in terms of cost and usage), another option that could be considered is installing it as a hybrid pitch, which is currently being piloted at numerous sites across the Country to better understand the extent of the usage that they can feasibly sustain (and whether this stacks up against cost from a business perspective). At the sites where a hybrid pitch is in place (e.g. Runcorn Linnets FC and Bootle FC), usage is being increase year-on-year to see what level of demand can be accommodated.

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In addition, Sport England is also in the process of piloting the utilisation of carpet hybrid pitches with projects currently operating at Regents Park (City of Westminster) and Bisham Abbey (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead). Each site has one natural grass pitch supported by artificial fibres. The project is only two years into collating research with information still being collected, however, its concept is to create additional capacity whilst ensuring the pitch is accessible in various weather conditions. Initial evidence is suggesting that the pitches can withstand at least 20 hours of use per week, but this is not definitive at this time. Subject to the research findings, this could provide an option when looking at ways to improve natural turf pitch quality and capacity.

Ancillary provision

It is considered that two sets of changing rooms are required (four in total) provided as part of the development, provided that they meet Super League and Step 2 standards; one set for the stadia pitch and one set for the external pitch (subject to this being pursued). Provided that there is no overall loss of playing field land as part of the development, this should be agreeable with the relevant NGBs and Sport England.

Car parking may also be an issue, especially if a 3G pitch is created as part of the development given the level of usage the provision receives and the traffic it can generate. The level of car parking required should therefore form part of a future needs assessment/site master-planning process.

Conclusion

Taking all the above into consideration, it is recommended that option three is the best suited for the CSV and as such should be taken forward for further feasibility. The creation of one stadia grass pitch accompanied by an external full size floodlit 3G pitch would provide a sufficient amount of capacity to accommodate both competitive and training demand, primarily from Workington AFC and Workington Town RLFC but also from the wider community.

Although this is the recommendation of the PPOSS, before proceeding with the project, it is suggested that further work is carried out to determine a formal site masterplan, full costings and a business plan to ensure the development is sustainable. An operation and management structure also needs to be agreed upon. All of this should be carried out in further consultation with both of the relevant sports clubs and the wider community of Workington.

Notwithstanding which option is pursued, there will remain a requirement for the proposal to meet Sport England's Playing Field Policy and that this Strategy does not make a judgement as to whether this is the case.

Other considerations

It should be noted that some consultation has indicated a strategic need for an indoor athletics facility within the Workington area, with stakeholders believing that this could be incorporated into the CSV. This aspiration should be taken into account in future stages of the planning process, although it will impact on the cost implications significantly. That being said, if not possible from the outset, indoor provision could be a future development opportunity as part of a phased approach. However, planning of such a facility could be implemented at the start of the process to ensure requirements can be met for example amount of space required, type of flooring and lighting, design etc. It has been suggested by relevant stakeholders that the undercroft under a grandstand could provide a covered athletics facility.

4.2: Football – grass pitches

Assessment report 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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Scenarios

Alleviating overplay

In Allerdale there are overall shortfalls on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches whereas there is spare capacity on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. After factoring in future demand from club aspirations, shortfalls on mini 5v5 pitches become evident with shortfalls worsening on all other pitch types. These are listed below.

Table 4.3: Summary of current and future pitch shortfalls by analysis area

Analysis area	Current pitch shortfalls	Current spare capacity	Future pitch shortfalls	Future spare capacity
Aspatia	0.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches.	Youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity. Youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity. Mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity. Mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity.	0.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches.	Youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity. Youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity. Mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity. Mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity.
Cockermouth	1 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches. 2 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. 1.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches.	Mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity. Mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity.	1 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches. 2 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. 1.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches.	Mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity. Mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity.
Keswick (LDNP)	No identified shortfalls.	All pitch types are played to capacity.	No identified shortfalls.	All pitch types are played to capacity.
Maryport	3.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches.	1.5 match equivalent session on youth 11v11 pitches. Youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity. Mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity. 1 match equivalent session on mini 5v5 pitches.	3.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches. 0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. 0.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.	1.5 match equivalent session on youth 11v11 pitches. Mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity.

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Analysis area	Current pitch shortfalls	Current spare capacity	Future pitch shortfalls	Future spare capacity
Silloth	0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. 0.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches.	1 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches. Youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity. Mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity.	0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. 1 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches.	1 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches. Youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity. 0.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches.
Wigton	0.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches. 1 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches.	Youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity. Youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity. Mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity.	0.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches.	Youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity. Youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity. 1 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. Mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity.
Workington	3.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches. 1 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. 2 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. 0.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches.	Mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity.	3.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches. 1 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. 3 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. 0.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. 1 match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.	No future spare capacity.

Alleviating this level of shortfall can be achieved through a variety of methods including creating new provision, improving poor quality pitches, reconfiguration of pitch type and securing tenure at sites. The extent to which each of these has on addressing the shortfalls is explored below in greater detail.

The full supply and demand analysis for football pitches across Allerdale and by analysis area can be found in the accompanying Assessment Report.

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Improving quality

The table below identifies the amount of spare capacity which could be obtained through improving poor quality pitches to a minimum of standard quality.

Table 4.4: Summary of discounted peak time spare capacity due to poor quality

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Number of pitches	Spare capacity created at peak period (match equivalent sessions)	Comments
Cockermouth	78	Welfare Field (Broughton Recreation Ground)	11v11	1	1	-
Maryport	30	Flimby West Lane	11v11	1	1	Given identified shortfalls of adult pitch provision consider pitch reconfiguration.
Silloth	61	Skinburness Road Playing Field	5v5	1	1	-
Wigton	23	East End Play Area and Soccer Pitch	7v7	1	1	-
Wigton	55	Public Park at Wigton	9v9	1	0.5	-
Workington	20	Curwen Park	Adult	3	2	Given identified shortfalls on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches examine the best suited pitch configuration.
Workington	20	Curwen Park	11v11	1	1	
Workington	48	Moorclose Playing Fields	Adult	3	2.5	Given identified shortfalls on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches examine the best suited pitch configuration.

In total 10 match equivalent sessions could be established if these pitches were improved from poor quality through enhanced levels of maintenance with most (45%) located on adult pitches.

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Table 4.5: Summary of discounted peak time spare capacity due to poor quality by pitch type

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Aspatia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cockermouth	-	1	-	-	-	1
Keswick (LDNP)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryport	-	1	-	-	-	1
Silloth	-	-	-	-	1	1
Wigton	-	-	0.5	1	-	1.5
Workington	4.5	1	-	-	-	5.5
Total	4.5	3	0.5	1	1	10

If the above pitches were improved to a minimum of standard quality, the actual spare capacity generated would alleviate overall current and future shortfalls expressed on adult pitches in Workington Analysis Area.

Although substantial levels of capacity would be generated there would still be levels of overplay on youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Therefore, there is a need to consider additional options to alleviate overplay in addition to improving poor quality pitches.

Securing access to education sites

Education sites generally accommodate large areas of playing field and playing pitches. However, as tenure on these sites is generally considered to be unsecure, potential spare capacity has been discounted from the supply and demand analysis within the Assessment Report. Securing access to these sites could therefore provide an opportunity to help address future shortfalls across Allerdale. A summary of these pitches can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.6: Summary of discounted peak time spare capacity at educational sites with community access

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Number of pitches	Amount of peak time spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure ⁷
56	Richmond Hill Primary School	Aspatia	Youth 9v9	1	1
109	Keswick School (Unattached Playing Fields)	Keswick (LDNP)	Youth 9v9	1	1
109	Keswick School (Unattached Playing Fields)	Keswick (LDNP)	Adult	1	1

There are two community available education sites in Allerdale which contain football pitches and that have the potential to help address remaining shortfalls by securing access through community use agreements. In total, three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity could potentially be generated if tenure to the abovementioned school site could be secured.

⁷ Match equivalent sessions

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If all of the discounted spare capacity could be secured through community use agreements (CUA) or long term leases, although no overplay would be alleviated, actual spare capacity would be established on adult pitches in the Keswick Analysis Area and youth 9v9 pitches in the Aspatia and Keswick analysis areas.

Although these schools are identified as being community available, it does not necessarily mean they are open to securing usage to a club for a set period of time, such as through a CUA. This is due to schools wanting the flexibility to prioritise and protect the quality of their pitches for curricular or extracurricular usage, for example, in periods of extended bad weather.

Securing access and improving pitch quality at education sites

In addition to having unsecure tenure, it should also be noted that nine of the education sites also accommodate one or more poor quality pitches. There could therefore be a need to secure tenure and improve pitch quality at the sites in the table below.

Table 4.7: Summary of community available poor quality pitches at education sites with unsecure tenure

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Number of pitches	Discounted capacity at peak time
Aspatia	68	St Michaels C of E Primary School	7v7	1	1
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	7v7	3	1
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	11v11	1	0.5
Cockermouth	27	Fairfield Primary School	7v7	1	1
Cockermouth	27	Fairfield Primary School	9v9	1	1
Cockermouth	107	Dean C of E School	5v5	1	1
Keswick (LDNP)	9	Braithwaite C of E Primary School	5v5	1	1
Keswick (LDNP)	39	Keswick School	9v9	2	2
Maryport	21	Dearham Primary School	7v7	1	1
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	Adult	3	3
Wigton	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	9v9	2	2
Wigton	81	Wigton Infant School	5v5	1	1
Wigton	81	Wigton Infant School	7v7	2	2

If all of this discounted spare capacity could be secured through CUAs or long term leases, in addition to having pitch quality improved, future shortfalls on adult pitches in the Wigton Analysis Area would be alleviated and shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches in the Cockermouth Analysis Area would be reduced.

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Table 4.8: Summary of potential peak time spare capacity at poor quality pitches at educational sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Summary of potential spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Totals
Aspatria	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cockermouth	-	0.5	1	4	1	6.5
Keswick (LDNP)	-	-	2	-	1	3
Maryport	-	-	-	1	-	1
Silloth	-	-	-	-	-	
Wigton	3	-	2	2	1	8
Workington	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	0.5	5	8	3	19.5

It should be noted that a total of two clubs utilise provision at educational sites. These sites should be prioritised for securing tenure and pitch improvements where necessary.

Table 4.9: Summary of clubs using education sites in Allerdale

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Club name
Cockermouth	17	Cockermouth School	Cockermouth Juniors FC
Maryport	21	Dearham Primary School	Dearham Rangers FC

Accumulatively across Allerdale, if secure tenure could be obtained at all educational sites with pitch improvements carried out where required, the majority of overplay would be alleviated across each pitch type.

This being said, a mixture of securing usage at specific educational sites and improving poor quality grass pitches is recommended to alleviate any future shortfalls across Allerdale. The approach should be tailored to ensure that club and team requirements are met.

Further to alleviating overplay, there are a number of specific issues that need to be acknowledged within Allerdale. These to have the potential to alter levels of supply and demand for football pitches and are examined below.

Pitch access issues (Maryport)

As discussed in the proceeding Assessment Report, consultation with the 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. Both clubs also state that if they cannot successfully find suitable provision in the short term they will not be able to increase levels of participation, with Maryport Amateurs FC even indicating that teams at certain age groups may fold.

In order to understand the exact pitch provision required, the table overleaf identifies the number of teams for each club, the relevant peak times that each team plays at and the corresponding pitch types.

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Table 4.10: Summary of team demand from Maryport Athletic FC and Maryport Amateurs FC by peak time

Analysis area	Number of teams					Total
	Sat AM	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Midweek	
Maryport Athletic FC						
Adult	-	2	-	-	-	2
Youth 11v11	1	-	-	-	-	1
Youth 9v9	2	-	-	-	-	2
Mini 7v7	2	-	3	-	-	5
Mini 5v5	2	-	3	-	-	5
Maryport Amateurs FC						
Adult	-	1	-	-	-	1
Youth 11v11	2	-	-	-	-	2
Youth 9v9	1	-	3	-	-	4
Mini 7v7	3	-		-	-	3
Mini 5v5	2	-	2	-	-	4

To accommodate the entire demand from Maryport Athletic FC, there would be a requirement of one adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of which would need to be a minimum of standard quality.

The Club currently uses a small size 3G pitch and a youth 11v11 pitch (over marked for rugby league) at Maryport ARLFC and an adult pitch over marked with a mini 5v5 and youth 9v9 pitch at Milltoft Field. It should be noted that both grass pitches are overplayed, in part due to the over markings

Based on the above, and the fact that its mini teams will be progressing to youth football in the next season, it is suggested that the Club needs access to an additional mini 7v7 and an additional youth 9v9 pitch. This could be achieved by developing its main site, Milltoft Field, as there is potential land available, or utilising pitches with spare capacity at Village Field, Flimby West Lane or Flimby Junior Football Pitch. It should however be noted that this may require pitch reconfiguration or pitch improvements.

Comparatively, to accommodate the entire demand from Maryport Amateurs FC, there would be a requirement for one adult, one youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of which would need to be a minimum of standard quality.

Maryport Amateurs FC has more significant issues than Maryport Athletic FC as it has recently lost access to its main site, Netherhall Rugby Union Football Club. This site accommodated most (71%) of the Club's demand (one adult, two youth 11v11, three mini 7v7 and four mini 5v5 teams) and, as such, the Club is now in the process of trying to find other suitable locations.

The Club indicates that it is in the process of creating a mini pitch at Maryport Church of England Junior School to accommodate its mini teams. Furthermore, it is in discussions with the Council to take on a long term lease of Ennerdale Road (one adult pitch), however, due to issues with certain stipulations in the agreement, the Club is yet to formally sign anything. If a lease can be agreed for Ennerdale Road, there is potential for the Club to utilise land adjacent to the site to develop additional pitches and ancillary facilities.

It is recommended that the Club is assisted in both of these projects moving forward as a priority in the short term. Similar to Maryport Athletics FC, it should also look at potentially utilising pitch provision at Flimby Junior Football Pitch, Flimby West Land or Village Field.

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Another potential option for both clubs is to try and secure tenure for the pitches at Netherhall Community Sports Centre (two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch). These pitches are currently unavailable for community use, however, if a CUA can be obtained it could provide a feasible option to providing capacity for youth 9v9 and youth 11v11 football for both clubs. Any development of grass pitches on the site should be in cohesion with the refurbishment of the poor quality onsite 3G pitch.

Cockermouth Juniors FC

Cockermouth Juniors FC currently uses grass football provision at Cockermouth School and Tarn Close to accommodate its 29 teams. The levels of demand from the Club, across a small number of pitches, some of which are poor quality and overmarked, results in one match equivalent session of overplay on adult pitches, two on youth 11v11 pitches and 1.5 match on youth 9v9 pitches. In fact, all grass pitch shortfalls in the Cockermouth Analysis Area are derived from Cockermouth Juniors FC and these two sites.

The Club has recently obtained a long term lease at Tarn Close with aspirations to create onsite ancillary provision, new pitches and eventually a full size floodlit 3G pitch. Its initial plans are to develop the site and its surrounding areas so that it can accommodate a clubhouse and one adult, two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch (overmarked by two mini 7v7 pitches). This would replace the current youth 9v9 pitch on the site which is overmarked by four mini 5v5 pitches.

The below table examines what impact the creation of this provision would have on the supply and demand in the Cockermouth Analysis Area. For reference, this assumes that the pitches are created to a standard quality, with no improvements made to the provision at Cockermouth School. It also presumes that demand would be more evenly distributed between the two sites given the proposed increase in provision.

Table 4.11: Summary change in supply and demand if Tarn Close is developed

Site ID	Site name	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Quality	Current play ⁸	Site capacity	Capacity balance ⁹
Current picture							
17	Cockermouth School	Adult	2	Poor	3	2	1
		7v7	3	Poor	3.5	6	2.5
		11v11	1	Poor	3	1	2
71	Tarn Close	5v5 ¹⁰	4	Standard	3.5	2	1.5
		9v9	1				
Proposed picture							
17	Cockermouth School	Adult	2	Poor	2	2	
		7v7	3	Poor	2.5	6	3.5
		11v11	1	Poor	1	1	
71	Tarn Close	Adult	1	Standard	1	2	1
		11v11	2	Standard	2	4	2
		9v9	1	Standard	2	2	
		7v7	1	Standard	4	4	
		5v5 ¹¹	2				

⁸ Match equivalent sessions

⁹ Red indicates overplay, green indicates potential spare capacity and amber indicates at capacity.

¹⁰ Overmarked onto the youth 9v9 pitch.

¹¹ Overmarked onto the mini 7v7 pitch.

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As shown, if the pitches are created, the entirety of overplay in the Cockermouth Analysis Area would be alleviated. Any further improvements such as enhancing the quality at either Cockermouth School or Tarn Close, or the creation of a full size floodlit 3G pitch instead of an adult grass pitch at Tarn Close, would only create additional capacity for growth and development.

Cockermouth Juniors FC (Tarn Close) Scenario Addendum

Recent developments have seen the Club put in a planning application in June 2021 to create a clubhouse at Tarn Close which would see the loss of a segment of a lapsed cinder athletics track. This is currently under review to understand what impact this would have for athletics across Allerdale. Some local athletics demand has suggested an aspiration to utilise the track; however, it should be noted that the Assessment Report indicates that there is no requirement for the provision based on current levels of demand.

To potentially support the application, contributions should be secured to enhance athletics within the Borough. Although the Club has a lease on the site, the mitigation requirements to enable any loss is anticipated to come from the owners of the land (Cockermouth Town Council), rather than the Club, although this will require further analysis.

If this element of Cockermouth Juniors FC's development plan is halted due to planning objections, it is possible that the Club will not look to implement the abovementioned pitch enhancements due to cost implications.

Workington Juniors FC – The Ranch

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 with the owner in an attempt to raise enough funds in the interim period to purchase the site.

The Club states that if it cannot raise the substantial amount of capital required it will need to relocate its entire demand. It also expresses concerns as to how it can obtain the monies, indicating that it will more than likely need grant/loans in addition to internally fund raising. In addition, if it had to relocate, it would struggle to find suitable pitch provision within the locality.

The table below identifies the number of teams Workington Juniors FC fields, the relevant peak times each team plays at and the corresponding pitch types.

Table 4.12: Summary of team demand from Workington Juniors FC by peak time

Analysis area	Number of teams					Total
	Sat AM	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Midweek	
Workington Juniors FC						
Adult	1	1	1	-	-	3
Youth 11v11	4	-	2	-	-	6
Youth 9v9	2	-	2	-	-	4
Mini 7v7	2	-	2	-	-	4
Mini 5v5	4	-	2	-	-	6

If the Club had to relocate from The Ranch in order to accommodate its demand, it would need a minimum of one adult, two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of which would need to be a minimum of standard quality. Anything less than this would result in the provision being overplayed.

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As a priority, assistance from relevant stakeholders needs to be given to the Club in order to secure its tenure at The Ranch. However, if this cannot be done, alternative sites need to be identified for the relocation of demand. Within the Workington Analysis Area, there are only two sites which could be considered potentially feasible, namely Islay Place and Workington Fire Station/Moorclose Playing Fields.

The former site is disused having previously accommodated two youth 11v11 pitches, although it also has residual playing field land which could be developed for additional mini pitches. However, it would require investment before being brought back into use to re-establish pitch provision to a suitable quality and it should also be noted that there is no ancillary provision at the site.

The other potential would be the utilisation of Moorclose Playing Fields in conjunction with the neighbouring site of Workington Fire Station, which lies disused. Together, these sites provide a significant amount of playing field land which could potentially accommodate an adequate number of pitches for Workington Juniors FC. Moorclose Playing Fields currently hosts three poor quality adult pitches and one disused adult pitch whereas Workington Fire Station has one disused adult pitch.

Like Islay Place, both sites would require investment to improve current poor quality pitches and to reinstate the disused pitches. There is also no ancillary provision connected to either site.

It should be emphasised that if The Ranch is permanently lost, for example from housing development, it would need to meet NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy.

Moorclose Playing Fields – Potential hub site

If not required for the relocation of Workington Juniors FC, the Council has ambitions to turn Moorclose Playing Fields into a grass pitch hub site.

There are currently three poor quality adult pitches at the site which have a total of 2.5 match equivalent of actual spare capacity at peak time discounted due to poor quality. Further to this, as referenced above, there is also a disused adult pitch on the site and a disused adult pitch on a neighbouring site named Workington Fire Station. Both have stopped being maintained due to issues surrounding poor drainage, an undulating/uneven playing surface and a perceived lack of demand.

The table below examines the current supply and demand analysis of all pitch types within the Workington Analysis Area and what initially what would be the impact if all current provision was improved to good quality. It then also examines the impact on supply and demand in both the disused adult pitches were reinstated to a good quality. This would total six adult pitches.

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Table 4.13: Impact of reinstatement and improving of grass pitches at Moorclose Playing Fields

Workington Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹²	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	-	3.5	3.5	0.5	4
Youth 11v11	-	1	1	-	1
Youth 9v9	-	2	2	1	3
Mini 7v7	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Mini 5v5	-	-		1	1
Current pitches at Moorclose Playing Field improved to good quality					
Adult	2.5	3.5	1	0.5	1.5
Youth 11v11	-	1	1	-	1
Youth 9v9	-	2	2	1	3
Mini 7v7	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Mini 5v5	-	-		1	1
Current pitches at Moorclose Playing Field improved to good quality and reinstatement of fourth adult pitch and Fire Station Pitch					
Adult	4.5	3.5	1	0.5	0.5
Youth 11v11	-	1	1	-	1
Youth 9v9	-	2	2	1	3
Mini 7v7	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Mini 5v5	-	-		1	1

As can be seen, if all current provision at Moorclose Playing Field was improved to good quality, the total current levels of overplay on adult pitches would reduce from 3.5 match equivalent sessions to one match equivalent session.

If all pitches were improved to good quality, including the two disused pitches, all current and future levels of overplay would be alleviated within the Workington Analysis Area, with marginal level of spare capacity being established. This would therefore work as a potential hub site for football within Workington.

Although the above analysis is focused on adult grass pitch supply and demand analysis, it is feasible to improve pitch quality and reconfigure the pitch layouts on the site in order to also alleviate shortfalls on other pitch types. For example, instead of six adult pitches, if two youth 11v11 and four youth 9v9 pitches were established, current and future overplay on each of these pitch types would be fully alleviated.

It should be noted that Moorclose Playing Fields does not currently accommodate any changing rooms, therefore in conjunction with pitch improvements, it is recommended that ancillary provision is also established at the site.

In order to make the levels of improvements required, the Council would need to raise substantial levels of funding. To that end, there is potential for this to come from S106 monies from the development of disused/lapsed playing field sites such as Southfield Technology College, Islay Place and Cloffocks. Any development of these sites and subsequent mitigation would need to adhere to Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

¹² In match equivalent sessions

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The most feasible site for potential rationalisation is the former Southfield Technology College site as it is situated in close proximity to Moorclose Playing Fields. The site closed in 2015 and 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.

Although the site is lapsed, meaning Sport England would no longer be a statutory consultee if it were to be developed, development of the site would still need to comply with paragraph 99 of the NPPF. Sports England is keen to work with the County Council and the Borough Council to ensure suitable levels of mitigation are obtained if the site is built upon as it would result in a net loss of playing field land within Workington.

Furthermore, if Moorclose Playing Field / Working Fire Station can be improved in quality, with capacity being created, the Council could explore the feasibility of ceasing to maintain sites such as Curwen Park which is costly to maintain and is not accompanied by any form of ancillary provision. Currently, Curwen Park accommodates demand from three adult teams across four pitches; if the pitches at Moorclose Playing Fields were improved to a good quality, enough capacity would be created for these teams and further capacity would exist for additional or future demand.

All this being said Curwen Park would still need to be retained by the Council in the eventuality it was required to be brought back into use if there was relevant demand. Any permanent loss of the site would need to meet NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of pitches until all demand is being met (unless replacement provision meets Sport England requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- ✦ Work towards creation of Workington Community Sports Village and carry out further feasibility work based upon the detailed scenario.
- ✦ Explore the feasibility in establishing Moorclose Playing Fields as a grass pitch hub site. This would require the reinstatement of disused pitches on the site and Workington Fire Station, the enhancement of pitch quality and creation of relevant ancillary provision.
- ✦ Look to maximise potential rationalisation of specific sites, meeting Sport England guidelines, with appropriate levels of mitigation contributing to high priority projects such as the Workington Community Sports Village and Moorclose Playing Field hub site.
- ✦ Sustain pitch quality and seek improvements where necessary via utilisation of the FA's Pitch Improvement Programme and associated funding opportunities.
- ✦ Explore opportunities to gain long-term access to sites where community use is not currently offered.
- ✦ Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites not currently available for community use that could be moving forward.
- ✦ Improve ancillary facilities where this is a clear need to do so.
- ✦ Ensure clubs playing within, or with aspirations to play within, the football pyramid can progress.
- ✦ Update the FA's Local Football Facilities Plan for Allerdale with findings from the PPOSS.
- ✦ Assist Cockermouth Juniors FC in its development of Tarn Close in order to alleviate identified shortfalls in the Cockermouth Analysis Area. This includes resolving the issue surrounding the lapsed cinder track.

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- Assist in helping Workington Juniors FC in securing tenure at The Ranch. If tenure is secured continue to develop onsite pitch and ancillary provision. If tenure cannot be secured examine the best suited location to relocate the club taking into consideration Islay Place and Workington Fire Station / Moorclose Playing Fields.
- Assist Maryport Athletic FC and Maryport Amateurs FC in securing/developing suitable provision to accommodate their current and future levels of demand.

4.3: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches

Assessment Report 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- There are ambitions to create 3G provision at the Workington Community Sports Village development, Tam 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.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

As evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report, in order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for three full size 3G pitch equivalents with 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.

Table 4.14: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area in Allerdale

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Aspatria	3	0.07 - 0	-	-
Cockermouth	34	0.89 - 1	-	1
Keswick (LDNP)	11	0.29 – 0.25	-	0.25
Maryport	38	1	1.5	-

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Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Silloth	20	0.52 – 0.5	0.25	0.25
Wigton	16	0.42- 0.5	-	0.5
Workington	101	2.65 – 2.75	1.75	1

When considering future demand, the overall shortfall increases from three to 3.25 3G pitches. This is an increase of 0.25 in the Silloth Analysis Area. It should be noted that anything below a whole number (i.e., 0.5 or 0.25) refers to a shortfall of a small size provision. This is referenced in greater detail in the Assessment Report.

Creating additional full size 3G pitches for football

It should be noted that the feasibility of the creation of any 3G provision needs to be fully explored as part of the PPOSS Stage E review.

Currently, only one site is identified to potentially alleviate some of the identified 3G shortfalls, with this being the CSV within the Workington Analysis Area. Further exploration is required in regard to how the remaining shortfalls can be alleviated with relevant stakeholders such as the Football Foundation, Cumberland FA and Council. This is due to the complexity of how football is played across the Borough in cohesions with its rurality.

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

World Rugby has produced a 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22'. This contains the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems appropriate for rugby union.

There is one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Allerdale located at Lakes College. When any new full size 3G pitches are created within the Authority the feasibility of making them World Rugby Compliant should be examined particularly within the Cockermouth Analysis Area based on grass pitch shortfalls.

Rugby league

Consultation with the RFL indicates the sport across Allerdale would benefit from additional access to 3G provision particularly within the Workington and Seaton areas.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◆ Refurbish the 3G pitch at Netherhall Community Sports Centre and ensure it remains on the FA Register.
- ◆ Ensure the 3G pitch at Lakes College remains on the FIFA and WR registers.
- ◆ Ensure the small 3G pitch at Maryport ARLFC remains on the FA Register.
- ◆ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place.
- ◆ Ensure all current and future providers have in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◆ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA and FIFA recommended dimensions and quality performance standards.
- ◆ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches and ensure that pitches remain suitable to accommodate such demand through appropriate certification when it is required.
- ◆ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are priced competitively against the cost of hiring a grass pitches and are aimed at local grassroots clubs.

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- ◀ When any new full size 3G pitches are created within the Authority the feasibility of making them World Rugby / RFL compliant should be examined.
- ◀ Ensure discussions take place between the Council, EH, RFU, CFA and FF before any new 3G or hockey suitable provision is created to ensure stock sustainability.
- ◀ Update the Local Football Facilities Plan for Allerdale in due course with findings from the PPOSS.

4.4: Cricket pitches

Assessment report 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.

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay

Across Allerdale there are a total of eight match equivalent sessions of overplay. This is mainly (six match equivalent sessions a season) located at Nelson Tomlinson School and is a result of teams utilising poor quality provision, with both NTP and the outfield considered to be poor quality due to issues with waterlogging, insufficient drainage and wear and tear. As such, in order to fully alleviate the overplay, there would be a need to refurbish the NTP in addition to improving the quality of the outfield.

The remaining two match equivalent sessions of overplay are identified at Caldbeck Cricket Club. This would be alleviated by improving the quality of the square from standard to good.

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Future demand – All Stars, Dynamos and Softball cricket

When factoring in with future demand from All Stars, Dynamos and women's and girls' Softball demand, shortfalls increase across Allerdale.

All Stars, Dynamos

As mentioned in the Assessment Report, when factoring in future demand from Allstars and Dynamos cricket, from Workington, Keswick, Cockermouth and Wigton cricket clubs, all of the spare capacity across Allerdale is removed. The shortfall of provision amounts to 16 match equivalent sessions per season, as seen in the following table.

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

On initial outlook, there is not enough capacity to accommodate future junior growth; however, it should be noted that the above analysis is based upon grass wickets. Therefore, if there is greater utilisation of NTPs across Allerdale for junior demand, there would capacity to establish additional junior teams.

Given the above, this does not present an issue at Workington Cricket Club, Cockermouth Cricket Club and Wigton Sports & Fitness Club as all three have NTPs on site, which is not the case at Keswick Cricket Club. It is therefore recommended that the feasibility of installing a NTP is explored.

Softball Cricket

Similar to junior future demand, when factoring in future demand for women's cricket on Sundays, from Cockermouth CC and Keswick CC, shortfalls arise in the respective analysis areas (eight and two match equivalent sessions, respectively).

Table 4.16 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

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Maryport	-	-		-	
Silloth	-	-		-	
Wigton	8	6	2	-	2
Workington	8	-		-	
Total	40	8	32	16	16

If the quality of squares at Cockermouth Cricket Club and Keswick Cricket were to improve in quality from standard to good, this potential future overplay would be alleviated with a total of 15 and 16 match equivalent sessions a season being established, respectively.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect all cricket squares in current use.
- ✦ Work with clubs and grounds staff to improve square quality from standard to good quality in order to create substantial spare capacity for future growth.
- ✦ Explore the feasibility of installing NTP at Keswick Cricket Club to better accommodate future junior demand.
- ✦ Assist clubs in accessing relevant training facilities where appropriate.
- ✦ Any new cricket provision created should have a ball strike assessment carried out as a matter of due course. Where new housing or building developments are under consideration within proximity to existing facilities a ball strike risk assessment should be undertaken. In addition, any clubs which could be potentially affected by this issue should be signposted to the ECB.
- ✦ Assist in alleviating overplay at Nelson Tomlinson School through the refurbishment of the onsite NTP and improvements to the outfield.
- ✦ Deliver the All Stars Cricket, Dynamos and women & girls programmes and seek to increase junior and female participation as a result.
- ✦ Work to increase women and girls' participation in line with Inspiring Generations ECB Strategy and protect existing provision so that women and girls have a suitable place to practise and play.
- ✦ Explore the feasibility of creating a purpose built indoor practice facility for us of both CCB and Clubs.

4.5: Rugby union - grass pitches

Assessment report 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.

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- ◀ 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.

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Scenarios

Aspatia RFC – Aspatia Rugby Union Football Club

Aspatia RFC currently accessing two good quality (M2/D1) senior floodlit pitches and one standard quality junior pitch (M1/D1) for both its training and competitive demand. This result in the entire site accumulatively being overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions a week.

The table below, examines the impact on improving both maintenance and drainage would have on the capacity of the pitch.

Table 4.17: Improving pitch quality at Aspatia Rugby Union Football Club

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Current capacity rating ¹³	Improved quality	New capacity rating ¹⁴
Aspatia	2	Aspatia Rugby Union Football Club	2	Senior	Yes	Good (M2/D1)	1	Good (M2/D2)	1.25
								Good (M2/D3)	1.5
							3.5	Good (M2/D2)	3.25
								Good (M2/D3)	3
			1	Junior	No	Standard (M1/D1)		Good (M2/D1)	1
								Standard (M1/D2)	0.5
								Good (M1/D3)	1
								Good (M2/D2)	1.25
								Good (M2/D3)	1.5

¹³ Match equivalent sessions include both training and competitive demand

¹⁴ Match equivalent sessions

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As shown above, in order to fully alleviate all overplay at the site, each pitch would need to be M2/D3 rating (good quality) and have demand dispersed equally across each pitch. However, it should be noted that increasing pitch quality to this rating would be expensive and therefore does not have a realistic chance of occurring. Therefore, there should instead be a transfer of some demand from the pitches, in conjunction with some quality improvements, to fully alleviate overplay at the site. This transfer could be via greater utilisation of artificial provision for training demand or creation of a separate dedicated training area at Aspatria Rugby Union Football Club. It should be noted that there is no space for this on the current site, unless land on adjacent fields is purchased and made suitable for playing field land.

Cockermouth RUFC – Grasmoor Sports Centre

As discussed in the Assessment Report, Cockermouth RUFC plans to improve the drainage onsite at Grasmoor Sports Centre. The table below looks at what impact this would have on all three pitches at the site, based on an achievable quality rating of D2 (installation of pipe drainage).

Table 4.18: Improving pitch quality at Grasmoor Sports Centre

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Current capacity rating ¹⁵	Improved quality	New capacity rating ¹⁶
Cockermouth	33	Grasmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RUFC)	1	Senior	Yes	Poor (M1/D0)	0.5	Standard (M1/D2)	1.5
			1	Senior	No	Standard (M1/D1)	2.5	Standard (M1/D2)	1.5
			1	Junior	No	Poor (M1/D0)		Standard (M1/D2)	1

If each pitch were to be improved to a M1/D2 rating (standard quality), all overplay could be alleviated; however, this would also require demand to be dispersed across each pitch equally. The Club also indicates that it is in the process of refurbishing three disused macadam tennis courts with an artificial surface to use for non-contact training demand.

¹⁵ Match equivalent sessions include both training and competitive demand

¹⁶ Match equivalent sessions

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Keswick RUFC - Keswick Rugby Football Club

Keswick RUFC's current site Keswick Rugby Football Club is situated on a flood plain which impacts both ancillary and pitch quality. Linked to this, the Club is currently funding raising to cover the cost of building a new clubhouse in a more suitable location in order to limit the potential impact of the site flooding. In regards to its pitches, even though they have purpose built drainage, it does not always work as effectively as it should, which results in pitch capacity reducing. The below table examines what the impact would be if all pitches on the site were to be improved to the maximum rating of M2/D3 (good quality).

Table 4.19: Impact off improve pitch quality at Keswick Rugby Football Club

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Current capacity rating ¹⁷	Improved quality	New capacity rating ¹⁸
Keswick (LDNP)	38	Keswick Rugby Football Club	2	Mini	No	Good (M2/D2 ¹⁹)	2.5	Good (M2/D3)	3
			2	Senior	Yes	Good (M2/D2 ²⁰)	1	Good (M2/D3)	0.5
							5		4.5

As shown, even if the pitches were to be improved to the maximum rating there would still be overplay evident. Improving pitch quality due to the site's location, cost and potential impact would therefore not be a feasible way of alleviating overplay on the site. Therefore, only two options remain: the transferal of some demand off the site or a complete relocation.

The first of these options is the most feasible with the Club having the potential to better utilise off site artificial provision for training demand or potentially use pitches at nearby Keswick School's (unattached playing fields). It should be noted, however, that the pitches at the School would need quality improvements before being used in addition to security of tenure being provided through a CUA.

The latter option, complete relocation, is considered unlikely due to a number of feasibility problems such as cost, selling of the current site and finding a suitable new site. However, in order to accommodate the clubs entire competitive and training demand (15.5 match equivalent sessions per week) there would need to be a minimum of two mini pitches and four senior floodlit pitches all of a M2/D2 rating (good quality).

¹⁷ Match equivalent sessions include both training and competitive demand

¹⁸ Match equivalent sessions

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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.

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Netherhall RUFC - Netherhall Rugby Union FC

There are three senior pitches located at Netherhall Rugby Union Club with one pitch having marginal spare capacity, one pitch played to capacity and one pitch overplayed by 2.25 match equivalent sessions. This overplay is derived from the pitch being overmarked for football, however, as of next season (2021/22) this football demand is set to be removed off this site.

Table 4.20: Effects on capacity if football demand is removed off Netherhall Rugby Union FC

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Current capacity rating ²¹	Removal of football demand	New capacity rating ²²
Maryport	51	Netherhall Rugby Union FC	1	Senior	Yes	Poor (M1/D0)		-	
			1	Senior	No	Poor (M1/D0)	0.5	-	0.5
			1	Senior ²³	No	Poor (M1/D0)	2.25	2.75	0.5

Following the removal of the football demand, there will be a marginal amount of spare capacity equating to one match equivalent session per week on the site. This spare capacity would not be enough to accommodate the future demand expressed by the Club amounting to 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week. Therefore, there remains a need to enhance the quality of each pitch to a minimum quality rating of M1/D1 to accommodate future demand.

Silloth RUFC - Eden Street Playing Fields

There are no specific issues regarding capacity at Eden Street Playing Fields as there is one standard quality senior pitch (M1/D1) accommodating one senior team from Silloth RUFC. The main recommendation for the Club is increase levels of participation in order to become more sustainable.

Wigton RUFC - Wigton Sports & Fitness Club

²¹ Match equivalent sessions include both training and competitive demand

²² Match equivalent sessions

²³ Pitch is overmarked with football pitches.

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Wigton RUFC currently uses the hockey suitable AGP at Wigton Sports & Fitness Club to accommodate its six match equivalent sessions of training demand per week. The Club aspires to transfer some of its training demand onto its grass pitches, however, in order to accomplish this, there has to be improvements in quality and installation of floodlighting in order to avoid the creation of overplay.

Table 4.21: If senior pitch becomes floodlit to accommodate training demand at Wigton Sports and Fitness Club

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Competitive demand	Current capacity rating ²⁴	Training demand	New capacity rating ²⁵
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	2	Junior	No	Poor (M1/D0)	2	1	-	1
			1	Senior	No	Standard (M1/D1)	1	1	-	1
If senior pitch becomes floodlit to accommodate training demand										
Wigton	82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	2	Junior	No	Poor (M1/D0)	1	0.5	-	0.5
					Yes		1	0.5	3	2.5
			1	Senior	No	Standard (M1/D1)	1	1	-	1

As seen in the table above, if one of the junior pitches becomes floodlit to accommodate half of the Club's training demand, it would subsequently become overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions. Therefore, if floodlights are to be installed there would also be a need to improve the poor junior quality pitches to either an M2/D1 (Good) or M1/D2 (Standard) rating, as a minimum, as well as a need to disperse demand more evenly across each pitch.

Workington RUFC

Workington RUFC currently uses pitch provision across two sites, namely Ellis Sports Ground and The Paddock. The Club's main site, Ellis Sports Ground, is overplayed by 3.25 match equivalent sessions per week due to heavy training usage. One option to alleviate this overplay would be to establish floodlights at the Paddock so that training demand could be spread across a greater number of pitches.

Table 4.22: Current supply and demand balance for Workington RUFC

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Competitive demand	Training demand	Current capacity rating ²⁶
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²⁴ Match equivalent sessions include both training and competitive demand

²⁵ Match equivalent sessions

²⁶ Match equivalent sessions include both training and competitive demand

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Competitive demand	Training demand	Current capacity rating ²⁶
Workington	25	Ellis Sports Ground	1	Senior	Yes	Standard (M1/D1)	1	-	1
			1	Junior	Yes	Standard (M1/D1)	1.25	4	3.25
Workington	108	The Paddock	1	Senior	No	Standard (M1/D1)	1	-	1

One option to reduce this overplay would be to establish floodlights at the Paddock so that training demand could be spread across a greater number of pitches.

Table 4.23: Potential supply and demand balance for Workington RUFC

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Competitive demand	Training demand	Current capacity rating ²⁷
Workington	25	Ellis Sports Ground	1	Senior	Yes	Standard (M1/D1)	1	0.5	0.5
			1	Junior	Yes	Standard (M1/D1)	1.25	1.5	0.75
Workington	108	The Paddock	1	Senior	Yes	Standard (M1/D1)	1	2	1

As seen in the table above, even if each pitch becomes floodlit and training demand is dispersed there would still be levels of overplay. As such, in order to fully alleviate overplay, there would also be a need to improve quality, which could be achieved by increasing the maintenance on the overplayed pitches from M1 to M2.

It should also be noted that there is a need for secure long term tenure for Workington RUFC at The Paddock. An agreement is currently being discussed between the Club and the Council.

²⁷ Match equivalent sessions include both training and competitive demand

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Recommendations

- ✦ Where required, assist clubs in obtaining long term agreements in order to provide security of tenure.
- ✦ Continue to develop strong relationships between rugby clubs and schools through curricular and extracurricular programmes in order to increase levels of mini and junior participation.
- ✦ Improve ancillary facilities where this is a clear need to do so (Keswick Rugby Football Club, Aspatia Rugby Union Football Club and Wigton Sports & Fitness Club).
- ✦ Assist club in the creation/access of additional provision, where required, to alleviate overplay, in the form of either additional pitches or dedicated floodlit training areas.
- ✦ Assist club aspirations for additional floodlights (Wigton Sports & Fitness Club and The Paddock).
- ✦ Explore the feasibility of securing access to educational sites to reduce current and future levels of overplay and improve pitch quality where applicable such as Keswick School.
- ✦ Work with Keswick RUFC to explore potential options for relocation.
- ✦ Assist in pitch improvement at Grasmoor Sports Centre, Wigton Sports & Fitness Club Ellis Sports Ground, The Paddock and Netherhall Rugby Union FC.
- ✦ Ensure discussions take place between the Council, EH, RFU, CFA and FF before any new 3G or hockey suitable provision is created to ensure stock sustainability.

4.6: Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Assessment report 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 full size pitches need to be refurbished as a hockey suitable surface in order to improve quality.**
- ✦ 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. Further to this there is some imported demand onto the pitch at Cockermouth School by Western Lakes HC, who have been displaced from Copeland Bowls and Sports Centre (in neighbouring Copeland BC).

Scenarios

Refurbishment of poor quality provision

As a priority, both poor quality full size hockey suitable AGPs in Allerdale, one each at Cockermouth School and Wigton Sports & Fitness Club, need to be refurbished. If these pitches are not refurbished in the short-term, there is a high chance that they become unusable, which would result in a total of 19 teams not having a suitable venue to play fixtures. This would potentially lead to the clubs having to export demand outside of the Borough or to fold entirely.

Potential avenues on how to finance the pitch refurbishments should be examined, including (but not limited to) grants, pooling of S106/CIL monies and collective club financial collaborations. It is recommended that when pitch refurbishments take place, any floodlights and/or ancillary facility improvements are also carried out as part of an overall enhancement to hockey provision within Allerdale.

Copeland Bowls and Sports Centre

Although not located in Allerdale, it should be noted that there is a full size AGP in the neighbouring authority of Copeland. The pitch was formerly suitable for hockey although it was poor quality and was in need of refurbishment. In summer 2021 the landowner, Copeland Borough Council changed the pitch carpet from sand dressed to 3G. Therefore, it is no longer suitable for hockey and the hockey users of the site, Western Lakes HC, have been forced to relocate to Cockermouth School and as such now import demand into Allerdale.

This imported demand will continue, and each pitch within the Borough (Wigton Sports & Fitness Club and Cockermouth School) is operating at or beyond capacity.

Future capacity

It should be noted, as referenced in the Assessment Report, that there are issues regarding accommodating future demand due to a lack of capacity on the pitches at both Cockermouth School and Wigton Sports & Fitness Club. This issue is further compounded with the recent loss of hockey suitable provision in the neighbouring authority of Copeland (Copeland Bowls and Sports Centre).

As a result, any potential new future developments of hockey suitable AGPs, in Allerdale and the surrounding authorities, should be thoroughly examined in order to maximise and secure access for relevant hockey clubs (Dalston Ladies HC, Keswick HC, Wigton HC and Western Lakes HC). Similarly, no 3G conversion proposals should be approved that may negatively impact any of the aforementioned clubs or any potential future hockey demand.

Gen 2 Artificial Surfaces

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 2²⁸ 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

²⁸ <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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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.

This surface type has the potential to be beneficial at educational sites where outdoor sporting provision has to be used for multiple activities and is often at a premium. The Gen 2 surface should therefore be considered when schools are refurbishing old hockey suitable AGPs or hard courts areas as a potential solution to maximise outdoor provision.

As discussed in the Assessment Report there are plans, or aspirations, to create hockey suitable AGPs at Grasmoor Sports Centre and Keswick School. The feasibility of these sites to potentially accommodate a Gen 2 surface should be examined further.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect all existing full size hockey suitable AGPs for hockey use.
- ✦ As a priority, refurbish the pitches at Wigton Sports & Fitness Club and Cockermouth School.
- ✦ When pitch refurbishments take place at Wigton Sports & Fitness Club and Cockermouth School look to also improve accompanying floodlights and ancillary facilities, as required.
- ✦ Ensure that future demand from new England Hockey initiative, Hockey Heroes (aimed at growing participation for under 10s) can be accommodated.
- ✦ When the 3G pitch stock increases, encourage the transfer of football demand from the sand-based AGPs in order to free up increased capacity for hockey activity.
- ✦ Improve ancillary facilities where this is a clear need to do so.
- ✦ Where required, assist clubs in obtaining long term agreements in order to provide security of tenure.
- ✦ When refurbishing/creating provision considered the feasibility of installing a Gen 2 surface (Grasmoor Sports Centre and Keswick School).
- ✦ Ensure discussions take place between the Council, EH, RFU, CFA and FF before any new 3G or hockey suitable provision is created to ensure stock sustainability.

4.7: Rugby league

Assessment report 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.

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- ◆ 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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Scenarios

Improving pitch quality by one and two increment

Across Allerdale there are substantial levels of overplay on rugby league pitches equating to 20.5 match equivalent sessions. The table below examines what the impact would be if pitch quality across the Borough were improved by one and two quality increments where possible.

Table 4.24: Impact of improving pith quality of all rugby league provision in Allerdale

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Security of tenure	Pitch type	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)	Improved quality rating by one increment	Improved capacity rating (MES per week)	Improved quality rating by two increments (where possible)	Improved capacity rating (MES per week)
Aspatia	4	Beacon Hill Community School	Secure	Senior	Standard	1	1.75	4	2	3.75	Good	2.75	-	2.75
Cockermouth	13	Broughton Red Rose ARLFC	Secure	Senior	Poor	1	1.75	-	1	0.75	Standard	0.25	Good	1.25
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	Secure	Primary	Poor	1	2	-	1	1	Standard		Good	1
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	Secure	Senior	Poor	2	1	-	1		Standard	1	Good	2
Cockermouth	34	Highfield	Secure	Senior	Poor		0.75	2	1	1.75	Standard	0.75	Good	0.25
Maryport	32	Grasslot Welfare W.M.C. (Elbra Rangers ARLFC)	Secure	Senior	Standard	1	1.5	2	2	1.5	Good	0.5	-	0.5
Maryport	43	Maryport ARLFC	Secure	Senior	Standard	1	3	4	2	5	Good	4	-	4
Maryport	57	Sandy Lonning Community Sports Field	Secure	Senior	Standard	1	1.5	-	2	0.5	Good	1.5	-	1.5
Workington	60	Seaton Rangers ARLFC	Unsecure	Senior	Standard	1	4	4	2	6	Good	5	-	5
Workington	88	Workington Town RLFC	Secure	Senior	Good	1	-	-	-		-		-	
Workington	89	Rosemary Gardens Playground	Secure	Senior	Poor	1	0.75	2	1	1.75	Standard	0.75	Good	0.25

In total, if all pitches were improved by one increment, the overall shortfall on rugby league pitches would reduce from 20.5 match equivalent sessions per week to 11 match equivalent sessions. If pitch quality were to be improved further, by two increments, overplay would reduce to 7.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

As overplay cannot be fully alleviated from pitch improvement alone, particularly at Beacon Hill Community School, Grasslot Welfare W.M.C, Maryport ARLFC and Seaton Rangers ARLFC, additional measures need to be taken into consideration. These are outlined below.

Aspatia Hornets RLFC – Beacon Hill Community School

As overplay at Beacon Hill Community School cannot be full alleviated through pitch improvements alone there is a need to look at alternative options. To that end, Aspatia Hornets RLFC aspires to create a second pitch at the School. If this can be created and both pitches are good quality, overplay on the site would be fully alleviated with actual spare capacity of 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week being created.

Seaton Rangers ARLFC

Similarly, Seaton Rangers RLFC has plans to create a second pitch at its home ground. However, unlike Aspatia Hornets RLFC, even if the Club had access to two good quality senior pitches, the site would still be overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week. Whilst it is still recommended that a second pitch is established in order to reduce shortfalls to a more manageable level, other options should also be explored to fully eradicate the identified shortfalls, such as through the creation and use of a rugby league suitable 3G pitch.

In addition, it is also advised that the Club should secure long term tenure at it site from site owner CISWO before any developments take place.

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Maryport ARLFC

The pitch at Maryport ARLFC is currently overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per week as it is extensively used for both rugby league and football. If pitch quality was improved from standard to good quality this would reduce the overplay to four match equivalent sessions per week.

To reduce the overplay further, it is recommended that the pitch could no longer be used for football, which would remove a total of 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week of demand and reduce overplay to a more manageable 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week. However, before this demand is removed, other suitable pitch provision must be identified for the football teams to relocate to within the Maryport locality. This is discussed in greater detail above in the football specific scenarios.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of rugby league pitches.
- ✦ Explore securing access to all community used sites through long term tenure agreements.
- ✦ Improve poor and standard quality pitches to reduce overplay and create future spare capacity through work with the Ground Maintenance Association and volunteer workforce.
- ✦ Assist Aspatria Hornets RFLC and Seaton Rangers RLFC in the creation of additional pitch provision.
- ✦ Support clubhouse developments where required.
- ✦ Continue to develop strong relationships between rugby clubs and schools through curricular and extracurricular programmes in order to increase levels of mini and junior participation.
- ✦ Explore the feasibility of any new full size 3G pitches to be created to be RFL compliant to alleviate identified shortfalls.

4.8: Tennis courts

Assessment report 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.

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- 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.

Scenarios

Sustainability of tennis club sites in Allerdale

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate 40 members whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. The same also applies where courts are seasonal (e.g. grass, clay and shale), although capacity issues may exist in the winter using this broad method. For air domed courts, membership of 100 is considered applicable and permanent indoor courts can accommodate 200 members.

Using these figures, the table below analyses whether or not courts currently in use by clubs in Allerdale are sufficient to meet both current and future demand, where membership levels are known. However, it should be noted that the analysis relates to LTA viability guidelines for clubs does not necessarily constitute actual capacity. The figures are based on what most clubs, based on the level of provision they have, would find sustainable.

Moving forward, the LTA reports that, as more clubs utilise a court booking system, each club should be able to form a more accurate picture of demand as playing habits and usage becomes more defined. Typically, clubs will have increased demand for courts between 16:00-20:00 and it is at these times where capacity is likely to be the biggest issue.

Table 4.25: Summary of supply and demand

Club name	Site ID	Site name	Current demand	Future demand	Site capacity	Capacity rating
Harrington TC	91	Harrington Lawn Tennis Club	-	-	160	160
Keswick & Braithwaite TC	10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	85	32	140	23
Keswick & Braithwaite TC	29	Fitz Park			200	83
Kirkbride & Anthorn TC	102	Anthorn Sports Club	40	20	80	20
Kirkbride & Anthorn TC	103	Kirkbride Tennis Courts			80	20
Lorton TC	93	Lorton Tennis Club	136	-	160	24
Maryport TC	50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	35	-	240	205
Silloth on Solway TC	61	Skinburness Road Playing Fields	-	-	80	80
Wigton TC	49	Nelson Tomlinson School	66	-	180	114

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As seen in the table above, there is a sufficient supply of courts at all club sites across Allerdale, however, there is a need for further exploration in regard to the two sites where clubs have either not responded to consultation requests or not provided club membership figures: Harrington TC and Silloth on Solway TC. In addition, there is a need to assist clubs with any development plans regarding court quality and ancillary facilities. Club courts which are not available for pay and play should consider allowing casual use to maximise spare capacity and generate additional income.

The above figures are solely based on membership information and do not include overall usage such as pay & play. In order to get a more accurate representation of usage of the above sites it is recommended that, if not already, gate access systems and online booking system are installed.

Gate Access System / Poor quality courts

As well as providing more accurate information on usage Gate Access Systems can assist in improving court quality. This is done via increasing usage as it allows for protected access for booked customers only, with relevant monies contributing to court refurbishment.

As identified in the Assessment report exactly half (25) community available courts in Allerdale are poor quality with a particular issue within educational sites. These courts are under threat and could fall into disused or lapsed if not refurbished in the near future. Therefore, a potential option is to explore installing gate access systems in order to increase usage and refurbishment. It should be noted a potential option for surface type refurbishment is a Gen 2 Artificial Surface.

Harris Park and Grassmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RUFC)

The Council's Cockermouth Sports Facilities Scoping Study (2018) included the below recommendations:

Recommendation 4: Cockermouth RUFC is supported in its development plans to improve their facilities as a multi-sport venue. This would entail improving the quality of its grass pitches both for its 1st team Rugby and Cockermouth Senior Football Club's pitch and in terms of developing the quality of the other pitches and the upgrading of the existing floodlit tennis courts into a floodlit multi-sports surface suitable for a range of sports. Reviewing the current governance structure (particularly in relation to the Grassmoor Sports Centre) and establishing service level agreements between Cockermouth RUFC and the key current users of the club facilities and future club use by other sports would have to be in place before any funding is committed from external sources

Recommendation 5 - Harris Park Tennis Courts: That Harris Park tennis courts are upgraded and floodlighting considered to allow for future tennis use by Cockermouth Tennis Club and the local community and to compensate for the loss of the 3 tennis courts at Cockermouth Rugby Union Football Club. Commit to initiating an appropriate management process."

If this has not already been accomplished, it is recommended that that above is adhered to in order to mitigate the loss of tennis provision within Cockermouth.

Gen 2 Artificial Surfaces

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.

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The surface type known as Gen 2²⁹ 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.

This surface type has the potential to be beneficial at educational sites where outdoor sporting provision has to be used for multiple activities and is often at a premium. The Gen 2 surface should therefore be considered when schools are refurbishing old hockey suitable AGPs or hard courts areas as a potential solution to maximise outdoor provision.

Recommendations

- ✦ Retain and sustain quality of club courts for competitive play through implementation of appropriate maintenance regimes.
- ✦ Support clubs which have aspiration for courts and ancillary facility improvements.
- ✦ Improve quality of key local authority courts and accompanying ancillary provision, first and foremost focusing on sites that best accommodate informal play.
- ✦ Explore implementation of ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access schemes at appropriate sites to enhance available provision for informal tennis.
- ✦ Consider the feasibility of operating LTA programmes.
- ✦ When refurbishing/creating provision considered the feasibility of installing a Gen 2 surface.
- ✦ Explore the feasibility of creating or securing access to community available courts in Workington.
- ✦ Ensure recommendation four and five from Cockermouth Sports Facilities Scoping Study (2018) are implemented, if they have not been already.

4.9: Athletics

Assessment report 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 functioning athletics tracks in Allerdale with the nearest provision located at Cumbria Sports Academy (Copeland Borough Council) or Sheepmount Athletics Stadium (Carlisle City Council).
- ✦ There is a lapsed cinder track located at Tarn Close.
- ✦ 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 aspiration 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.

Scenarios

Development of future provision

²⁹ <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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There is a need to explore the feasibility of establishing compact facilities in certain areas of the Borough in order to better cater for levels of demand and to provide facilities to areas which are currently lacking in suitable Athletics provision. As identified in the Assessment Report, the analysis areas of Keswick LDNP, Wigton and Aspatria should be examined for potential compact/mini all-weather facilities based on consultation with UK Athletics and the fact there is no athletics provision within these areas. Furthermore, the feasibility of establish indoor provision within the locality of Workington should also be examined in order to alleviate a shortfall of such provision as indicated by Cumbria and UK athletics.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore the feasibility of establishing a strategic development plan across Allerdale and Cumbria in order to understand levels of supply and demand.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ Ensure that if the disused cinder track at Tarn Close is development it is effectively mitigated. This should include the potential of developing some form of compact indoor facility at Working Community Sports Village and/or compact/mini facilities at Keswick LDNP, Wigton and Aspatria analysis areas.
- ◀ Consider the feasibility of operating additional athletic programmes such as Park Runs, Couch to 5K.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

AIM 1

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitch facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The Allerdale PPOSS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field and outdoor sport sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. This includes lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites, which should also be protected from development or replaced as there is a requirement for such provision to meet the identified shortfalls.

NPPF paragraph 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless:

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

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

New housing development

Where proposed housing development is located within proximity of a good quality existing site as identified in the PPOSS, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further improvements. To the contrary, provision enhancements may be required in order to accommodate additional demand arising from a particular development (or group of developments). The PPOSS should be used to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand for, and capacity of, existing sites, and whether improvement to increase capacity or new provision is required.

Housing growth scenarios have been provided in Part 7 of this document to provide a guide and to estimate the additional demand that could be generated by specific housing growth by sport and facility type. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, which has informed the scenarios, will be available for the Council to use upon completion of the PPOSS.

Development Management

The PPOSS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields, outdoor sport facilities and ancillary provision. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis, taking into account site specific factors.

In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of sports facilities and will use the PPOSS to help assess such planning applications against its Playing Fields Policy. It will object to proposals unless at least one of its five policy exceptions is met. The exceptions are:

- ◀ **Exception One:** Excess of provision - a robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
- ◀ **Exception Two:** Ancillary development - the proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.
- ◀ **Exception Three:** Land incapable of forming part of a pitch - the proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:
 - ◀ reduce the size of any playing pitch;
 - ◀ result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
 - ◀ reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain their quality;
 - ◀ result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site; or
 - ◀ prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site.
- ◀ **Exception Four:** Replacement provision of equivalent or better quality and quantity - the area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field:
 - ◀ of equivalent or better quality, and
 - ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity, and
 - ◀ in a suitable location, and
 - ◀ subject to equivalent or better accessibility and management arrangements.
- ◀ **Exception Five:** New sports provision benefit outweighs the loss of the playing field - the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field.

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It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value sites (i.e. poor quality one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is provided, available and useable in equivalent of greater quality and quality prior to existing provision being lost (including an allowance for a “bedding-in” period. As such, rationalisation needs to be carried out in accordance with paragraph 99 of the NPPF and Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy.

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

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

- ◀ Beacon Hill Community School
- ◀ Cockermouth School
- ◀ Dearham Primary School
- ◀ Keswick School
- ◀ Nelson Tomlinson
- ◀ Netherhall Community Sports Centre
- ◀ St Joseph’s Catholic High School

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

Further partnership working with NGBs should be carried out to encourage schools to put in place Community Use Agreement (CUA) including access to changing provision where required.

There are also some clubs playing on private sites in Allerdale which are not considered to have secure tenure. For example:

- ◀ The Ranch – Workington Reds Juniors FC
- ◀ Walker Road Pitches – Salterbeck Juniors FC
- ◀ Seaton Rangers ARLFC – Seaton Rangers RLFC

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

In the context of the Government’s 2010 Spending Review, which announced significant public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing this is to the benefit of sport.

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The Council should explore opportunities to grant clubs security of tenure through lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs). The focus should be on clubs at poor quality local authority sites where there is opportunity to improve pitch and / or ancillary facilities. Security of tenure would encourage clubs to take more care of the site through responsible play. It would motivate them to look at ways of enhancing their facilities by using external funding mechanisms that the local authority may not be able to access. Clubs with lease arrangements already in place with other owners should review existing agreements when the term dips below 25 years.

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

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

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

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)³⁰. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

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

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

³⁰ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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

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

To maximise community use, development of a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. A key issue in Allerdale is a lack of access to high quality provision located at its several private educational establishments.

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

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

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

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

AIM 2

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

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

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

Addressing quality issues

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

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

Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The strategic approach to outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

For the purposes of quality assessments, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities are separately reported as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. Some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

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Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from litter. For rugby, a good quality pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking.

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

Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate changing rooms with no showers, no running water and/or old, dated interiors. If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed, it may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement.

In order to prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the Steering Group works up a list of criteria, to provide a steer on future investment.

Addressing overplay

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

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

Table 5.2: Capacity of pitches

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

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For tennis, the LTA suggests that a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit court can cater for 40 members. For athletics it is considered that in order for an athletics track to be sustainable, nationally, a club membership of 200 is recommended by UKA³¹.

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

A cost-effective way to reduce unofficial use (and therefore overplay), particularly for football, could be to remove goalposts in between match days, principally at open access, high traffic sites that are managed by clubs. This will, however, require adequate, secured storage to be provided.

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

For rugby union and rugby league, additional floodlighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative, as is the installation of a World Rugby / RFL compliant 3G pitch. Further to this another potential option for rugby league is the creation of additional pitches.

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

Increasing maintenance

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

The FA has a general pitch improvement strategy which has been developed in partnership with Grounds Management Association (GMA) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise council-maintained sites.

³¹ Source: UKA Facilities Strategy recommends that Regional Outdoor Competition Venues should have a strong anchor performance club (i.e. 200+ track and field members).

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In addition, the FA's Strategy also aims to focus on developing improved maintenance with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority-maintained sites.

Further to the above, the Football Foundation and the FA have recently developed a new pitch maintenance grant fund that allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Local authorities are currently ineligible applicants through this fund; however, clubs, leagues and or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure and/or a proforma is in place.

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

In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA)

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in Allerdale, these are generally centred at either club or town /parish council managed sites.

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ◀ Aspatia Rugby Union Football Club | ◀ Seaton Juniors Football Club |
| ◀ Barton Laws | ◀ Tarn Close |
| ◀ Cockermouth School | ◀ The Ranch |
| ◀ Eden Street Playing Fields | ◀ Wakefield Road |
| ◀ Highfield | ◀ Walker Road |
| ◀ Keswick Rugby Union Football Club | ◀ Wigton Sports & Fitness Club |
| ◀ Pottery Park | ◀ Workington Community Sports Village |
| ◀ Milltoft Field | (Borough Park) |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please refer to Appendix One for further funding information which includes detail in respect of current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs.

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

This strategy should inform policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development.

A development located within an accessible distance from a high-quality outdoor sport facility does not necessarily negate need for further provision or improvement to existing provision in the locality to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand, the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity or new provision is required.

For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's new Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) (see Part 7) as a tool to determine developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. This uses team generation rates from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams will be generated from an increase in population, as per that derived from housing growth. This is then converted into pitch requirements for each sport alongside the associated costs.

The guidance should be the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision within the development and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance on existing sites within the locality. Section 106 contributions can also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of pitches which, in turn, will increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality, with the PPOSS used to guide this. Where improvements are required, the PPOSS and in particular the Action Plan can identify sites in the locality that would most benefit from contributions and that would best cater for the increased demand.

To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and

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unused. The preference is for multi-pitch and multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future 3G/AGP development.

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

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

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

Please see Part 7 for further information in regard to Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator.

AIM 3

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

Recommendations:

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

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

The Steering Group should use the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council's own outdoor sports facilities whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate on an area by area basis.

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches where there is a discrete need, where there is significant housing growth, or where sites fall out of use and require mitigation.

It is important that there is a joined-up approach between the relevant neighbouring authorities to ensure that 3G pitches are developed at the most appropriate sites, such as by selecting sites that can contribute towards accommodating demand from neighbouring authorities. This approach will also ensure there is no duplication of provision that will compete against each other to attract demand.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the planning stage to maximise potential demand and ensure the correct facility provision. For example, full size 3G pitches are often best suited to secondary school sites, whereas mini football pitches and MUGAs/small sided AGPs on primary school sites tend to be provided.

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

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

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

- ❖ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ❖ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ❖ The re-designation of facilities.

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- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to secure tenure and increase usage.

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

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long-term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate a senior pitch where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

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

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults.	Additional need for 3G pitches. Sustain current pitch stock but give consideration to pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements.
	Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G pitches.	Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing.
	The FA has a strategy for Women's and Girls' football: 2020 – 2024 in October 2020. One of the major goals of the new strategy will give every girls the earliest opportunity to play the game. ³²	Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase.
	Focus on recreational/informal play	Greater need for small-sided and informal football spaces e.g. MUGAs, indoor facilities and developed open spaces.
3G pitches	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.	Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for CUAs to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds. Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface.
Cricket	Except for grounds identified as poor quality, ECB predicts further growth in cricket demand for pitch use over the next few years.	Pitches that are already identified in the PPS as being at capacity will not be able to accommodate additional playing demand generated and it is predicted there will be demand for additional cricket playing facilities.
	All Stars Cricket, the ECB national	Greater usage of outfielders to accommodate

³² <https://www.thefa.com/news/2020/oct/19/sue-campbell-inspiring-positive-change-191020>

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Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
	programme for 5-8 year olds, is engaging large numbers of children and has already been delivered over the past 3-4 years, with increasing numbers of participants year on year, alongside Chance to Shine cricket delivery in primary schools. Dynamos Cricket is the latest launch by the ECB, building on the existing All Stars programme for 5-8-year-olds. Participants will continue to develop their skills and be introduced to a countdown style of cricket match.	demand from All Stars Cricket. Shorter formats of cricket, and additional formats including softball cricket, are also driving up demand for pitches. An increase stock of NTPs likely to be required to accommodate demand.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national ECB priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.	Increased requirement for peak time access to pitches. Need to ensure access to good quality facilities including, segregated changing and toilet provision.
Rugby union	Locally, the RFU want to ensure access to pitches satisfies existing demand and predicted growth. It is also an aim to protect and improve pitch quality, as well as ancillary facilities.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and support facility development. In particular, capital improvements are required to the existing natural turf pitches as is improvements to the quality of changing rooms, where appropriate. All clubs should have access to high quality floodlit pitches to support training and match play demand.
Rugby league	Working towards the Rugby Football League National Facilities Strategy. High profile events (Rugby League World Cup 2021 Legacy)	Identify opportunities for investment and facility development through the Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme.
Hockey	Current playing level is likely to continue to increase.	Ensure continued use of sand-based AGPs to accommodate current demand and ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey.
	High profile events (e.g. Hockey World Cup 2018 Legacy)	These high profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England and there will be community events in the build-up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. This will inevitably raise the profile of the game with the aim to increase participation.
	2019 launched England Hockey initiative, Hockey Heroes (aimed at growing participation for under 10s).	Ensure that outfields are able to accommodate additional future demand.
Tennis	New LTA Facilities Investment Strategy has a focus on parks tennis and indoor facilities.	Need to improve/develop courts at key local authority sites to cater for recreational and informal demand. Potential for outdoor courts to be covered to provide indoor spaces (e.g. through air domes).
	Continued implementation of Clubspark	To be installed and utilised at more local

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Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
		authority and club sites to help monitor and increase usage.
Athletics	England Athletics is working towards to achieving goals which are set out in it the England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018-2025). 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”.	A need to establish a cohesive development plan across Cumbria/Allerdale and invest in sustainable provision in strategical locations.

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PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. The Action Plan is separated by analysis area.

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor facility sites and associated provision.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance within the Authority i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest anticipated impact on addressing shortfalls (identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole).

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Authority. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
Type of sport	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.
Management	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	No changing room access on site or appropriate access to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).

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

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Key centre are more community focused sites, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. There may be more of a focus on a specific sport.

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

Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one facility or a low number of facilities that service just one or two sports. The level of priority attached to them for external investment may be relatively low.

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

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

Some local sites are suitable for rationalisation providing that capital receipts are allocated to replace the lost provision at larger, multi-pitch sites.

Management and development

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

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

Partners

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

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Priority

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

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

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

Costs

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

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

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

Timescales

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur.

The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

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

Aim

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

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

ASPATRIA ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2030)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Aspatria	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Allerdale	Adult	Shortfall of 8	Shortfall of 8
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 2.5
Football (3G pitches)	Aspatria	Full size, floodlit	At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Aspatria	Senior	Spare capacity of 24	Spare capacity of 24
		Junior	Spare capacity of 20	Spare capacity of 20
	Allerdale	Senior	Spare capacity of 30	Spare capacity of 30
		Junior	Spare capacity of 62	Spare capacity of 62
Rugby union	Aspatria	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3.5
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 15.5	Shortfall of 22.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Allerdale	Full size, floodlit	Enough capacity but quality improvements required	Potential shortfalls and quality improvements required
Rugby league	Aspatria	Senior	Shortfall of 3.75	Shortfall of 5.25
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 20.5	Shortfall of 29
Tennis	Allerdale	Courts	At capacity	At capacity
Athletics	Allerdale		Shortfalls	Shortfalls

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

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Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³³	Cost ³⁴	Aim
2	Aspatia Rugby Union Football Club	CA7 2AJ	Rugby union	Sports club	Two senior pitches both of which are floodlit and of good quality (M2/D1) and one junior pitch that is not floodlit and standard quality (M1/D1). One of the senior pitches is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions whereas the junior pitch is played to capacity. The remaining senior pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Site is owned by Aspatia RUFC. The Club has plans to improve onsite ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore transfer of demand between the pitches to lower overplay. Explore potential options to improve pitch drainage. Assist the Club where possible to make improvements to ancillary provision.	Sports club RFU	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
4	Beacon Hill Community School	CA7 3EZ	Football	Education / Sports Club	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are played to capacity through curricular/extracurricular demand. Pitches are not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better sustain levels of curricular/extracurricular activity.	Education Sports club CFA FF EH RFL LTA	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
			Hockey suitable AGP		One poor quality floodlit small sized hockey suitable AGP that is available for community use. Built in 2008.	Improve pitch quality to better sustain levels of curricular/extracurricular activity.						
			Rugby league		One standard quality senior pitch that is overplayed by 3.75 match equivalent sessions. Pitch is on a lease to Aspatia Hornets RLFC. The Club has ambitions to create a second pitch in addition to creating pitch barriers and floodlights.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Assist the Club creating a second pitch in order to alleviate overplay on the site. Explore the potential of establishing pitch barriers and floodlights on the site.						
			Tennis		Two poor quality macadam courts that are not available for community nor are floodlit.	Improve pitch quality to better sustain levels of curricular/extracurricular activity.						
46	Memorial Park	CA7 3JF	Football	Town council	One poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. No ancillary provision on site.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime.	Town council CFA FF LTA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
			Tennis		One poor quality macadam court that is not floodlit.	Look to improve poor court quality based on levels of demand.						
56	Richmond Hill Primary School	CA7 3BQ	Football	Education	One standard youth 9v9 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to secure community access with a CUA in order to utilise spare capacity.	Education CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
68	St Michaels C of E Primary School	CA7 2HN	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to better sustain levels of curricular/extracurricular activity.	Education CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
95	Blennerhasset Playing Field	CA7 3RL	Cricket	Parish council	One standard quality NTP utilised by Isel CC. Site previously accommodated a grass wickets with its NTP.	Sustain quality and retain as current use. Explore reinstating grass wickets if future levels demand warrants.	Parish council ECB CCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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

³⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

COCKERMOUTH ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2030)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Cockermouth	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Allerdale	Adult	Shortfall of 8	Shortfall of 8
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 2.5
Football (3G pitches)	Cockermouth	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
Cricket	Cockermouth	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
		Junior	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
	Allerdale	Senior	Spare capacity of 30	Spare capacity of 30
		Junior	Spare capacity of 62	Spare capacity of 62
Rugby union	Cockermouth	Senior	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 3.5
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 15.5	Shortfall of 22.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Allerdale	Full size, floodlit	Enough capacity but quality improvements required	Potential shortfalls and quality improvements required
Rugby league	Cockermouth	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 4.5
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 20.5	Shortfall of 29
Tennis	Allerdale	Courts	At capacity	At capacity
Athletics	Allerdale		Shortfalls	Shortfalls

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

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Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³⁵	Cost ³⁶	Aim
11	Bridekirk Dovenby C of E Primary School	CA13 0PG	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular/extracurricular demand.	Education FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
12	Broughton Primary School Academy	CA13 0YT	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular/extracurricular demand.	Education FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
13	Broughton Red Rose ARLFC	CA13 0XW	Rugby league	Sports club	One poor quality senior pitch that is overplayed by 0.75 match equivalent sessions. Site is owned by Broughton Red Rose RLFC. The Club reports onsite ancillary provision is poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving the quality of onsite ancillary provision.	Sports club RFL	Local	L	M	L	Enhance
16	Cockermouth Cricket Club	CA13 0JB	Cricket	Sports club	Two standard quality grass squares; one with 15 grass wickets accompanied by a NTP and one with three grass wickets. There is marginal spare capacity to accommodate additional demand on Midweek. Site is owned by Cockermouth CC which reports issues of dog fouling and flooding.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity were possible to accommodate future demand or alleviate identified overplay. Explore potential ways in which to reduce the effects of flooding and dog fouling.	Sports club ECB CCB	Local	M	S	L	Enhance Protect
17	Cockermouth School	CA13 9HF	Football	Education	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and three mini 7v7 pitches all of which are poor quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions whereas the youth 11v11 is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. The mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. Pitches are used by Cockermouth JFC. The Club struggles to access onsite ancillary provision	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Look to secure tenure for Cockermouth JFC on the site through a CUA or lease. Examine allowing community users to readily access onsite ancillary provision.	Education Sports clubs FF, CFA RFU EH LTA ECB CCB	Key centre	H	S - M	H	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		One standard quality NTP used by Cockermouth Academical CC.	Sustain quality and retain as current use.						
			Rugby union		Three senior pitches all of which are poor quality (M0/D0). Pitches are considered played to capacity through curricular/extracurricular demand. Pitches are available for community use but are currently unused.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular/extracurricular demand. Once pitches have been improved examine increasing community access in order to alleviate identified levels of overplay.						
			Hockey suitable AGP		One full size floodlit hockey suitable AGP which is poor quality being last refurbished in 2015. Pitch is used by Keswick HC and Western Lakes HC. The Club struggles to access onsite ancillary provision	As a priority refurbish pitch carpet to ensure the continued use of the site for hockey. Examine allowing community users to readily access onsite ancillary provision.						
			Tennis		Three poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use however are not floodlit.	Improve court quality to better accommodate curricular/extracurricular demand. Once courts have been improved examine increasing community access.						
27	Fairfield Primary School	CA13 0DX	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch both of which are poor quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity through curricular/ extracurricular demand whereas the mini 7v7 pitch has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Once pitches have improved look to formalise CUA with community users in order to alleviate identified overplay.	Education FF, CFA	Local	M	S - M	L	Enhance
33	Grasmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RUFC)	CA13 9XQ	Football	Sports club	One poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Pitch is used by Cockermouth FC which	Assist the clubs in improving the drainage on the pitch in order to improve its quality and alleviate overplay.	Sports club RFU	Key centre	H	S - M	L - M	Protect Enhance

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

³⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³⁵	Cost ³⁶	Aim
					rents from Cockermouth RUFC. The clubs are in the process of securing funding to improve the drainage of both the football and rugby union pitches.		FF, CFA EH LTA					Provide
			Rugby union		One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that is not floodlit, one poor quality(M1/D0) senior that is floodlit and one poor quality (M1/D0) pitch that is not floodlit. The standard quality senior pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions, the poor quality pitch has spare capacity discounted due to quality and the junior pitch is played to capacity. The Club are in the process of securing funding to improve the drainage of both the football and rugby union pitches. The Club also reports aspirations to access more WR compliant 3G for training and competitive demand. This could potentially be linked to ongoing plans to develop 3G at Tarn Close by Cockermouth JFC.	Assist the clubs in improving the drainage on the pitches in order to improve its quality and alleviate overplay. Assist the Club in obtaining relevant funding to make the improvements. Explore the feasibility of working with Cockermouth JFC in the future regarding the development of a 3G pitch which could be used for rugby union demand.						
			Hockey suitable AGP / 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 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. Planning permission was granted for this development (FUL/2019/0273).	Assist the Club in obtaining relevant funding to resurface the disused macadam tennis courts to a multi sport surface including improvement to floodlighting. This has potential to be a Gen 2 surface.						
34	Highfield	CA13 9JF	Football	Sports club	One poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity due to over markings with rugby league. Site is accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Assist the Club in making pitch improvements in order to alleviate identified overplay. Explore the feasibility of making quality improvements to onsite ancillary provision.	Sports club FF, CFA RFL	Local	M	S - M	M - H	Enhance Provide
			Rugby league		Two senior pitches and one primary pitch all of which are poor quality. One of the senior pitches is played to capacity due to over markings with football. The remaining senior pitch is overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions. The primary pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session. Site is leased to Cockermouth Titans RLFC and is accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision. The Club indicates it has secured funding to make pitch improvements.							
71	Tarn Close	CA13 9TQ	Football / 3G	Sports club	One standard quality youth 9v9 overmarked by four mini 5v5 pitches overplayed by match equivalent sessions. The site is on a long term lease to Cockermouth JFC. The Club has a development plan to build a clubhouse.	Assist the Club in its development plans including obtaining relevant funds to create a clubhouse and additional grass pitches in order to alleviate identified overplay.	Sports club FF, CFA EA	Local	H	S - L	M - H	Protect Enhance Provide

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³⁵	Cost ³⁶	Aim
					create further grass pitches and eventual creation of a full size floodlit 3G pitch. This development would require the removal of the lapsed cinder athletics track. It is currently fund raising for the initial phase of the project (creation of a clubhouse)	Explore the feasibility of creating a full size floodlit 3G pitch on the site in order to alleviate identified shortfalls. This should also take into consideration potential demand from Cockermouth RUFC.						
			Athletics (Lapsed)		A lapsed cinder track which England Athletics indicates there is not sufficient enough demand to bring back into use. Although there is demand for athletics on the site.	If the athletics track is removed in order to develop the site for football it should be mitigated with monies being spent on investing in Athletics infrastructure withing the Borough. Confirmation would also be required to which stakeholder (Cockermouth Town Council or Cockermouth Juniors FC) would be required to contribute mitigations monies. Suggestions for mitigation include providing a compact/mini track of loop with a willingness for Cockermouth Junior FC to work with athletics to provide a grass track and area for throws.						
76	Wakefield Road	CA13 0LQ	Football	Sports club	One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions. 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.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels if maintenance. Assist the Club in making quality improvements to its ancillary provision. Utilise spare capacity for future demand or to alleviate identified levels of overplay.	Sports club FF, CFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
78	Welfare Field (Broughton Recreation Ground)	CA13 0LW	Football	Parish council	One youth 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance.	Parish council FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
92	Harris Park	CA13 0DF	Tennis	Council	Two good quality macadam courts that are not floodlit. According to recommendation five in the Cockermouth Sports Facilities Scoping Study (2018) the courts need floodlighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility and need for installing floodlights on the site. Look to maximise community use through partnership with the LTA.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
107	Dean C of E School	CA14 4TH	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular/extracurricular demand.	Education FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

KESWICK (LDNP) ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2030)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Keswick	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Allerdale	Adult	Shortfall of 8	Shortfall of 8
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 2.5
Football (3G pitches)	Keswick	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 0.25	Shortfall of 0.25
Cricket	Keswick	Senior	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
		Junior	Spare capacity of 20	Spare capacity of 20
	Allerdale	Senior	Spare capacity of 30	Spare capacity of 30
		Junior	Spare capacity of 62	Spare capacity of 62
Rugby union	Keswick	Senior	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6.5
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 15.5	Shortfall of 22.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Allerdale	Full size, floodlit	Enough capacity but quality improvements required	Potential shortfalls and quality improvements required
Rugby league	Keswick	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 20.5	Shortfall of 29
Tennis	Allerdale	Courts	At capacity	At capacity
Athletics	Allerdale		Shortfalls	Shortfalls

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³⁷	Cost ³⁸	Aim
9	Braithwaite C of E Primary School	CA12 5TD	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime to better sustain curricular/extracurricular demand.	Education FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
10	Braithwaite Cricket Club	CA12 5RY	Football	Sports club	One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity at peak time of one match equivalent session.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity for future demand or to alleviate overplay in the area.	Sports club FF, CFA ECB CCB LTA	Key centre	L	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
			Cricket		One standard quality square with six grass wickets. Square has capacity to accommodate demand Saturday, Sunday and Midweek. Lease to Braithwaite CC from the Braithwaite Institute.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity for future demand or to alleviate overplay in the area.						
			Tennis		Three good quality macadam courts, one of which is floodlit. Courts are on an annual lease to Keswick & Braithwaite TC from the Braithwaite Institute. The Club aspires to install floodlights on the remaining courts and to make improvement to ancillary facilities.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to secure club's tenure on a long term basis. Explore the feasibility of assisting the Club in installing floodlights and making improvements to ancillary facilities.						
14	Caldbeck Cricket Club	CA7 8DR	Cricket	Sports club	One standard quality square with five grass wickets accompanied by an NTP. Square is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions a season. Site has no capacity to accommodate any further demand and is owned by Caldbeck CC. The Club aspires for a mobile netting cage.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Assist the Club in obtaining a mobile netting cage. Explore increasing capacity on the site through creation of new grass wickets or greater utilisation of onsite NTP.	Sports club ECB CCB	Local	M	S	L	Enhance Provide
22	Eaglesfield Paddle C of E Primary Academy	CA13 0QY	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime to better sustain curricular/extracurricular demand.	Education FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
29	Fitz Park	CA12 4NF	Football	Trust	One poor quality adult pitch overmarked by a youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch. Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Pitches are used by Keswick FC and Keswick Juniors FC and suffer from waterlogging and compaction.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance or potential drainage works, if feasible. Explore the potential of creating independent pitches in order to alleviate overplay and overmarking.	Trust Town council FF CFA ECB CCB LTA	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		One standard quality square with 16 grass wickets. Square has capacity to accommodate additional on Sundays and Midweek.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity for future demand or to alleviate overplay in the area.						
			Tennis		Five grass and three macadam courts all of which are standard quality. The latter courts are floodlit with the former courts used by Keswick & Braithwaite TC during the summer.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.						
37	Keswick Football Club	CA12 5PY	Football	Trust	One standard quality adult that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.						

³⁷ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

³⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³⁷	Cost ³⁸	Aim
38	Keswick Rugby Football Club	CA12 5EG	Rugby union	Sports club	Two senior and two mini pitches that are good quality (M2/D2). Both senior pitches are floodlit. For actual capacity pitches have been lowered to a M2/D1 rating due to issues with flooding. As a result, the senior pitches are overplayed by a total of six match equivalent sessions. The mini pitches have no spare capacity at peak time. Site is owned by Keswick RUFC. Current ancillary provision is poor quality due to issues with flooding with the Club fundraising to build a new clubhouse in a more suitable location.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. As there are limits to increase capacity at the current site look to transfer match and training demand off in order to reduce levels of overplay. Assist the Club in creation a new clubhouse in a more suitable location to minimise potential impacts from future flooding. Explore the feasibility of relocating the Club to a more suitable site.	Sports club RFU Sport England Council LDNP	Local	H	S - M	M - H	Protect Enhance Provide
39	Keswick School	CA12 5QB	Football	Education	Two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches that are played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular demand. The School reports pitches suffer from flooding and water logging. It has plans to improve the drainage of the pitches.	Explore the feasibility of improving the drainage on the site.	Education FF CFA ECB CCB RFU EH LTA	Key centre	L	M - L	S - M	Protect Enhance Provide
			Cricket		One standard quality NTP that is not available for community use.	Sustain quality and retain as current use.						
			Rugby union		One poor quality (M1/D0) junior pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. The School reports pitches suffer from flooding and water logging. It has plans to improve the drainage of the pitches.	Explore the feasibility of improving the drainage on the site. If drainage can be improved explore formalising a CUA agreement with clubs (Keswick RFC) in order to alleviate identified shortfalls.						
			Hockey suitable AGP / 3G		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.	Explore the feasibility of creating a multi use games area on the site in order to cater demand from the School and community users. Further feasibility work would also be required to understand the dimensions and surface type of such a development.						
			Tennis		Four poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit nor available for community use.	Improve court quality better sustain curricular/extracurricular demand						
90	Armathwaite Hall Hotel	CA12 4RE	Tennis	Private	One standard quality macadam court that is available for community use but is not floodlit.	Sustain quality and retain as current use.	Private LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
93	Lorton Tennis Club	CA13 9UL	Tennis	Sports club	Two floodlit artificial and one macadam court that is not floodlit. All courts are good quality and owned by Lorton TC. The Club has plans to upgrade its floodlights to LED.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Assist the Club in upgrading its floodlights to LED.	Sports club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
104	Borrowdale CE Primary School	CA12 5XG	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime to better sustain curricular/extracurricular demand.	Education FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
106	Boltons C of E Primary School	CA7 8PA	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime to better sustain curricular/extracurricular demand.	Education FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
109	Keswick School (Unattached Playing Fields)	CA12 5EG	Football Rugby union	Education	One adult and one youth 9v9 football pitch and two senior rugby union pitches. All pitches are standard quality and have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. The School reports pitches suffer from flooding and water logging. It has plans to improve the drainage of the pitches.	Explore the feasibility of improving the drainage on the site. If drainage can be improved explore formalising a CUA agreement with clubs such as Keswick RUFC in order to provide additional capacity.	Education FF, CFA RFU	Local	M	M	S - M	Enhance

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

MARYPORT ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2030)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Maryport	Adult	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 3.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 0.5
	Allerdale	Adult	Shortfall of 8	Shortfall of 8
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 2.5
Football (3G pitches)	Maryport	Full size, floodlit	At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Maryport	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
		Junior	At capacity	At capacity
	Allerdale	Senior	Spare capacity of 30	Spare capacity of 30
		Junior	Spare capacity of 62	Spare capacity of 62
Rugby union	Maryport	Senior	Shortfall of 2.25	Shortfall of 5
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 15.5	Shortfall of 22.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Allerdale	Full size, floodlit	Enough capacity but quality improvements required	Potential shortfalls and quality improvements required
Rugby league	Maryport	Senior	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 9.75
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 20.5	Shortfall of 29
Tennis	Allerdale	Courts	At capacity	At capacity
Athletics	Allerdale		Shortfalls	Shortfalls

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³⁹	Cost ⁴⁰	Aim
18	Crosby Villa Playing Field	CA15 6TG	Football (Lapsed)	Parish Council	The site has historically accommodated one adult pitch; however, it has not been used for several years and is now just an area of greenspace.	Site has the potential to alleviate identified shortfalls. Determine future use of the provision based on the following priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and mitigate loss to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements.	Parish council FF CFA	Local	M	S	L	Protect
19	Crosscanonby St. Johns C of E School	CA15 6RX	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular/extracurricular demand.	Education FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
21	Dearham Primary School	CA15 7HR	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular/extracurricular demand.	Education FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
26	Ennerdale Road	CA15 7ND	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. Maryport Amateurs FC is in discussions with the Council to take on a long term lease of the site, however, has issues with specifics within the contract which will make it liable for covering vandalism costs.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to agree a suitable lease arrangement for Maryport Amateurs FC to lease the site from the Council. If a lease can be arranged with Maryport Amateurs FC, explore the feasibility of development the site and adjacent land further with additional pitches and ancillary provision.	Council Sports club FF CFA	Local	H	S - M	L - M	Protect Enhance Provide
30	Flimby West Lane	CA15 8QW	Football (Rugby league)	Council	One youth 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to its poor quality. It has previously been a senior rugby league pitch.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Examine as a potential site to assist in the development and growth of Maryport Athletic FC and Marport Amateurs FC.	Council FF CFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
31	Flimby Junior Football Pitch	CA15 8QJ	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity for future demand or to alleviate identified shortfalls. Examine as a potential site to assist in the development and growth of Maryport Athletic FC and Marport Amateurs FC.	Council FF CFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
32	Grasslot Welfare W.M.C. (Elbra Rangers ARLFC)	CA15 8DD	Football Rugby league	Sports club	One standard quality senior rugby league pitch overmarked by an adult football pitch. As a result, it is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. The site is leased to Ellenborough Rangers RLFC. The Club aspires to erect fencing around the pitch.	Improve pitch quality in order to alleviate overplay due to overmarking. Assist the Club in its aspirations to erect fencing around the pitch.	Sports club RFL FF CFA	Local	L	S - M	L - M	Protect Provide
43	Maryport ARLFC	CA15 6NE	Football	Sports club	One standard quality youth 11v11 which is overmarked onto a senior rugby league pitch. No actual spare capacity due to overmarking. Used by Maryport Athletic FC when not being used by Maryport RLFC. The football club report also having ad hoc use of ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to provide additional pitches for Maryport Athletic FC (Milloft Field) to access in order to alleviate overmarking.	Sports club RFL FF CFA	Local	M	S - M	L - M	Protect Enhance
			3G		One good quality small size floodlit 3G pitch which is FA certified. Built in 2018	Sustain quality and retain as current use.						

³⁹ (S) - Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

⁴⁰ (L) - Low - less than £50k; (M) - Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) - High £250k and above

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³⁹	Cost ⁴⁰	Aim
					and used for both football and rugby league demand.							
			Rugby league		One standard quality senior pitch that is overplayed by five match equivalent sessions. Pitch is used primarily for Maryport RLFC training and competitive demand but is also used for football. Site is leased to Maryport RLFC which aspires to create a pitch barrier and improve the quality of its ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to provide additional pitches for Maryport Athletic FC (Milltoft Field) to access in order to alleviate overmarking. Explore the feasibility assisting the Club in creating a pitch barrier and planned improvements to ancillary provision						
44	Maryport Church of England Junior School	CA15 6JN	Football	Education	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.	Assist Maryport Amateurs FC in creating pitch provision for its mini teams at the School and assist in pitch preparations. Look to secure tenure for the Club on the site through a CUA.	Education FF CFA	Local	H	S	L	Provide
47	Milltoft Field	CA15 8AL	Football	Sports club	One standard quality adult pitch that is overmarked by a youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches resulting in 0.75 match equivalent sessions of overplay. Maryport Athletic FC has a short term lease on the site that it aspires to extend to a least 25 years. If long term tenure can be obtained the Club plans to apply for funding to improve pitch quality, create onsite ancillary provision and potential additional pitches.	As priority secure long term tenure for Maryport Athletic FC. Once tenure has been secured assist the Club in applying/obtaining funding to make pitch improvements, create new pitches and create onsite ancillary provision.	Sports club Council FF CFA	Local	H	S - M	M - H	Protect Provide Enhance
50	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	CA15 6NT	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch all of which are standard quality and not available for community use. Both Maryport Athletic FC and Maryport Amateurs FC report enquiring to access the pitches however have been unsuccessful.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to secure community access to the pitches through a CUA in order to provide capacity for both Maryport clubs and alleviate identified levels of overplay.	Education Council FF CFA	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
			3G		One full size floodlit 3G pitch that if FA certified. Pitch is poor quality having been installed in 2004/05.	As priority ensure the pitch is refurbished as like for like replacement. Ensure once refurbished in remains on the FA register. Explore the feasibility of making the surface RFL compliant in order to alleviate identified overplay. Ensure accessibility for external community users.						
			Cricket		One standard quality NTP that is available for community use but is unused.	Sustain quality and retain as current use.						
			Tennis		Four good quality macadam courts that are floodlit and used by Maryport TC. The Club indicates its relationship with the school is good however it would benefit form a dedicated coach.	Sustain court quality and retain as current use. Explore the feasibility of hiring a dedication coach to work in cohesion with the School and Club.						
51	Netherhall Rugby Union FC	CA15 6NT	Football Rugby	Sports club	Three poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitches one of which is floodlit. One of the pitches	Look to secure tenure on the site for Maryport Amateurs FC. If this cannot be	Sports club RFU	Local	M	S - M	L - M	Protect Enhance

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³⁹	Cost ⁴⁰	Aim
			union		without floodlights is overmarked by one adult, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 football pitch resulting it being overplayed by 2.25 match equivalent sessions. The floodlit pitch is played to capacity with the remaining pitch having spare capacity discounted due to quality. The site is owned by Netherhall RUFC which consists of three girls teams. The Club has plans to improve the drainage on the pitches and to grow its levels of demand. The football pitches are used by Maryport Amateurs FC however the Club has been asked to relocate off the site by Netherhall RUFC for the start of 2021 season. As a result, the football club is struggling to find suitable alternative provision.	done look to secure alternative suitable provision to cater for the club's demand including but not limited to Netherhall Community Sports Centre, Maryport Church of England Junior School and Ennerdale Road. Assist Netherhall RUFC in improving pitch drainage and growing its levels of participation.	FF CFA Council					
54	Pottery Park	CA15 7EL	Football	Sports club	One standard quality adult that is played to capacity. Dearham Rangers FC has plans to carry on pitch improvement and aspires to improve poor quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Support and assist, where possible, pitch and ancillary provision improvements.	Sports club FF CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
57	Sandy Lonning Community Sports Field	CA15 8JB	Rugby league	Sports club	One standard quality senior pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Site is owned by Glasston 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.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity for future demand or to alleviate identified shortfalls. Assist the Club in its plans in developing additional land for additional pitches/training area.	Sports club RFL	Local	M	M – L	L	Protect Provide
75	Village Field	CA15 7SG	Football	Parish council	One youth 11v11 and one mini 5v5 pitch both of which are standard quality. Each pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity for future demand or to alleviate identified shortfalls. Examine as a potential site to assist in the development and growth of Maryport Athletic FC and Maryport Amateurs FC.	Parish council FF CFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

SILLOTH ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2030)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Silloth	Adult	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
	Allerdale	Adult	Shortfall of 8	Shortfall of 8
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 2.5
Football (3G pitches)	Silloth	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 0.25	Shortfall of 0.5
Cricket	Silloth	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
		Junior	At capacity	At capacity
	Allerdale	Senior	Spare capacity of 30	Spare capacity of 30
		Junior	Spare capacity of 62	Spare capacity of 62
Rugby union	Silloth	Senior	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 15.5	Shortfall of 22.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Allerdale	Full size, floodlit	Enough capacity but quality improvements required	Potential shortfalls and quality improvements required
Rugby league	Silloth	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 20.5	Shortfall of 29
Tennis	Allerdale	Courts	At capacity	At capacity
Athletics	Allerdale		Shortfalls	Shortfalls

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁴¹	Cost ⁴²	Aim
1	Abbeytown Recreation Field	CA7 4TE	Football	Sports club	One standard quality adult pitch that is overmarked by a youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch. Overall, the pitch is overplayed by 2.75 match equivalent sessions.	Examine the potential of creating new pitches in order to alleviate overplay and overmarking. Alternatively look to secure access to surrounding sites in order to transfer demand of the pitch to alleviate overplay.	Sports club CFA FF	Key centre	H	S	L - M	Protect Provide
24	Eden Street Playing Fields	CA7 4AR	Football	Sports club	One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all of which are standard quality. There is spare of one, 0.5 and 0.5 match equivalent sessions respectively on each pitch. Silloth Juniors FC aspires to improve ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity for future demand of to alleviate identified overplayed sites.	Sports club CFA FF RFU Parish Council	Key centre	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
			3G		One good quality small size floodlit 3G pitch which is available for community use	Sustain quality and retain as current use. Ensure the is a sinking fund in situ.						
			Rugby union		One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Pitch is used by Silloth RUFC	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity for future demand of to alleviate identified overplayed sites.						
35	Holm Cultram Abbey C of E School	CA7 4RU	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better sustain levels of curricular/extracurricular activity.	Education CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
61	Skinburness Road Playing Field	CA7 4DU	Football	Town Council	One mini 5v5 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to its poor quality.	Improve pitch quality with an enhanced maintenance regime based on levels of demand.	Town Council CFA FF LTA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
			Tennis		Two poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit. Courts are used by Silloth on Solway TC. The Club aspires to increase its levels of demand.	Look to enhance court quality and membership numbers to help the sustainability of the courts. Look to involve the LTA in the process where needed.						
62	Solway Community School	CA7 4DD	Football	Education	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all of which are standard quality and not available for community use.	Sustain quality and retain as current use.	Education CFA FF RFU LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Rugby union		Two poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitched that are not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better sustain levels of curricular/extracurricular activity.						
			Tennis		Two poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit nor available for community use.	Retain as current use.						

⁴¹ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

⁴² (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

WIGTON ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2030)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Wigton	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Allerdale	Adult	Shortfall of 8	Shortfall of 8
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 2.5
Football (3G pitches)	Wigton	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
Cricket	Wigton	Senior	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
		Junior	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
	Allerdale	Senior	Spare capacity of 30	Spare capacity of 30
		Junior	Spare capacity of 62	Spare capacity of 62
Rugby union	Wigton	Senior	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.75
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 15.5	Shortfall of 22.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Allerdale	Full size, floodlit	Enough capacity but quality improvements required	Potential shortfalls and quality improvements required
Rugby league	Wigton	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 20.5	Shortfall of 29
Tennis	Allerdale	Courts	At capacity	At capacity
Athletics	Allerdale		Shortfalls	Shortfalls

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁴³	Cost ⁴⁴	Aim
3	Barton Laws	CA7 9RG	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. 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.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Continue in the creation of new ancillary facilities.	Council FF CFA Sport England	Local	M	S - M	M	Protect Enhance
23	East End Play Area and Soccer Pitch	CA7 9JH	Football	Town Council	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but is unused.	Improve pitch quality if there is an increase in demand.	Town Council FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
49	Nelson Tomlinson School	CA7 9PX	Football	Education	Three adult and two youth 9v9 pitches all of which are poor quality. Each pitch is played to capacity through curricular/extracurricular demand. 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.	Assist the School in improving the quality of all its outdoor sporting provision in order to better cater for levels of curricular/extracurricular and community demand. This includes exploring drainage solutions for its playing field, enhancing levels of maintenance and refurbishment of its NTP and tennis courts. In order to maximise potential funding streams, and to secure tenure, look to secure community users on a long term basis through a CUA or lease. Also look at the feasibility of creating dedicated ancillary provision on site for Wigton TC.	Education FF CFA RFU LTA	Key centre	M	S - M	M	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		One poor quality NTP that is used for external cricket. 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.							
			Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitch that is played to capacity through curricular/extracurricular demand. 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.							
			Tennis		Three artificial and three macadam courts all of which are poor quality and floodlit. Courts are used by Wigton TC. The Club has ambitions to improve court quality and establish its own ancillary provision onsite.							
55	Public Park at Wigton	CA7 9RD	Football	Town Council	One standard quality mini 7v7 and one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch. There is actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on the mini 7v7 pitch whereas the spare capacity on the youth 9v9 pitch is discounted due to quality.	Sustain standard quality pitch through appropriate levels of maintenance. Improve poor quality pitch through enhanced levels of maintenance/drainage.	Town Council FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
73	Thursby Playing Fields	CA5 6PE	Football	Parish Council	One youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch both of which are good quality. The former pitch is played to capacity at peak time whereas the latter has spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate identified overplay or to accommodate future demand.	Parish Council FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

⁴³ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

⁴⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁴³	Cost ⁴⁴	Aim
74	Thursby Primary School	CA5 6PN	Football	Education	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular/extracurricular demand.	Education FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
81	Wigton Infant School	CA7 9JR	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 and two mini 7v7 pitches all of which are poor quality. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular/extracurricular demand.	Education FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
82	Wigton Sports & Fitness Club	CA7 9QT	Cricket	Sports club	One standard quality square with 12 grass wickets accompanied by an NTP. Square has no spare capacity on a Saturday but can accommodate demand both Sundays and Midweek. Wigton CC reports a need for a mobile netting cage.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to utilise spare capacity for future demand including junior and women/girls' cricket. Explore the feasibility assisting the club in obtaining a mobile netting cage.	Sports club RFU EH ECB CCB	Key centre	M	S - M	H	Protect Enhance
			Rugby union		Two poor quality (M1/D0) junior pitches and one standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch none of which are floodlit. All pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Wigton RUFC aspires to improve the poor quality pitches, however, cannot currently afford to do so. The Club also aspires to install floodlights on one of its pitches in order to utilise for training, alleviate demand off the onsite AGP. Wigton RUFC has plans to develop its ancillary provision in order to better cater for onsite sports clubs in addition to community demand.	Assist the Club in improving pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance. Assist the Club in enhancing ancillary provision in order to better cater for levels of demand. Explore the feasibility of installing floodlights. If floodlights can be created look to transfer demand off the AGP onto the grass pitch for training.						
			Hockey suitable AGP		One full size floodlit hockey suitable AGP which is poor quality being last refurbished in 2009. Pitch is used by Wigton HC and Dalston Ladies HC. It is also used by Wigton RUFC for training which is causing capacity issues.	As a priority refurbish pitch carpet to ensure the continued use of the site for hockey. Work to create additional capacity on rugby union pitches (pitch improvements/floodlights) in order to free capacity on the AGP.						
102	Anthorn Sports Club	CA7 5AJ	Tennis	Sports club	Two good quality macadam courts that are not floodlit. Courts are used by Kirkbride & Anthorn TC.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility of installing floodlights is demand increases.	Sports club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
103	Kirkbride Tennis Courts	CA7 5HY	Tennis	Sports club	Two standard quality grass courts that are not floodlit used by Kirkbride & Anthorn TC.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

WORKINGTON ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2030)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Workington	Adult	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 1
		Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
	Allerdale	Adult	Shortfall of 8	Shortfall of 8
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Shortfall of 2.5
Football (3G pitches)	Workington	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
Cricket	Workington	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
		Junior	Spare capacity of 8	Spare capacity of 8
	Allerdale	Senior	Spare capacity of 30	Spare capacity of 30
		Junior	Spare capacity of 62	Spare capacity of 62
Rugby union	Workington	Senior	Shortfall of 2.25	Shortfall of 3.75
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 15.5	Shortfall of 22.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Allerdale	Full size, floodlit	Enough capacity but quality improvements required	Potential shortfalls and quality improvements required
Rugby league	Workington	Senior	Shortfall of 7.75	Shortfall of 9.5
	Allerdale	Senior	Shortfall of 20.5	Shortfall of 29
Tennis	Allerdale	Courts	Shortfalls in Workington	Shortfalls in Workington
Athletics	Allerdale		Shortfalls	Shortfalls

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁴⁵	Cost ⁴⁶	Aim
5	Beckstone Primary School	CA14 5PX	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular/extracurricular demand.	Education FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
7	Borough Park (Workington Reds FC)	CA14 2DT	Football / Rugby league	Sports club	One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. Site is accompanied by standard quality ancillary facilities. All provision meets Step 4 non league football requirements and is used by Workington AFC. Site is identified for a potential Community Sports Village with Workington Town RLFC. This is outlined in greater detail above in Part 4: Sport specific issues, scenarios and recommendations.	Using the scenario in Part 4: Sport specific issues, scenarios and recommendations explore the feasibility of implementing Option three whilst also taking into thought the referenced other considerations. If development doesn't take place look to invest into improving both pitch and ancillary provision.	Sports club FF CFA RFL Council Town Council SE	Hub site (If CSV⁴⁷ plans are undertaken)	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
15	Cloffocks	CA14 1AG	Football (Disused)	Council	There is one disused youth 9v9 pitch at Cloffocks 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.	Site has the potential to alleviate identified shortfalls. Determine future use of the provision based on the following priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and mitigate loss to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements.	Council FF CFA	Local	M	S	L	Enhance Provide
20	Curwen Park	CA14 4AA	Football	Council	Three adult and one youth 11v11 pitch all of which are poor quality. Spare capacity is discounted due to quality. Site is not accompanied by ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality in order to alleviate identified shortfalls. Explore the feasibility of creating onsite ancillary provision.	Council FF, CFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
25	Ellis Sports Ground	CA14 3XZ	Rugby union	Sports club	One senior and one junior pitch both of which are floodlit and standard quality (M1/D1). The senior pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions whereas the junior pitch is overplayed by 3.25 match equivalent sessions. Site is leased to Workington RUFC by the Ellis Trust. The Club aspires to also secure tenure of The Paddock, Jane Pit and Mossbay Road Football Pitch under one agreement in order to establish a sporting hub in Workington. If successful it would then allow users of the site to use ancillary provision at Ellis Sports Ground and look to invest in improving each site pitch quality. It states it does not plan to alter the pitch provision at each site and will work in cohesion with any other users.	Explore the feasibility of Workington RUFC securing tenure of The Paddock, Jane Pit and Mossbay Road Football Pitch in order to create a sporting hub. Once tenure has been secured look to improve pitch quality across each site and establish accessibility to ancillary provision at Ellis Sports Ground. In addition, secure tenure for all community users such as Workington Diamonds Girls FC. Assist in reinstating provision at Mossbay Road Football Pitch as useable playing field. Look to improve ancillary provision based on a potential increase in demand. If sites are to remain separate look to improve each sites provision through enhanced levels of maintenance.	Sports club RFU	Potential Hub site	H	M	L - M	Protect Enhance Provide
36	Jane Pit	CA14 3TN	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. Site is not accompanied by ancillary provision.							
98	Mossbay Road Football Pitch	CA14 3XZ	Football (Lapsed)	Council	The site, which last contained an adult football pitch, 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 demand. Site is not accompanied by ancillary provision.							

⁴⁵ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

⁴⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

⁴⁷ Community sports village

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁴⁵	Cost ⁴⁶	Aim
108	The Paddock (Workington RUFC)	CA14 3XZ	Rugby union	Council	One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that has actual spare capacity 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Workington RUFC plans to formalise a long term lease for the Paddock (Council). Site is not accompanied by ancillary provision.							
40	Lakes College (West Cumbria)	CA14 4JN	3G	Education	One full size floodlit 3G pitch which is FIFA and WR compliant. Pitch is good quality having been built in 2016.	Sustain quality and retain as current use. Ensure the pitch remains on the FIFA and WR register.	Education FF CFA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
			Football (Disused)		Lakes College has 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.	If demand increases bring back into use. If demand does not increase retain as current use.						
41	Ling Beck	CA14 1BD	Football (Lapsed)	Education	The site has historically accommodated one adult pitch; however, it has not been used for several years and is now just an area of greenspace.	Site has the potential to alleviate identified shortfalls. Determine future use of the provision based on the following priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and mitigate loss to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements.	Parish council FF, CFA	Local	M	S	L	Enhance Provide
48	Moorclose Playing Fields	CA14 5BF	Football	Council	Three poor quality adult pitches that have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. 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 S106 monies allocated to improving its quality.	Explore the feasibility in establishing Moorclose Playing Fields as a grass pitch hub site. This would require the reinstatement of disused pitches on the site and Workington Fire Station, the enhancement of pitch quality and creation of relevant ancillary provision. Explore the potential of partial funding of the above through S106/mitigation where feasible. Examine the site as a potential for Workington Reds JFC if it cannot secure tenure at The Ranch.	Council County Council RFU FF CFA Sport England	Local	H	S	M - H	Protect Enhance Provide
110	Workington Fire Station Pitch	CA14 5BF	Football / Rugby union (Disused)	County Council	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.							
59	Seaton Juniors FC (Meadow Vale)	CA14 1SG	Football	Sports club	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 both of which are poor quality. The youth 11v11 is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions whereas the youth 9v9 is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. Both the pitches and poor quality ancillary facilities have been identified for improvements.	Improve pitch quality based on findings of the feasibility study considering both increasing pitch maintenance and refurbishment of drainage. Explore the feasibility of creating a single story clubhouse on the site.	Sports club FF CFA	Local	M	S - M	M	Enhance
60	Seaton Rangers ARLFC	CA14 1NP	Rugby league	CISWO	One standard quality senior pitch which is overplayed by six match equivalent	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Look to secure long	CISWO Sports club	Local	M	S	L	Enhance Provide

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁴⁵	Cost ⁴⁶	Aim
					sessions. Seaton Rangers RLFC rents the site on an annual basis from CISWO. the Club reports plans to create a secondary pitch at its site,	term tenure on the site from Seaton Rangers RLFC. Assist the Club in its plans to create a second pitch in order to alleviate identified shortfalls.	RFL					
66	St Josephs Catholic High School	CA14 3EE	Hockey suitable AGP Tennis	Education	One poor quality small size 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. The AGP is marked with three tennis courts, however, is not used for hockey.	As priority look to refurbish the AGP with further feasibility required to understand what the best suited surface would be based on demand.	Education EH LTA	Local	M	S	M	Enhance
72	The Ranch	CA14 5AE	Football	Private	One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of which are standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity and the mini 5v5 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Comparatively the adult pitch is overplayed by three match equivalent sessions whereas the mini 7v7 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. 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. It states that if it cannot raise the substantial amount of capital required it will need to relocate its entire demand. It should be noted the Club expresses concerns on how it can obtain the monies. It also states that if it had to relocate it would struggle to find suitable pitch provision within its locality. 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.	As a priority assist Workington Reds JFC in securing tenure on the site through either purchase or long term lease. Once security of tenure has been secured look to assist the Club in improving onsite ancillary provision and pitch improvements.	Private Sports club FF, CFA	Local	H	S - M	M - H	Protect Enhance
77	Walker Road Pitches	CA14 5EX	Football	Private	One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 all of which are poor quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions with all other pitches having spare capacity discounted due to quality. Site is accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhance levels of maintenance. Look to secure tenure for community users through a CUA/lease agreement. Examine the feasibility of improving poor quality ancillary provision.	Private Sports club FF, CFA	Local	M	S	L - M	Enhance
83	Workington Academy	CA14 4EB	Football 3G Cricket	Education	One youth 11v11 standard quality that is not available for community use. 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. One standard quality NTP that is not available for community use.	Sustain quality and retain as current use. Assist the School in its application for a small size 3G pitch to better accommodate curricular and extra curricular demand. Ensure the pitch is available for community use. Sustain quality and retain as current use.	Education FF, CFA ECB CCB RFU LTA	Key centre	H	S - M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁴⁵	Cost ⁴⁶	Aim
			Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitch that is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular/extracurricular demand.						
			Tennis		Three poor quality macadam courts that are available for community but are not floodlit.	Improve court quality to better accommodate curricular/extracurricular demand. Look to maximise community use.						
85	Workington Cricket Club (Ernest Valentine Cricket Ground)	CA14 3DB	Football	Sports club	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 all of which are standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure with both mini pitches being played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore securing community use from Workington CC with a CUA, lease of licence agreement.	Sports club FF, CFA ECB CCB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		One standard square one with 15 grass wickets accompanied by one NTP. In addition, there is one standalone NTP. All provision is good quality. Site is owned by Workington CC. Site has capacity to accommodate additional demand on a Sunday and Midweek.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.						
86	Workington Leisure Centre	CA14 2DX	3G / Tennis	Council	Three standard quality small sized 3G pitches that are available for community use and are floodlit.	Sustain quality and retain as current use. Based on future levels of demand look at the feasibility of refurbishing the pitches to accommodate tennis demand given the identified shortfall within Workington.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
88	Workington Town RLFC (Derwent Park)	CA14 2HG	Rugby league	Sports club	One good quality senior pitch that is played to capacity. Site is accompanied by standard quality ancillary facilities. Site is identified to potentially be impacted by the creation of a Community Sports Village. This is outlined in greater detail above in Part 4: Sport specific issues, scenarios and recommendations.	If the Community Sports Village is confirmed ensure the site is retained during its construction to allow for both Workington Town RLFC and Workington AFC to play fixtures. If development doesn't take place look to invest in ancillary provision. Ensure any development of either the Derwent Park or Borough Park meets Sport England and NPPF guidelines.	Sports club Council RFL SE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
89	Rosemary Gardens Playground (William Street)	CA14 1UH	Rugby league	Sports club	One poor quality senior pitch that is overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions. Leased to Gt Clifton Junior Lions RLFC.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports club RFL	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
91	Harrington Lawn Tennis Club	CA14 5PS	Tennis	Sports club	Two grass and two clay macadam courts all of which are poor quality. Courts have been used by Harrington TC, however, it is unknown if the Club has folded.	Improve court quality through enhanced levels of maintenance. Or look to refurbish to an all weather surface (macadam/artificial). Look to make the courts available for the wider community in Workington given identified shortfalls in the area.	Sports club LTA	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
99	Salterbeck Road	CA14 5HA	Rugby league (Lapsed)	Council	The site has historically accommodated one senior pitch; however, it has not been used for several years and is now just an area of greenspace.	Site has the potential to alleviate identified shortfalls. Determine future use of the provision based on the following priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and mitigate loss to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements.	Council RFL	Local	M	S	L	Protect
101	Eastman (Lowca Lane)	CA14 1LG	Football (Lapsed)	Private	The site has historically accommodated one adult pitch; however, it has not been used for several years and is now just an	Site has the potential to alleviate identified shortfalls. Determine future use of the provision based on the following priority	Council FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Post code	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁴⁵	Cost ⁴⁶	Aim
					area of greenspace.	order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and mitigate loss to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements.	CFA					
105	Victoria Infant and Nursery School (Islay Place)	CA14 3XB	Football (Disused)	County Council	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. 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.	Site has the potential to alleviate identified shortfalls. Determine future use of the provision based on the following priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and mitigate loss to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements.	County Council FF CFA RFU	Local	-	-	-	Protect
112	Southfield Technology College	CA14 5BF	Football Rugby union Tennis (Lapsed)	County Council	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 Sports England Playing Field Policy.	Site has the potential to alleviate identified shortfalls. Determine future use of the provision based on the following priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and mitigate loss to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements.	County Council FF CFA RFU LTA	Local	-	-	-	Protect
113	Vulcan Park	CA14 2QA	Tennis (Lapsed)	Council	Historically there has 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.	Based on future levels of demand within Workington look at the feasibility of reinstating the courts.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2030 (in line with the Plan Review period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England New Development Playing Pitch Calculator (NDC) adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates (TGRs) in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

Experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For large scale developments, it is likely that demand will be potentially generated for larger sports such as football and/or cricket. Consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and carparking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for pitch sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, contributions should be used to enhance existing provision in the locality through, for example, improving quality or providing new or improved ancillary provision. The Action Plan in this document, as well as consultation with appropriate NGBs, should be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

The scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches.

The indicative figure assume that population growth will average 2.2⁴⁸ per dwelling. The indicative figure will be applied to the scenario as follows:

- ◀ **Scenario One** - additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from 60 dwellings by Land adjacent to Aspatria Rugby Club, Station Road
- ◀ **Scenario Two** - additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from 300 dwellings by White Croft, Maryport
- ◀ **Scenario Three**- additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from an accumulative 460 dwellings in the Workington Analysis Area
- ◀ **Scenario Four**- additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from an accumulative 125 dwellings in the Keswick Analysis Area

Please note that scenarios take into consideration training demand for the individual sports which will give an exact requirement for provision required by housing growth.

⁴⁸ The occupancy rate of 2.2 is in line with figures used in the 2011 Census.

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In addition, the examples of the Sport England New Development Playing Pitch Calculator used in each of the abovementioned scenarios have been provided on the basis that there is no adjustment in future demand (from participation growth) over and above population growth. It is suggested that this is monitored and updated as part of the Stage E review to monitor the impact of the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic and its likely impact on future participation levels.

Scenario One – Land adjacent to Aspatia Rugby Club, Station Road

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 60 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.2 per household is 132 people.

This population increase equates to 0.2 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.01 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 0.53 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 0.3 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 0.03 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.05 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union and rugby league on a floodlit grass pitch.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 60 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 60 dwellings	
	Match demand (MES) per week ⁴⁹	Training demand ⁵⁰
Adult football	0.03	0.3 hours
Youth football	0.06	
Mini soccer	0.06	
Rugby union	0.03	0.03 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.02	0.02 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.01	0.02 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.00	0.01 hours
Cricket	0.53	-

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

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ⁵¹	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ⁵²	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.03	£2,735	£577	0.06	£9,435
Youth football	0.06	£4,642	£975	0.07	£11,506
Mini soccer	0.06	£1,584	£333	0	£0
Rugby union	0.03	£3,689	£789	0.05	£9,090

⁴⁹ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

⁵⁰ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

⁵¹ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

⁵² Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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Rugby league	0.02	£1,918	£424		0.03	£5,753
Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches				Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ⁵³	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ⁵⁴		Number	Capital cost
Cricket	0.01	£3,472	£701		0.02	£4,060
Sand based AGPs	0.00	£1,401	£43		0	£582
3G	0.01	£7,789	£291		0.02	£2,701
Total	0	£27,230	£4,133		0.25	£43, 127

Scenario Two – White Croft, Maryport

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 300 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.2 per household is 660 people.

This population increase equates to 0.96 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.05 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 2.65 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 1.5 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 0.12 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.26 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union and rugby league on a floodlit grass pitch.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 300 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 300 dwellings	
	Match demand (MES) per week ⁵⁵	Training demand ⁵⁶
Adult football	0.14	1.50 hours
Youth football	0.29	
Mini soccer	0.32	
Rugby union	0.13	0.15 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.08	0.11 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.03	0.09 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.02	0.03 hours
Cricket	2.65	-

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

⁵³ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

⁵⁴ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

⁵⁵ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

⁵⁶ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

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Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ⁵⁷	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ⁵⁸	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.14	£13,674	£2,885	0.28	£47,174
Youth football	0.29	£23,212	£4,874	0.34	£57,529
Mini soccer	0.32	£7,921	£1,663	0	£0
Rugby union	0.13	£18,443	£3,947	0.27	£45,448
Rugby league	0.08	£9,588	£2,119	0.17	£28,765
Cricket	0.06	£17,358	£3,506	0.12	£20,300
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£45,950	£1,673	0.1	£16,415
3G	0.04	£7,003	£217	0.02	£2,911
Total	0	£182,096	£22,340	1.38	£232, 046

Scenario Three – Workington Analysis Area

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 460 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.2 per household is 1,012 people.

This population increase equates to 1.48 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.09 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 4.07 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 2.30 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 0.19 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.40 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union and rugby league on a floodlit grass pitch.

Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 460 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 460 dwellings	
	Match demand (MES) per week ⁵⁹	Training demand ⁶⁰
Adult football	0.21	2.30 hours
Youth football	0.45	
Mini soccer	0.49	
Rugby union	0.20	0.23 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.13	0.17 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.05	0.14 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.04	0.05 hours
Cricket	4.07	-

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

⁵⁷ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

⁵⁸ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

⁵⁹ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

⁶⁰ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

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Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ⁶¹	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ⁶²	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.21	£20,966	£4,424	0.42	£72,334
Youth football	0.45	£35,591	£7,474	0.52	£88,212
Mini soccer	0.49	£12,145	£2,550	0	£0
Rugby union	0.20	£28,279	£6,052	0.41	£69,687
Rugby league	0.13	£14,702	£3,249	0.26	£44,106
Cricket	0.09	£26,615	£5,376	0.18	£31,126
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£70,457	£2,565	0.15	£25,170
3G	0.06	£10,738	£333	0.03	£4,464
Total	0	£279,212	£34,255	2.09	£355, 806

Scenario Four – Keswick Analysis Area

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 125 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.2 per household is 275 people.

This population increase equates to 0.41 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.02 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 1.11 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 0.63 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 0.05 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.11 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union and rugby league on a floodlit grass pitch.

Table 7.7: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 125 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 125 dwellings	
	Match demand (MES) per week ⁶³	Training demand ⁶⁴
Adult football	0.06	0.63 hours
Youth football	0.12	
Mini soccer	0.13	
Rugby union	0.06	0.06 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.04	0.05 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.01	0.04 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.01	0.01 hours
Cricket	1.11	-

⁶¹ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

⁶² Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

⁶³ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

⁶⁴ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

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

Table 7.8: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ⁶⁵	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ⁶⁶	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.06	£5,697	£1,202	0.12	£19,656
Youth football	0.12	£9,672	£2,031	0.14	£23,971
Mini soccer	0.13	£3,300	£693	0	£0
Rugby union	0.06	£7,684	£1,644	0.11	£18,937
Rugby league	0.04	£3,995	£883	0.07	£11,985
Cricket	0.02	£7,232	£1,461	0.05	£8,458
Sand based AGPs	0	£19,146	£697	0.04	£6,840
3G	0.02	£2,918	£90	0.01	£1,213
Total	0	£75,872	£9,307	0.57	£96, 687

Conclusions

For each scenario, the tables above show that through housing growth, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. It is unlikely there will be a requirement for new provision. Instead, as the demand generated from the housing growth does not equate to a whole pitch for any of the sports, contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. Alternatively, if the growth comes from a collection of smaller developments monies could be aggregated to contribute to a larger scale development.

The PPOSS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g. to select suitable sites).

Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created in their own right. However, the scenarios above do show the progression and that the cumulative impact of development on existing pitch provision needs to be taken into account. Where new pitches are required, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to offer long-term sustainability. As such, if numerous developments in an area warrant new pitch provision, consideration should be given to pooling resources to create one larger site, rather than numerous smaller sites.

It is strongly recommended the Council work with Sport England to develop a process and guidance to calculate and obtain developer contributions. A threshold should be agreed between the stakeholder; however, it is suggested that any developments above 10 dwellings should be a starting point as this would generate sufficient enough contributions.

⁶⁵ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

⁶⁶ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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

Delivery

The PPOSS provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Allerdale. By addressing issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, where resources can be identified the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Authority could be met. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

Production of this Strategy is the start of the planning process. Successful implementation and the benefits to be gained depend upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a mutually bought into strategic approach. It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, supports engagement with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed. This is to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

Each member of the Steering Group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the Steering Group should not end with the completion of the Strategy and Action Plan.

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

The process of PPOSS development has already led to a number of benefits that assist its application and delivery. These include enhanced partnership work across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthened relationships and understanding between stakeholders, members of the Steering Group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the Steering Group to understand, the key areas to which its influence should be applied and strategy delivered enhanced.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that as part of the Stage E process there is need for regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This is particularly pertinent due to the ongoing COVID19 Pandemic (2020/21) which is expected to continue to have a direct impact on participation and funding streams across all sports.

In the case of the Allerdale PPOSS, it is advised the documents are reviewed within 12 months of adoption by the Council to further understand the impact of COVID 19 on the demand for outdoor sports. Depending on the outcomes of the PPOSS review, there may be a need to carry out alterations to the strategic recommendations within this document or add new recommendations.

As mentioned in Part 7: Housing Growth Scenarios, it is also suggested that any usage of Allerdale's New Development Playing Pitch Calculator should be carried out as part of a Stage E review and updated following consultation with the NGBs in relation to adjusting future demand from participation.

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This should be led by the Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should be a key component of monitoring its delivery and be an on-going role of the steering group.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the steering group, Sport England and the NGBs will consider the PPOSS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

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

A review should not be regarded as a particular resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase or reduce following the delivery of others).
- ◀ How the PPOSS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.
- ◀ Impact of COVID 19.

Once the PPOSS is complete the role of the Steering Group should evolve so that it:

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

Alongside regular Steering Group meetings a good way to keep the PPOSS up to date and maintain relationships is to hold annual sport specific meetings with pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These could be part of a process of updating key supply and demand information plus, if necessary, amending assessment work, tracking progress in respect of implementing action plan recommendations and highlighting new issues and opportunities.

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Meetings could be timed to coincide with annual NGB affiliation processes. This would help to signal changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites should also feed into these meetings.

NGBs will also be able to confirm any further performance quality assessments undertaken within the study area. Discussions with league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings may be useful to attend to pick up on specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

The Steering Group should also regularly review and refresh the Action Plan, taking account of any changes in pitch quality (and hence changes in pitch capacity) and demand as well as new provision that has been created or any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

It is important that the Council maintains the data contained within the accompanying PPOSS database. This will enable it to refresh and update the work on a regular basis. The accompanying database is intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental work encompassing, for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

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Checklists

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

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

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achieve?		
3. Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	✓	
4. Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	✓	
5. Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	✓	
6. Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?	✓	

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

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

For more information, see:

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>

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APPENDIX ONE: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

Please note that due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic (2020/21) the below funding opportunities may alter or become less prevalent in the forthcoming years as NGBs prioritise new methods of funding as a reaction to the developing situation.

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

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	The Big Lottery Fund distributes over £500m a year to communities across the UK, raised by players of The National Lottery. Awards for All – this fund offers National Lottery grants between £300 and £10,000. Applications can be made by: voluntary or community organisations, registered charities, constituted groups or clubs, not-for-profit companies or community interest companies, social enterprises, schools and statutory bodies (including town, parish and community councils). To receive funding, the applicant must meet at least one of the funding priorities listed for these grants. The funding priorities are: ◆ Bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities. ◆ Improving the places and spaces that matter to communities. ◆ Enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage. Empowering Young People – this grants programme is designed to support projects in Northern Ireland that give young people aged 8 to 25 the ability to overcome the challenges they face. Funding between £30,000 and £500,000 is available and is available to projects which meet one or more of the following objectives: ◆ Equip young people with the skills they need for the future. ◆ Improve young people's relationships with their support networks and communities. ◆ Improve the health and well-being of young people. Reaching Communities England – this programme provides flexible funding over £10,000 for up to five years to organisations in England who want to act on the issues that matter to people and communities. Grants will be awarded to voluntary and community organisations or social enterprises to fund project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs. Ideas must meet one or more of the following funding priorities: ◆ Bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities. ◆ Improving the places and spaces that matter to communities. ◆ Enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.

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Awarding body	Description
Sport England The current funding streams may change throughout 2017/18 so refer to the website for the latest information: https://www.sportengland.org/funding/	Sport England's vision is that everyone in England feels able to take part in sport or activity, regardless of age, background or ability. Small Grants – this programme offers funding to projects involving adults and young people aged 14 or over which meet one or more of the aims of their 'Towards an Active Nation' strategy. These aims are: get inactive people more active, develop lasting sporting habits, engender more positive attitudes among young people, develop more diverse volunteers and to improve progression and inclusion among the most talented. Projects with mixed age groups may still be considered if there is a focus on people aged 14 and over. Community Asset Fund – this programme is dedicated to enhancing the spaces in your local community that give people the opportunity to be active. Major Events Engagement Fund – Sport England's 'Towards an Active Nation' strategy commits them to invest £2m in helping national governing bodies (NGBs) to host major events which evolve their existing business model and derive a greater financial return from their existing customers (players, volunteers or spectators). This funding can also be used to develop programmes that engage with individuals local to the major event, who are currently less likely to take part regularly in sport or physical activity.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development. Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund – this fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations that improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities, sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age or ability and to help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport. Grants are available for: ◆ Grass pitch drainage/improvements, ◆ Pavilions, clubhouses and changing rooms, ◆ 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTPs) and multi-use games areas, ◆ Fixed floodlights for artificial pitches. Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund Small Grants Scheme – this scheme awards grants of up to £10,000 for the provision of capital items, or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. This scheme aims to support the growth of football clubs and activity, prevent a decline in football participation and make improvements to facilities to address any health and safety issues. Grants, which cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost, are awarded to support the costs of the following list of projects and items: ◆ Replacement of unsafe goalposts, ◆ Portable floodlights, ◆ Storage containers, ◆ Changing pavilion/clubhouse refurbishment and external works (not including routine maintenance works), ◆ Grounds maintenance equipment, ◆ Pitch improvement works (not including routine maintenance works),

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Awarding body	Description
	◀ Fencing. The scheme is available to local authorities, educational establishments, grassroots football clubs and professional and semi-professional football clubs and their associated community organisations, to support their community outreach programmes. Premier League Primary Stars Kit and Equipment Scheme - this scheme, run in partnership with Nike and delivered by the Football Foundation, gives teachers the opportunity to get their hands on free resources to aid their pupils' learning. Primary school teachers registered at plprimarystars.com can access either a free Nike football strip, or a free equipment pack which can be used across the curriculum.
Rugby Football Foundation (RFF) http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=113	The Grant Match Scheme in particular provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers). 'Helping Hand Grants' can award funding from £500 to £1,500. The Groundmatch Grant Scheme provides funding from £1,501 to £5,000. RFU Accredited clubs at level 5 and below are eligible to apply. The RFF also offer loan schemes for RFU Accredited clubs at level 3 and below. The first scheme is the Interest Free Loan scheme which can provide up to £100,000 as an interest free loan for capital works. Green Deal Loans up to the value of £20,000 are available to clubs to support them in the installation of facility solutions that reduce utility costs. Repayments are structured to be the equivalent of the projected savings over the agreed 'payback' period.
The England and Wales Cricket Trust https://www.ecb.co.uk/sponsors-and-partners/LV=funds4runs https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding	The Interest Free Loan Scheme provides finance to clubs for various capital projects such as buildings, equipment purchase, fine turf, land purchase and non-turf. All ECB affiliated cricket clubs are eligible to apply, as well as other organisations that can evidence achievement/delivery of the EWCT's charitable aims. Clubs with a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £50,000 whereas clubs without a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £20,000. A minimum of 10% partnership funding is required from the applicant. ◀ A new grant programme, the County Grant Fund, is due to come online from April 2021 and will be open to applications from affiliated clubs. ECB have also entered into a partnership with LV to produce the #Funds4Runs fund, which seeks to support clubs and projects operating in areas of high deprivation.
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. LIFE also finances some grants for non-governmental organisations

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Awarding body	Description
	active in the field of the environment because they are key players in the development and implementation of environmental policy.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: young people and hockey, young people and sport in Milton Keynes, enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level and smaller charities. There is no limit on the amount of funding that an organisation can request. However, the Foundation does not generally award grants for less than £10,000 or more than £75,000.
Rugby Football League https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities	Rugby League World Cup 2021 Capital Facilities Legacy funding. Small Grants Scheme awards grants of up to £15,000 for the provision of capital items, kit and equipment or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. Large capital grants programme of £15,000 plus focused on supporting the development of new or refurbished local rugby league facilities. The programme is split into four themes: 1. Welcoming environments 2. More players 3. Community engagement 4. Innovation fund

Funder's requirements

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

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

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Indicative costs

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

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

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

APPENDIX TWO: GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX THREE: 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 2019)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

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

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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 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

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

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

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- ◀ 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 – 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

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

The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

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As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

The core objectives are as follows:

1. Grow our Participation
2. Deliver International Success
3. Increase our Visibility
4. Enhance our Infrastructure
5. For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

Club participation

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

Vision: For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission: More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)

- The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

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

Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

Objectives

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
 - ◀ The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.