

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2020

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BDC	Blaby District Council
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
HC	Hockey Club
LCC	Leicestershire County Council
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non turf pitch
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
TGR	Team Generation Rate
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

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COVID-19 Addendum

Since the production of the Blaby District Assessment Report and Strategy & Action Plan documents there has been global pandemic from the spreading of COVID19 (Coronavirus). This led England to enter an unprecedented state of Lockdown from the 23rd March 2020. Lockdown required the general public to remain at home and only leave their households for food, health reasons or work (only if work cannot be carried out at home). In addition, if people are to go outside they are to remain two metres apart. This understandable has led to all sporting activities including all those covered in the Playing Pitch Strategy documents to cease until further notice.

It should be noted that both the Blaby District Assessment Report and Strategy & Action Plan were created before the pandemic and the lockdown occurred. The documents use the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy methodology from Stage A to Stage D and therefore the supply and demand analysis for each of the sports and the strategic recommendations made are accurate based on information collated in 2019.

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

As part of Stage E the PPS 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, if any, COVID-19 and the Lockdown has had within the District. 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 <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Blaby District Council (BDC). Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of all formal outdoor playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2037 (in line with the new Local Plan).

The PPS will form a key element of the evidence base to support local policy and the Local Plan as a whole, ensuring that it is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Strategy has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidance and under the direction of a steering group led by the Council, Sport England and including National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). It is capable of:

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

The strategy has been developed from research and analysis of outdoor sports provision and usage to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of outdoor sport facilities.
- ◀ Evidence to help protect and enhance outdoor sport provision.
- ◀ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ◀ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- ◀ The need to provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations that provide a strategic framework for improvements to provision.
- ◀ 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 prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for the District which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, possible sources of external funding.

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships between the Council, Leicestershire & Rutland Sport, NGBs, Sport England, parish/town councils, education providers, leisure contractors, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve outdoor sport provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead can be limited (except in terms of Section 106 agreements and developer contributions). This document will provide clarity with regard to the way forward and will allow organisations to focus on the key issues and objectives that they can directly influence and achieve.

Monitoring and updating

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

The PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time spent developing the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. Part 8 of this strategy report contains a suggested process for undertaking the update and monitoring. The Steering Group will need to agree the process prior to the adoption of this strategy.

Scope

The scope of the PPS will focus geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Provision included within the project is as follows:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
- ◀ Other pitch sports as relevant including American football
- ◀ Tennis and netball courts
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Golf courses

Pitch sports (i.e. football, rugby union, hockey and cricket) will be assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. In addition, any other grass sport pitches identified during the project will also be included.

Non-pitch sports (e.g. bowls, golf and tennis/netball) will be 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.

With regards to each sport, the PPS will specifically consider the number of pitches/facilities and will take into account the size, quality, location, accessibility and capacity of the provision as well as accompanying ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation, toilets and car parking.

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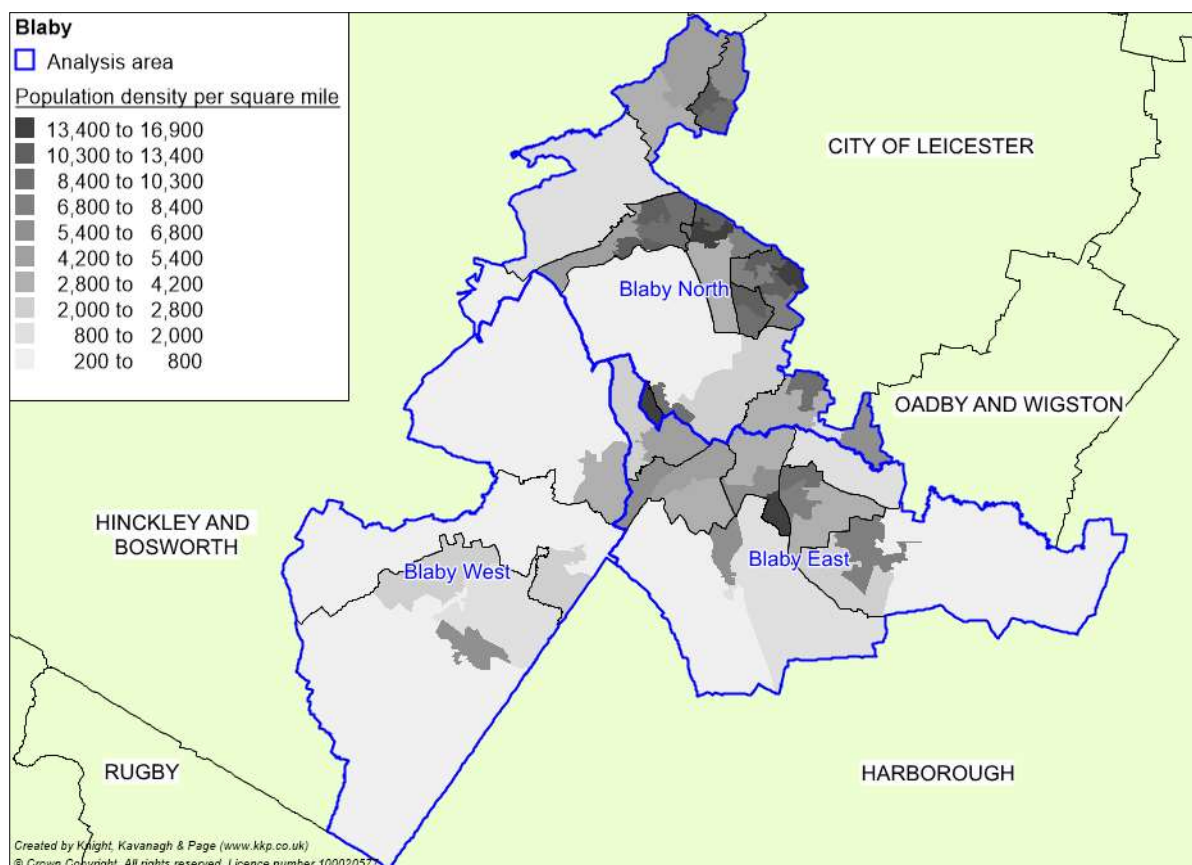
Study area

The study area will comprise the whole of the District Council's administrative area. In addition, cross-boundary issues will also be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand from neighbouring authorities such as Leicester and Hinckley.

Further to this, analysis areas have been created to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. The agreed analysis areas are:

- ◀ Blaby North
- ◀ Blaby East
- ◀ Blaby West

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



1.1: Context

The rationale for undertaking this study is to identify current levels of provision in the District across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand. The primary purpose of the PPS is therefore to provide a strategic framework that ensures the provision of playing pitch facilities meets the local needs of existing and future residents.

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements for playing fields.

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Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

Protect playing pitches against development pressures on land in, and around, urban areas. Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.

Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.

Address budget pressures and public-sector cuts.

This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions, funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 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.

Paragraph 97 discusses assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraphs 99 and 100 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must continue to be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively;

Corporate and strategic:

- ◀ It ensures a strategic approach to outdoor sport provision; the PPS will act as a tool for the Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for outdoor sports in the future.
- ◀ It provides robust evidence for capital funding - as well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities, a PPS can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants; current funding examples include the Sport England Funding Programmes, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery.

Planning:

- ◀ The PPS provides important evidence to support the Local Plan process and implementation.
- ◀ It supports strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being.
- ◀ Evidence for developer contributions.

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Operational:

- ◀ Helps improve management of assets, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ◀ The Action Plan identifies sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.
- ◀ An assessment of all pitches helps understand how facilities are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

Sports development:

- ◀ It helps identify which sites have community use and whether that use is secure or not.
- ◀ It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed to address any identified deficits in pitch provision.
- ◀ It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use; this includes information about both pitches and sports teams / user groups.
- ◀ It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams / community needs.

1.2: Local context

Blaby District Local Plan

The Council's existing Local Plan comprises of the Core Strategy (adopted 2013) and Delivery Development Plan Document (adopted 2019). A review of the Local Plan has now commenced, and the full process is expected to take three years to complete (with adoption estimated for March 2022).

The new Local Plan will set out a blueprint for how the District will grow and change over the 15 year period. The new Local Plan, when adopted, will replace the current Local Plan.

What makes the Blaby District different?

The District comprises of 24 civil parishes, including the parish of Blaby. Playing pitch ownership and management is reflective of the large parish network, with most provision falling under parish control.

Much of the northern eastern edge of the District is part of the Leicester Urban Area; this applies especially to the parishes of Braunstone, Glenfield, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East and Glen Parva. There are plans to extend this urban area significantly through large scale residential development (an estimated 4,250 dwellings) in the rural parish of Lubbethorpe and expansion of the industrial area in neighbouring Enderby.

Blaby District Council is also working with nine other partner organisations in Leicester & Leicestershire to produce a Strategic Growth Plan (SGP). This will set out an agreed strategy for housing and employment across the county up to 2050. The SGP is a non-statutory plan and its vision will be delivered through individual local authority Local Plans.

The District has a rich sporting heritage and is home to several clubs which compete within high performance league competitions. Football is the most prominent sport (in terms of participation) in the District and it is the home of Leicestershire & Rutland County Football Association.

The highest level performance community football clubs are Saffron Dynamo FC and Kirby Muxloe FC. In addition to these, there are several clubs which also operate a significant number of teams, these include (but are not limited to); Glenfield United FC, Whetstone Juniors and Blaby & Whetstone FC.

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Aside from football, the District is the home to various other high profile sports clubs including Leicester Lions RFC which compete in the National League South (level 4) and thus provide a very competitive rugby union environment within the area. There is also a prominent cricket scene with several clubs competing at high levels, these include Countesthorpe CC, Leicester Ivanhoe CC and Enderby CC.

For tennis, there are a range of clubs ranging from rural community clubs to high level performance clubs of particular note is Leicester Forest East TC, which is one of the most successful clubs in Leicestershire.

House building

The District Council is still working to understand what its overall housing target will be for its new Local Plan. Leicester City Council has recently published its unmet housing figures and there is a need for neighbouring authorities to re-distribute this housing demand through a Statement of Common Ground. Until this point has been reached, the future housing requirement for Blaby will remain undetermined.

The table below outlines existing major housing developments (over 100 dwellings) in the District and the current completion rate of development.

Table 1.1: BDC existing residential housing commitments

Site	Planning status	Completions (2019)
Land Off Cork Lane, Glen Parva	Outline for 165 dwellings	0
Land north of A47 Hinckley Road, Kirby Muxloe	Local Plan Delivery DPD allocation for 750 dwellings	0
Lubbesthorpe SUE	Local Plan Core Strategy allocation for at least 4250 dwellings	271
Land south of Cambridge Road, Cosby	Outline for 180 dwellings	0
Land south of Hinckley Road, Sapcote	Outline for 125 dwellings	0

Population growth

The current resident population in the District is 98,977 (2017 MYE). By 2037 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the Local Plan period) the District's population is projected to increase to 110,640¹ representing an increase of 11,663 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 11.7%) according to ONS data.

As ONS figures are available by individual age brackets (to reflect team growth) this is considered the most accurate data set to apply to team generation rates (as identified above) to calculate likely future demand within the Assessment Report.

¹ Source: ONS 2016-based projections 2017-2041. Released: 24 May 2018
September 2020

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1.3: Headline findings

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

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand (2019)		Future demand (2037)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ²	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Blaby North	Adult	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 6.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 5.5
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
	Blaby East	Adult	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 6
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
	Blaby West	Adult	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
Football (3G pitches) ³	Blaby North	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 1 full size floodlit pitch	Shortfall of 2 full size floodlit pitch
	Blaby East	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 3 full size floodlit pitches	Shortfall of 3 full size floodlit pitches
	Blaby West	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 1 full size floodlit pitch ⁴	Shortfall of 1 full size floodlit pitch
Cricket	Blaby North	Senior	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Shortfall of 20
	Blaby East	Senior	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Shortfall of 10
	Blaby West	Senior	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Shortfall of 10
Rugby union	Blaby North	Senior	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Shortfall of 2.5
	Blaby East	Senior	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Shortfall of 2.75
	Blaby West	Senior	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Sufficient supply to meet future demand

² MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

³ Based on accommodating 38 teams on one full size pitch

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Sport	Analysis area	Current demand (2019)		Future demand (2037)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ²	Future capacity total in MES
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Blaby District	Small sided	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Sufficient supply to meet future demand
Tennis	Blaby District	Courts	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Sufficient supply to meet future demand (48 member shortfall identified at Enderby Lawn TC)
Bowls	Blaby District	Greens	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Sufficient supply to meet future demand
Netball	Blaby District	Courts	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Sufficient supply to meet future demand
American Football	Blaby District	Senior	Sufficient supply to meet current demand	Sufficient supply to meet future demand

Conclusions

The existing position for all outdoor sports is either; demand is currently being met, or there is a current or future shortfall.

For football, current shortfalls are identified on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch formats, with sufficient capacity remaining on mini pitch formats. When accounting for future growth, it is anticipated that existing shortfalls will increase, and that new shortfalls emerge on all pitch formats.

From a cricket perspective, the existing level of provision can suitably accommodate current demand levels for both senior and junior cricket. When accounting for future growth, and identified exported demand, there are shortfalls identified for senior cricket in the District.

For rugby union, the existing supply of senior pitches can accommodate current levels of demand (notwithstanding small levels of overplay at Vipers RFC). Anticipated future growth is expected to create shortfalls in both the Blaby East and Blaby North analysis areas.

For tennis, all club sites in the District have sufficient capacity to accommodate current levels of demand. When accounting for future demand, most clubs are also expected to have sufficient capacity to grow. The exception to this is at Enderby LTC where a capacity shortfall is identified. There is no mechanism in place in the District to capture usage at publicly available non-club courts, but it is considered that these do have capacity for recreational usage.

For all remaining sports, the current stock of facilities is meeting demand and is expected to do so in the future, although there is a requirement to increase quality of provision at specific sites which are identified within the Action Plan.

Notwithstanding the above, there are clear shortfalls identified for 3G pitches which cannot be alleviated unless new provision is created. Given this, there is a need to explore the feasibility

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of future provision at strategic sites in the District. The analysis identified a shortfall of five pitches through an analysis area breakdown with the highest shortfall being in the Blaby East Analysis Area (a shortfall equating to three full size pitches).

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.

As there is identified shortfalls on grass pitches, there is a need to protect both playing pitch provision currently in use and pitches that are no longer in use due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future needs.

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PART 2: VISION

2.1: Vision

Below is Blaby District's vision for its sport and leisure provision. It sets out the vision and objectives for the period 2020 - 2037.

To create accessible, high quality and sustainable sport, play and leisure facilities, which offer inclusive services for all; enabling the inactive to become active, increase participation in targeted groups in particular and help improve the health and well-being of all of our residents.

To achieve this vision, the strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives:

- ◀ Working collectively with partners to create opportunity for everyone to participate
- ◀ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long term benefit of sport.
- ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs.
- ◀ Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand.
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer term aspirations.

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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 PPS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

AIM 1

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

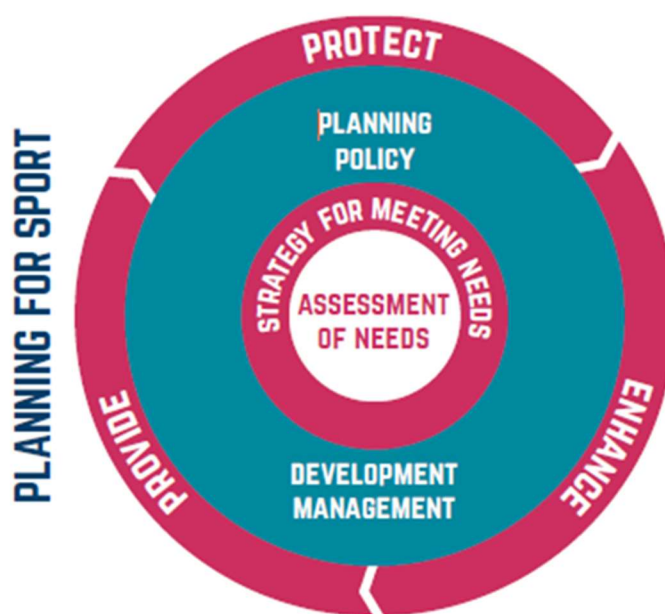
AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 3.1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (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.

Football – grass pitches

Summary

- ◀ Current supply of football pitch provision is insufficient with shortfalls evident on adult and youth pitch formats.
- ◀ When considering future demand, these shortfalls will worsen on all formats, with shortfalls emerging on mini pitch types.
- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 117 grass football pitches in the District across 43 sites. Of the pitches, 108 are available, at some level, for community use across 35 sites.
- ◀ Kirby Muxloe FC (based at Muxloe Sports Club) has secured grant funding from the Football Foundation to convert its stadia grass pitch to a 3G surface
- ◀ In total, two pitches are assessed as good quality, 47 as standard quality and 59 as poor quality.
- ◀ 247 teams from within 48 clubs are identified as playing in the District. This consists of 50 adult men's, three adult women's, 97 youth boys', 14 youth girls' and 83 mini mixed teams
- ◀ 23 pitches across seven sites are overplayed by a combined total of 14.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ 11 pitches are identified as having spare capacity equating to five match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There are current and future shortfalls identified across adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 pitch formats.

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality

In total, there are 23 community available pitches in the District that are overplayed. Improving quality of the remaining pitches (i.e. through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will therefore increase capacity and consequently reduce current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.2 highlights that current levels of overplay would be alleviated on every overplayed pitch in the District if pitch quality was improved to good.

As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is identified in the table below.

Table 4.1: Football capacity rating based on quality scores

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

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Table 4.2: Levels of overplay if quality improved to good

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁵	Good quality capacity rating ⁶
1	Blaby and Whetstone Youth Club	Adult	1	Standard	1	-
		Youth 9v9	1	Poor	1	2
3	Brockington College	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
17	Glenfield Sports Ground	Adult	2	Poor	2	2
27	Huncote Sports and Social Club	Adult	2	Poor	1	3
32	Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	The site will have a 3G stadia pitch for the 20/21 football season. Overplay will be alleviated.				
34	Leicester Road Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
36	Lutterworth Road	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
37	Meadows Sports Ground	Adult	3	Poor	1	5
		Youth 9v9	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
38	Mossdale Meadows	Adult	2	Poor	0.5	3.5
40	Oakfield Park	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
55	Thurlaston Football Club	Adult	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
		Youth 9v9	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
60	Willoughby Road Playing Field	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	1	2
62	Winston Avenue Sports Ground	Mini 7v7	1	Poor	0.5	3.5

If improvements were made to sites as identified above, a total of 32.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity would be created in the District.

Notwithstanding the above, given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, which can not only alleviate overplay of grass pitches, but it can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use.

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

As improving the quality of certain overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving strategic sites. The Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) identifies nine sites for grass pitch improvements that are considered to be in need of investment and that are key for football across the District. The table below identifies what the impact would be on the supply and demand balance if quality was improved by one increment at these sites (i.e. standard to good or poor to standard).

⁵ Match equivalent sessions

⁶ Match equivalent sessions

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Table 4.3: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Improved capacity rating
5	Cosby Recreation Ground	Adult	2	Poor	1.5	3.5
		Youth 9v9	1	Poor	1	2
6	Countesthorpe Community College	Adult	3	Standard	2.5	5.5
		Mini 5v5	2	Standard	6	10
		Youth 11v11	1	Standard	-	1
		Youth 9v9	3	Standard	1.5	4.5
11	Dorothy Avenue Playing Field	Adult	2	Poor	2	4
17	Glenfield Sports Ground	Adult	2	Poor	2	-
		Mini 5v5	1	Standard	3	5
		Mini 7v7	1	Standard	2.5	4.5
		Youth 9v9	2	Standard	1.5	3.5
31	Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground	Adult	3	Poor	1	4
		Mini 5v5	1	Poor	-	2
		Mini 7v7	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
		Youth 9v9	1	Poor	1	1
38	Mosssdale Meadows	Adult	2	Poor	0.5	1.5
		Mini 5v5	2	Poor	3	7
		Mini 7v7	2	Poor	3	7
		Youth 9v9	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
40	Oakfield Park	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	0.5
		Mini 7v7	1	Standard	3.5	5.5
		Youth 9v9	2	Poor	0.5	2.5
55	Thurlaston Football Club	Adult	2	Poor	0.5	1.5
		Mini 7v7	2	Poor	1	5
		Youth 9v9	1	Poor	0.5	0.5
62	Winston Avenue Sports Ground	Mini 5v5	2	Poor	-	4
		Mini 7v7	2	Poor	0.5	3.5

Improving quality as set out in the table above would create 61 match equivalent sessions of additional capacity. In addition, overplay would be alleviated at all sites identified.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect both football pitches currently in use and pitches that are no longer in use due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future needs (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using educational sites through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore reconfiguration of adult pitches to accommodate youth 11v11 teams where possible.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.

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3G pitches

Summary

- ◀ There are two full size 3G pitches in the District, both of which, are floodlit and available to the community.
- ◀ In addition, there are six smaller sized 3G pitches located across five sites.
- ◀ The full size pitch at Leicester Forest RFC is on the FA register and can therefore be used for competitive match play. The pitch at Brockington College is also currently on the FA register for match play but it is identified that remedial improvements are needed to ensure it stays registered for use.
- ◀ A new full size 3G pitch will be developed at Kirby Muxloe FC and ready for use for the 2020/2021 football season.
- ◀ The pitch at Leicester Forest RFC is World Rugby Compliant and can also host competitive matches and contact training. The pitch has been developed to service rugby union.
- ◀ The full size pitch at Brockington College has reached the end of its life expectancy and will require resurfacing in forthcoming years. The full size pitch at Leicester Forest RFC is good quality.
- ◀ There is one poor quality small sided 3G pitch at Blaby & Whetstone FC. Small sided pitches located at Holmes Park and Saffron Dynamo FC are good quality and pitches at the Pavilion Leisure Centre and Countesthorpe Community College are standard quality.
- ◀ All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate.
- ◀ With 247 teams currently affiliated to the District there is a shortfall of five full size 3G pitches identified.
- ◀ When studying demand by analysis area, shortfalls are apparent in Blaby East and Blaby West.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. In order to calculate the number of football teams a 3G pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week. Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match.

Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers, it is estimated that 38 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training.

Given the above, with 247 teams currently affiliated to the District there is a need for six full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 6.5). There are two full size 3G pitches in the District, with one based at Brockington College and the other at Leicester Forest East RFC. The pitch at Leicester Forest RFC has been discounted from the supply of 3G pitches as its primary function is to service rugby union clubs in the Leicestershire area and therefore midweek peak time slots are unavailable to football clubs.

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Given the above, there is a current shortfall of five full size 3G pitches in the District to accommodate current demand. When accounting for future demand, a growth of 54 teams, the shortfall will increase to an overall need for seven full size pitches, and a shortfall of six.

Table 4.4: Demand for full size 3G pitches in the District

Current number of teams	Current 3G requirement ⁷	Future number of teams	Future 3G requirement ⁸
247	6	301	7

When studying current demand by analysis area (based on where teams currently play competitive fixtures), the highest shortfall is attributed to the Blaby East Analysis Area (a shortfall of three full size pitches). There are also shortfalls of one full size pitch in the Blaby North and West analysis areas.

Table 4.5: Demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement ⁹	Current number of 3G pitches ¹⁰	Potential shortfall
Blaby East	111	3	-	3
Blaby North	90	2	1	1
Blaby West	46	1	-	1
Blaby District	247	6	1	5

For the start of the 2020/21 football season that there will be a full size 3G pitch provided at Kirby Muxloe FC and this will reduce the District shortfall to four full size pitches and alleviate the shortfall in the Blaby North Analysis Area.

Moving football mini match play demand to 3G pitches

To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G pitches to cater for different formats of match play.

In particular, The FA has an ambition to transfer 50% of mini play on to 3G pitches nationally. Thus, a programme of play has been created for the District to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this, given that peak time for both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 football is Sunday AM.

Table 4.6 Full size 3G pitch programming for mini demand

Time	Pitch markings	Total games/teams
9.00 – 10.00	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.00 – 11.00	4 x 5v5	4/8
11.00 – 12.00	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.00 – 13.00	2 x 7v7	2/4

Based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for four full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 3.96). This is calculated based on 39 mini 5v5 teams and 44 mini 7v7 teams currently playing in the District.

⁷ Rounded to the nearest whole number

⁸ Rounded to the nearest whole number

⁹ Figure rounded down to the nearest whole number.

¹⁰ Full size pitch at Leicester Forest RFC has been discounted.

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As the number of 3G pitches required to accommodate all mini demand is below that of midweek training demand (a total current need of six full size pitches in the District), it suggests that all mini match play demand could be catered for if training shortfalls were alleviated.

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

The LFFP for the Blaby District identifies priority sites for 3G pitch development. The plan identifies four full size 3G projects (to develop five pitches) and two small sided 3G projects. These are listed in the table below.

Table 4.7: LFFP 3G projects

Site ID	Site	LFFP project
6	Countesthorpe Community College	1 x full size 3G pitch
23	Holmes Park	1 x full size 3G pitch
32	Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	1 x full size 3G pitch
-	New Lubbesthorpe Development	2 x full size 3G pitches
-	Enderby Leisure Centre	3 x 5v5 3G pitches
61	Winstanley Community College	1 x 7v7 3G pitch

Further to the table above, the table below looks to align full size LFFP projects (identified above) to the 3G analysis area requirement identified in the PPS. The purpose of this is to understand if the projects identified in the LFFP are in the best places for development relative to assessed demand.

Table 4.8: 3G requirement by analysis area with proposed LFFP projects

Analysis area	Current number of 3G pitches	3G pitch requirement	Potential shortfall	3G pitches identified in LFFP	Proposed LFFP project
Blaby East	-	3	3	4	New Lubbesthorpe (2 x full size pitches)
					Countesthorpe Community College
					Holmes Park
Blaby North	1	2	1	1	Kirby Muxloe Sports Club
Blaby West	-	1	1	0	-

The table above shows that there are four full size 3G projects identified in the LFFP for the Blaby East Analysis Area, despite a shortfall of three full size pitches. This represents a potential oversupply of one full size pitch.

There is a total need for two full size 3G pitches in the Blaby North Analysis Area. There is an existing full size pitch at Brockington College and there is one full size 3G project identified for in the LFFP at Kirby Muxloe Sports Club. It is expected that this will be completed for October 2020 and alleviate the shortfall in the analysis area.

No projects are identified in the Blaby West Analysis Area despite a shortfall of one full size pitch. It is recognised that the Blaby West Analysis Area is more sparsely populated when compared to the Blaby East and Blaby North analysis areas and therefore there are fewer opportunities to develop provision. The Football Foundation report that there are three 3G pitches on the periphery of the District planned for development in the next 12-18 month, in Desford, Barwell and Hinckley. These are in addition to a new pitch in Broughton Astley which

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opened in September 2020. On this basis, it is considered that demand in the Blaby West Analysis Area is satisfied with this supply of pitches.

Further to the above, there are two small sided projects identified for the District located at Enderby Leisure Centre and Winstanley Community College. Both are based in the Blaby North Analysis Area and are focussed on providing opportunities for recreational football opportunities.

Since the Blaby District LFFP was published in 2019 a new potential project has emerged. Blaby & Whetstone FC has expressed an interest in developing a full size stadia 3G pitch. The site is in the Blaby East Analysis Area where a potential shortfall of three full size 3G pitches is required. If progressed, the project would need to replace one of projects identified at either Holmes Park or Countesthorpe Community College to ensure there is not an oversupply of provision in the area catchment.

World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitches

World Rugby has produced a 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22'. There is one provided in the District, at Leicester Forest East RFC. Despite identified shortfalls for rugby union in the District, there is no need to provide further World Rugby Compliant provision, as shortfalls are minor and can be addressed through maintenance and drainage solutions (explored further within the rugby union scenarios).

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Look to improve the quality of the pitch at Brockington College to enable it to be re-certified on the FA register.
- ◀ Explore options of providing new 3G pitches first and foremost to meet football training shortfalls, focusing on the Blaby East Analysis Area.
- ◀ Update the Blaby District LFFP to recognise the identified oversupply in Blaby East Analysis Area.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place as part of the planning permission.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible, and ensure that pitches remain suitable to accommodate such demand through appropriate certification when it is required.

Cricket pitches

Summary

- ◀ In summary, there is sufficient supply of cricket provision to cater for current demand in the District.
- ◀ When accounting for identified future demand and exported demand, a shortfall emerges for senior cricket.
- ◀ There are 18 grass wicket squares in the District across 17 sites. Of these all are available for community use. There are also two disused sites which are disused following clubs folding. These are located at Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground and Sharnford CC.
- ◀ A square at Winston Avenue Sports Ground (Croft) has also become disused in 2019.
- ◀ There are eight NTPs that accompany grass wicket squares, these are all located at club sites.

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- ◀ Most clubs based in the District are considered to have secure tenure. Teams imported into the District are not considered to have secure tenure.
- ◀ The non-technical assessment of community available grass wicket squares found four squares to be good quality and 13 squares to be standard. No squares were identified as being poor quality through the non-technical audit.
- ◀ The audit of ancillary facilities determines that provision at four sites is poor quality, these are at Meadow Sports Ground, Warwick Road Recreation Ground, Winston Avenue Recreation Ground and Braunstone Lane East.
- ◀ There are 15 clubs competing in the Blaby District, generating 57 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 32 senior men's, one senior women's and 24 junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Countesthorpe CC exports senior demand outside of the District to accommodate competitive fixtures.
- ◀ Future demand in the District equates to two senior men's teams, one senior woman's and eight junior boys' teams. This is derived from club aspirations, population growth and ECB participation programmes.

Scenarios

Accommodating senior future and exported demand

Based on the findings of the audit and assessment, it is identified that Enderby CC and Blaby Village CC both aspire to develop an additional senior men's team to play in the peak period for cricket (Saturdays). Countesthorpe CC also exports two teams outside of the District which it wants to bring back to play in its locality. Based on this, there is a need to secure provision to accommodate four senior cricket teams (or 40 match equivalent sessions per season) in the District.

Firstly, Blaby Village CC is based at Northfield Park which has spare capacity in the peak period (equivalent to ten match equivalent sessions or one senior men's team). Therefore, future demand expressed by the Club can be satisfied at this site.

In comparison, Enderby CC cannot accommodate another senior men's team on its site during the peak period. However, Winston Avenue Sports Ground (Croft Parish Council) is currently unused and is located a 12 minute drive time between the two sites (4.5 miles).

In 2019, Croft Parish Council decided that the site would no longer be available for use by community cricket clubs/teams from outside of the Village. As such, the square is now unused. The local cricket team folded several years ago and Leicestershire County Cricket report that it is unlikely to reform.

Based on the audit and assessment, this square could play a vital role in accommodating teams from the District, including potential future demand for Enderby CC.

If this square cannot be secured for wider community use in the future, it will exacerbate the anticipated future shortfalls for cricket in the District and therefore impact on the potential need to reinstate disused squares at either Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground or Lissman Fields (Sharnford CC). However, it is recognised that this will require negotiation between parties including ECB and Leicestershire Cricket Board to test the feasibility of a secured arrangement being achieved.

Further to this, Countesthorpe CC states it wants its two exported senior teams to ideally play in the village of Countesthorpe. There is only one other site cricket site in Countesthorpe (Meadow Sports Ground) and this is already at capacity for senior cricket and the home of another club (Wigston Town CC). Therefore, the Club aspires to develop a new cricket ground in Countesthorpe to accommodate its peak time senior match play. It has identified a plot of agricultural land on Leicester Road (opposite Meadow Sports Ground) as a potential location

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for development. The Club acknowledge that development of this site is cost prohibitive and therefore unlikely to go ahead in the short term at least.

The table below explores the theoretical opportunities available to the Club.

Table 4.9: Countesthorpe CC site options

Site ID	Site name	Drive time / miles from Countesthorpe CC	Comments
31	Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground	20 minutes / 8.2 miles	The square is currently disused and will require targeted work to ensure its playable.
35	Lissman Fields (Sharnford CC)	15 minutes / 7.5 miles	The site has been disused since 2017. It will require significant investment to bring back into use.
62	Winston Avenue Sports Ground	12 minutes / 5 miles	The site is the nearest available to the Club. However, this is marginal when compared to its current overspill site (Gilmorton CC).
Outside Blaby	Gilmorton CC	13 minutes / 6.8 miles	The current site used by the Club to accommodate demand. There are no identified issues with this site in terms of quality or accessibility.

Based on the drive time analysis of neighbouring facilities, it is considered that the Club's current arrangement at Gilmorton CC is the most preferential for use. This is based on facilities at Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground and Lissman Fields (Sharnford CC) requiring significant investment to make squares playable and that there are minimal differences in travel between Winston Avenue Sports Ground and Gilmorton CC.

Future consideration should be given to the Club's aspiration to develop a second square in Countesthorpe, on Leicester Road on the basis suitable funding could be secured to develop a new facility. This could potentially be through securing developer contributions (see Part 7 for the Housing Growth Scenario), however, to warrant a new cricket pitch site development, further feasibility is required to fully determine the level of demand for it (including other clubs such as Enderby CC).

Accommodating junior future demand

Through delivery of its new strategy, Inspiring Generations, the ECB and county board programmes of activity are targeting growth in women's cricket, club and school's activity targeting growth in girls' cricket and there is increased engagement of young people. All Stars Cricket, the ECB national 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. Increasing numbers of those children are continuing to play cricket as they get older, so junior numbers are increasing within clubs.

The ECB has also launched Dynamos Cricket, a new programme to inspire kids aged 8-11 to play cricket. Dynamos Cricket is the latest launch by the ECB, building on the existing All Stars

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programme for 5-8-year-olds. Participants will continue to develop their skills and be introduced to a countdown style of cricket match.

It is generally considered that all clubs which identified future demand for junior teams, or that are engaged within participation initiatives such as All Stars or Dynamos have sufficient capacity on site to accommodate this demand.

Covid-19 impact on junior cricket

No Dynamos Cricket programmed for the 2020 cricket season began, because of Covid-19. Likewise, the amount of programmed All Stars cricket was greatly reduced across Leicestershire.

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

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect both cricket pitch provision currently in use and pitches that are no longer in use due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future needs (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided). Squares not currently in use are located at Sharnford Cricket Club, Winston Avenue Sports Ground and Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Also ensure protection from development that may prejudice the use of a cricket square such as residential development in close proximity to a cricket outfield (ball strike issues).
- ◀ Work to secure long term access to provision at Winston Avenue Sports Ground.
- ◀ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on squares to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining (where possible).
- ◀ For clubs without lease arrangements, explore opportunities for long-term asset transfer or as a minimum ensure community use agreements are entered into to enable long-term access.
- ◀ Explore funding opportunities to improve the quality of ancillary provision at Meadow Sports Ground, Warwick Road Recreation Ground, Winston Avenue Recreation Ground and Braunstone Lane East.
- ◀ Work to accommodate targeted growth for women's and girls' cricket through the ECB Inspiring Generations Strategy.
- ◀ Explore the long term feasibility of developing new cricket provision in Countesthorpe to accommodate exported demand identified by Countesthorpe CC.

Rugby union pitches

Summary

- ◀ There is currently a sufficient level of rugby union provision in the District.
- ◀ At peak time periods (Sunday mornings) there are two sites which are at capacity or are overplayed. These are Leicester Forest East RFC and Vipers RFC.
- ◀ Anticipated future demand reduces all spare capacity and creates a shortfall equating to 6.25 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There is a total of 14 rugby union pitches across seven sites in the District; as a breakdown this equates to 12 senior and two mini/junior pitches.

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- ◀ All pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ There are 10 standard quality senior pitches and one poor quality senior pitch. The mini pitch at Old Newtonians RFC is standard quality and the junior pitch at Winstanley Community College is poor quality.
- ◀ There are five clubs operating in the District generating demand for 49 competitive teams.
- ◀ All clubs are considered to have secure tenure on their respective sites.
- ◀ Ancillary provision Old Newtonians and Cosby RFC is poor and in need of refurbishment. It is also noted that there is a need to enhance the quality of the existing changing rooms and disability access at Vipers RFC.
- ◀ There is one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in the District based at Leicester Forest RFC which was provided as part of the RFU Rugby 365 programme.
- ◀ There is one overplayed pitch in the District located at Vipers RFC.
- ◀ There is currently a sufficient supply of rugby union pitches in the District with the current position being a spare capacity of three match equivalent sessions per week. Future demand reduces all spare capacity and creates a shortfall equating to 5.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality (via maintenance)

Table 4.11 looks at the effect of improving the maintenance regime at each club site which is identified as either being overplayed, at capacity or as having a poor quality pitch. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is identified in the table below.

Table 4.10: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

As can be seen in the table, improving the quality of pitches by one increment creates spare capacity at Cosby Recreation Ground (Cosby RFC), Leicester Forest East RFC and on two pitches at Vipers RFC.

However, overplay on the floodlit training pitch at Vipers RFC would remain by a total of 0.75 match equivalent sessions.

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Table 4.11: Impact of maintenance improvements on senior pitches

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Current capacity rating	Improved quality rating	Potential capacity rating
5	Cosby Recreation Ground	1	Yes (partial)	Poor (M0/D1)	0.5	Standard (M1/D1)	1
33	Leicester Forest RFC	2	No	Standard (M1/D1)	-	Good (M2/D1)	2
57	Vipers RFC	1	Yes	Standard (M1/D1)	1.75	Good (M2/D1)	0.75
		2	No	Standard (M1/D1)	-	Good (M2/D1)	2

Improving pitch quality (via drainage)

Like above, exploring the effect of improving drainage by one increment on each pitch has been explored in the table below. The installation of drainage systems on pitches creates potential spare capacity on most pitches in the District. The exception to this is on the floodlit pitch at Vipers RFC where it would reduce overplay by 0.5 match equivalent sessions (leaving 1.25 match equivalent sessions of overplay remaining) and at Cosby Recreation Ground. The pitch at Cosby Recreation Ground which would still be poor quality, and therefore any spare capacity generated on the pitch would be discounted for this reason.

Table 4.12: Impact of drainage improvements on senior pitches

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Current capacity rating	Improved quality rating	Potential capacity rating
5	Cosby Recreation Ground	1	Yes (partial)	Poor (M0/D1)	0.5	Poor (M0/D2)	0.75
33	Leicester Forest RFC	2	No	Standard (M1/D1)	-	Standard (M1/D2)	1
57	Vipers RFC	1	Yes	Standard (M1/D1)	1.75	Good (M1/D2)	1.25
		2	No	Standard (M1/D1)	-	Good (M1/D2)	1

Providing new floodlighting

The current position at Vipers RFC is that its main floodlit pitch is overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week and its other two senior pitches are played to capacity.

Providing new floodlighting across an additional full senior pitch will not alleviate overplay, but this must be considered against other factors. As evidenced in Table 4.7, if quality improvements were undertaken to an M2 standard, it would create two match sessions of spare capacity as well as reducing overplay to 0.75 match sessions on its floodlit pitch.

Therefore, if quality improvements to two senior pitches (including the training pitch) are undertaken and new floodlighting is provided, overplay on site will be alleviated in its entirety.

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World rugby compliant 3G pitches

The RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. There is one 3G pitch in the District, which is World Rugby compliant, based at Leicester Forest RFC.

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches provide opportunities for midweek training and competitive matches to be transferred away from natural turf grass pitches which in turn can help in reducing overplay and identified shortfalls.

At present, Vipers RFC is the only site overplayed in the District and this is a result of concentrated midweek training demand on a floodlit senior pitch. The Club's senior sections train on the pitch on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for 1.5 hours each with select junior teams training on Wednesdays. If a proportion of this demand could be transferred off site, to the 3G pitch at Leicester Forest East RFC, shortfalls would be reduced or even alleviated, dependent on the level of transfer.

As an example, if the Clubs senior sections (three adult men's teams) transferred midweek training to Leicester Forest East RFC on either a Tuesday or a Thursday, overplay would be reduced by 1.5 match equivalent sessions, reducing overplay to 0.25 match equivalent sessions.

Usage of the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Leicester Forest East RFC should be maximised where possible for rugby union programming i.e. competitive matches, club training and recreational sessions/activities.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect both rugby pitches currently in use and pitches that are no longer in use due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future needs (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at Vipers RFC to reduce identified overplay, primarily through improved maintenance and the installation of an effective drainage system if considered to be feasible.
- ◀ Explore funding options to develop additional floodlighting at Vipers RFC.
- ◀ Look to maximise usage of the World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch at Leicester Forest East RFC as method to reduce identified current and future shortfalls.
- ◀ Work to refurbish/replace the clubhouse and changing facilities at Old Newtonians RFC and Cosby RFC.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to enhance the quality of changing rooms and disability access at Vipers RFC.
- ◀ Retain supply of rugby pitches at school sites for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and encourage secure community availability should demand exist in the future.

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Golf courses

Summary

- ◀ There are five golf courses in the District spread across five sites. Three courses offer 18 hole courses and two offer nine hole courses.
- ◀ There are no footgolf opportunities identified in the District.
- ◀ Application of a 20 minute drive time catchment to all existing golf courses in the District shows 11 potential facilities which are likely to be accessible for the Districts residents.
- ◀ Quality is considered to be good at all courses in the District.
- ◀ All of the clubs within the District provide suitable ancillary facilities with an array of facilities from meeting rooms to wedding venues.
- ◀ It is considered that the current supply of facilities in the District can meet current and future demand, with emphasis placed on ensuring sites are able to retain current members and users as well as assisting them in capitalising on any untapped demand and future demand.
- ◀ Support should be provided to clubs to attract new members to ensure golf provision across the District can be retained.

Scenarios

There is a sufficient supply of golf courses in the District to accommodate current levels of club demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Seek to enhance the existing golfing offer available to District residents and consider creating alternative non-traditional provision to further encourage golf participation, such as footgolf.
- ◀ Sustain course quality across all active sites to facilitate current and future growth.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership in retention and potential growth.
- ◀ Encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for existing and new players.

Bowling greens

Summary

- ◀ There is a sufficient supply of bowling greens to accommodate current and future demand in the Blaby District.
- ◀ There are seven flat outdoor bowling greens located across seven sites, none of which, are floodlit.
- ◀ Five greens are assessed as good quality and two as standard. None are poor quality.
- ◀ There is no disused or lapsed bowling green provision in the District.
- ◀ There are seven bowls clubs playing in the District, providing a total membership of 489.
- ◀ Three clubs identify future demand aspirations equating to 31 members.
- ◀ Glenfield BC, Enderby BC and Kirby Muxloe BC all highlight an aspiration to improve the quality of their clubhouses/pavilions.
- ◀ Braunstone Town Council has announced plans to redevelop the clubhouse facility at Shakespeare Park.
- ◀ No clubs highlight a requirement for additional bowling green provision to accommodate either current or future demand.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenarios

There is a sufficient supply of bowling greens in the District to accommodate current levels of club demand. However, in order to ensure continued use of greens in the future, some quality improvements will be required, especially to those assessed as standard quality i.e. Kirby Muxloe BC and Glenfield BC.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of greens.
- ◀ Sustain good quality greens and explore improvements on greens assessed as standard quality, particularly at Kirby Muxloe BC and Glenfield BC.
- ◀ Ensure that the ancillary provision accompanying bowls clubs in the District is of a sufficient quality to accommodate current and future users.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs in the District have a long term lease arrangement in place.

Tennis courts

Summary

- ◀ Based on recommended LTA capacity guidance, there is sufficient supply of tennis courts at all club sites in the District to cater for current demand.
- ◀ As all remaining, non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard and to increase informal activity.
- ◀ In order to ascertain informal usage of community courts, ClubSpark online booking systems should be implemented, and venues should be part of LTA Rally.
- ◀ There are 39 tennis courts identified in the District across 12 sites, with all courts available for community use.
- ◀ Tennis clubs in the District are largely considered to have secure tenure, meaning that its likely they will continue to operate on their current sites for the foreseeable future. No issues were raised by any responding club in relation to their current tenure situation.
- ◀ A total of 17 tennis courts are identified as being good quality, ten standard, and three poor.
- ◀ There is a total of five tennis clubs based in the Blaby District. Of the four responding clubs, total membership equates to 561 members.
- ◀ Four clubs have aspiration to grow their membership bases, of these, three quantified growth which equates to 230 members.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities at Blaby Victoria TC are poor quality. Provision at Enderby LTC is standard quality, but it has aspiration to replace current provision with a new modern clubhouse facility.

Scenarios

Satisfying club demand

It is identified that Enderby LTC has a future demand aspiration of increasing by 100 members. If it is to reach this (resulting in a total membership of circa 230 members) its site will be played beyond the LTA recommended capacity by 48 members. It is worth noting that the Club has an aspiration to develop a new clubhouse facility and this is why its demand aspirations are high.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

To alleviate potential future overplay (if membership goals are achieved), two solutions are possible. Firstly, if a new floodlit court can be provided at the site this will alleviate all future overplay. Alternatively, given that Brockington College is adjacent to Enderby LTC and has existing tennis courts, a potential partnership solution should be considered, on the basis improvements to court quality can be made.

Recreational and informal tennis

The analysis highlights that there is an adequate supply of tennis courts in the District for recreational use. However, it is important to also consider the critical factors of how people access and discover courts to play tennis. LTA insight demonstrates that over 50% of all people who play between 1-11 times a year will do so in a non-club environment, for those who play monthly this figure remains at 40%. For those who play weekly the percentage share does split more evenly, showing 40% of weekly players doing so in clubs vs 30% in a non-club environment.

Given the above, the District Council, parish councils and the LTA should consider opportunities to develop tennis hub sites to promote greater opportunities for tennis engagement. To optimise and target resource, as well as stimulating demand for tennis, it is advised to look at creating non tennis club 'hub sites' which can better attract, grow and support recreational tennis in the area. This would involve working with the LTA on target sites that could improve the customer journey to court.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain and protect the existing stock of tennis club facilities via appropriate maintenance and management support to ensure adequate provision remains for those who seek regular tennis activity, whilst also encouraging club venues to consider how access and use can be improved at clubs to enable more informal play.
- ◀ For non-club venues look to sustain and protect tennis courts that can continue to provide informal access and use.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to improve court quality at sites identified as having poor quality courts. Look to align any future investment to LTA technological opportunities such as Gate Access systems and being part of LTA Rally.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to alleviate the future shortfall identified at Enderby LTC and support the Club with its aspiration to develop a new clubhouse.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to improve the quality of the existing pavilion at Blaby Victoria TC.

Hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

Summary

- ◀ There are no full size hockey suitable AGPs in the District, however, there are six small sided pitches. These are spread across four sites, with two pitches located at Ellis Park.
- ◀ Four small sided pitches are poor quality, two are standard quality.
- ◀ There is no identified demand for formal community hockey in the District.

Scenarios

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G pitches

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

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Work to improve the quality of the four poor quality AGPs to service both educational demand and recreational play. These are located at Countesthorpe Community College, Kirby Muxloe Sports Club, Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Field and Winstanley College.
- ◀ Pitches based at Countesthorpe Leysland Community College and Winstanley School should be considered for conversion to a 3G football surface. These are identified by Leicestershire & Rutland FA as good locations to satisfy affiliated football demand.

Netball courts

Summary

- ◀ In summary, there is enough netball provision in the District to meet current and future demand therefore a priority should be placed on retaining the supply of courts and improving quality when possible.
- ◀ In total, there are six outdoor netball courts located across two unique sites in the District. The two sites are Brockington College and Countesthorpe Leysland College.
- ◀ Most of the courts in the District (five) have a macadam surface, one, has an AstroTurf surface.
- ◀ The five macadam courts are poor quality, and the AstroTurf court is standard quality.
- ◀ There are no netball clubs based in the District.
- ◀ The local league structure for competitive netball operates on a central venue basis outside of the District. Consequently, it is not expected that there will be a significant rise in demand for outdoor netball courts.

Scenarios

There is enough outdoor netball provision in the District to meet current and future club/league demand. All competitive teams are likely to compete within the local Leicestershire league structure (which operates as central venue) outside of the District. As such, there is no perceived demand likely to be generated for outdoor courts, other than, recreational sessions in the District.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retrain the current supply of outdoor netball courts to cater for recreational opportunities.
- ◀ Seek to improve poor quality courts at education sites to provide enhanced curricular and extracurricular opportunities for netball.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to work in partnership with England Netball to increase participation into the sport.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

American football pitches

Summary

- ◀ There are no dedicated American football pitches in the District.
- ◀ There is one community American football club based in the District; Leicester Falcons. The Club has been nomadic since its inception in 2006. It now plays fixtures on the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Leicester Forest.
- ◀ It is considered that the 3G pitch at Leicester Forest RFC adequately accommodates all demand from the Club.

Scenarios

There is a sufficient supply of American football suitable pitch types in the District to accommodate current levels of club demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Work to ensure that the Club is able access suitable provision for training and match play.
- ◀ Where possible, support participation initiatives to increase club membership.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via a 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.

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that outdoor sports 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 there is a need to do so.

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

The PPS shows that all existing playing pitch sites require protection or replacement and therefore no provision can be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Reflecting the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should echo this situation.

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

NPPF paragraph 96 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

Should outdoor sports facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. parish 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, or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most demand is currently being met and most shortfalls are likely to be addressed through quality improvements. Including the need for additional facilities in the Local Plan is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches where there is a discrete need for additional provision, or where there is significant housing growth.

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

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

Policy Exception E1:

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

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

Policy Exception E2

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

Policy Exception E3

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

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

Policy Exception E4:

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

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

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Policy Exception E5

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

Lapsed and disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. A disused site is a playing field which is not currently being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'. Any disused/lapsed playing fields are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

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

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

A number of education sites in the District are used for competitive play, predominately for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and further work should be carried out to ensure an appropriate community use agreement is in place (including access to changing provision where required).

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

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

The Council should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. As the Council does not manage a high amount of playing pitches in the District, it should endeavour to work with the parish council network to support this throughout the District. This is particularly the case at poor quality parish council sites, possibly with inadequate ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved, and sites developed.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) ¹¹. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

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

Clubs	Site
<p>Clubs should have NGB accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management sites identified as 'Key' or 'Local' within the action plan hierarchy may be appropriate to consider.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p>

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). They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

The Council (and parish councils) 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.

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

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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.

Community asset transfer

Another way of ensuring tenure long term tenure for clubs is through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT).

CAT is the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (usually a local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Development Trust, a Community Interest Company or a social enterprise) for less than market value – to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Community based organisations are often much more effective at engaging people than other types of organisation because they are close to and directly accountable to their community.

Communities that come together to plan and deliver services can make them more inclusive and responsive than state run services. Communities can mobilise a lot of volunteer time and energy. Asset transfer can, for example:

- ◀ Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability
- ◀ Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces
- ◀ Involve people in designing and running the services from which, they benefit
- ◀ Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers
- ◀ Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process should this be an option for the Council to consider. It can be accessed here:

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/community-assets-and-rights>

Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.

In order to maximise community use of education facilities it is recommended to establish a coherent, structured relationship with schools. 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. Pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access but also physical access and resistance from schools to open up provision due to staffing, site security or to protect the quality of facilities for school use.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

A number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and the local clubs. The Council and other key partners must work with schools and colleges to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address any underlying problems.

Sport England has produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use and can be found at:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/>

The highest priority sites for securing formal community access arrangements should be those schools which already have community use but do not have secured community use arrangements. These already provide an important role in meeting community needs but this must be secured to ensure continued use into the future. Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use. The following schools are already used for community use but have no secure community usage agreement in place:

- ◀ Countesthorpe Leysland Community College
- ◀ Brockington College
- ◀ Winstanley School

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

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality and these are explored below. One way for improving quality on football sites is via the FA's pitch improvement programme.

The FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

The key principles behind the service are to provide football clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas and discounts on machinery and materials to support improving the clubs' playing surface. The programme should be utilised in order to help any clubs that take on the management and maintenance of sites or which are currently managing and maintaining their own pitch site.

Addressing quality issues

Quality in the District is variable but generally 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 focussed on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to 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, the Strategy refers to outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. For example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism and 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. For rugby, pitches will have inadequate natural 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, relevant to the District, 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 and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

The FA, the RFU and the ECB 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
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For all remaining non-pitch sports (e.g. bowls and tennis) there are no capacity recommendations set out by the NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

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, this should be undertaken in situ of quality improvements to a cricket square to improve the quality which in turn will increase carrying capacity.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. However, this is on the basis that there are enough pitches on a site to make this feasible. Alternatively, access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch will help the transfer of midweek training demand and competitive match play which in turn will reduce the pressure on grass pitches.

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 the Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) 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.

In addition, PIP also aims to focus on developing improved maintenance programmes with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority maintained sites.

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

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in the District, although these are generally centred at either parish council or privately managed sites. As previously mentioned, 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.

As an example, Cosby Recreation Ground has a poor quality clubhouse/pavilion which is used by football, rugby union and cricket clubs. A facility like this services both adult and junior participation in providing both changing rooms and a social space which supports club functions.

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.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 5: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities.

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

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

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

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

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

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality.

This uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then converts this into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs (both for providing the provision and for its life cycle).

The PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration). Please refer to Part 7: Housing growth scenarios for more detail.

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPS findings are taken into consideration and that consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused, such as single grass pitch football sites without adequate ancillary facilities or new cricket/rugby grounds located away from existing clubs. Instead, multi-pitch and multi-sport sites should be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities.

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

OBJECTIVE 3

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where feasible and 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 playing pitches in the District whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focussed upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements. 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.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments (i.e. New Lubbesthorpe), 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.

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

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends, and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming 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 based on TGRs and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G AGPs.	Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing.
	The FA's strategy for Women's and Girls' football: 2017 – 2020 was released in March 2017. One of the major goals of the new strategy will be to double participation.	Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase.
3G pitches	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.	Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for community use agreements to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds. Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface.
Cricket	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 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. Increasing numbers of those children are continuing to play	Greater usage of outfielders to accommodate 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.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
	<p>cricket as they get older so junior numbers are increasing within clubs.</p> <p>Dynamos Cricket is the ECB national programme for 8-11 year old. It builds on the core principles of All Stars Cricket and participants will continue to develop skills and be introduced to a countdown style of cricket.</p>	
	<p>Women's and girls' cricket is a national ECB priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.</p>	<p>Increased requirement for peak time access to pitches.</p> <p>Need to ensure access to good quality facilities including, segregated changing and toilet provision.</p>
Rugby union	<p>Locally, it is expected that there will be a rise in demand for several key clubs which will lead to a higher demand for pitches and midweek training facilities.</p>	<p>Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and support facility development. In particular, capital improvements are required to the existing natural turf pitches as is improvements to the quality of changing rooms, where appropriate. All clubs should have access to high quality floodlit pitches to support training and match play demand.</p> <p>Need for greater access to current 3G World Rugby Reg 22 pitch given shortfalls identified on grass pitches and level of training demand on grass pitches.</p>
Bowls	<p>No expected net increase in memberships.</p>	<p>Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.</p>
Tennis	<p>The LTA has a key priority for the strategic development and growth of tennis at both a club and wider community level such as local parks.</p>	<p>Increases in participation can be accommodated through providing additional courts that are floodlit.</p> <p>An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as digital access systems.</p>
Netball	<p>Membership of clubs is expected to increase.</p>	<p>Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing courts. The local league is an indoor central venue outside of the District so little anticipated impact for the District.</p>
Golf	<p>Declining membership expected to 'level off'.</p>	<p>Club are likely to see a rise in membership.</p>
	<p>Non-traditional formats of play are becoming increasingly popular.</p>	<p>Clubs should tailor their offer towards non-traditional formats of play to attract new users.</p>

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

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

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Key centres are more community focussed 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 and parish council 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

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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. It is vital that, where possible, the Council supports all parish councils in the District in the delivery of key actions and priorities identified in the Action Plan below.

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 key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

The majority of key centres 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.**

**BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

BLABY EAST ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	
1	Blaby and Whetstone Youth Club	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult football pitch and one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch. Small levels of overplay on both pitches.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality. The Club recently received funding to enhance pitch maintenance and quality should consequently improve.	FA, FF Sports Club	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	
		Football (3G)		One poor quality small sided 3G pitch.	Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.			H	L	L		
				The Club using the site (Blaby and Whetstone FC) has an aspiration to develop a full size 3G pitch in place of its adult grass pitch. This is not identified in the Districts LFFP but could replace one of the sites already identified. There are already four pitches identified within the LFFP for potential delivery in the Analysis Area.	Consider the feasibility of developing a full size 3G pitch on the site. There is a shortfall of three full size pitches in the Analysis Area so this will need to be considered against projects already identified at Lubbesthorpe, Countesthorpe Leysland Community College and Holmes Park			M	M	H		
2	Blaby Thistly Meadow Primary School	Football	School	One good quality mini 7v7 football pitch. Tenure is unsecure on site. The site is the home venue of Blaby Meadows FC.	Sustain quality of pitch by upholding the current maintenance regime. Explore opportunities to secure a community use agreement for access.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	
5	Cosby Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	Two poor quality adult pitches and one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch. Spare capacity on all pitches has been discounted due to poor quality. Poor quality changing provision. The Blaby LFFP identifies the site for pitch improvements and a new changing pavilion.	Work with football partners to refurbish the poor quality pavilion as identified in the LFFP. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage. Look to utilise the Blaby LFFP to improve quality.	FA, FF Parish Council	Key Centre	H	M	M	Protect Enhance	
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with ten grass wickets.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.			ECB Council	L	L		L
		Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D1) senior rugby union pitch. The pitch is maintained by Cosby Parish Council to a basic standard. Spare capacity is discounted due to the poor quality of the pitch.	Work with the RFU to improve pitch quality. Ensure a partnership approach if the onsite pavilion is to be refurbished/replaced.			RFU Council	M	L		L
6	Countesthorpe Community College	Football	School	Three adult pitches, two mini 5v5 pitches, one youth 11v11 pitch and three youth 9v9 pitches all standard quality. Tenure unsecure on site. Youth 11v11 pitch is at capacity. Identified in the LFFP for pitch improvements.	Work with football partners to improve pitch quality. Explore opportunities to develop a community use agreement.	FA, FF School	Hub Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide	
		Football (3G)		One standard quality small sided 3G pitch. Furthermore, the Blaby LFFP identify this site as a potential to accommodate a new full size 3G pitch.	Explore opportunities to develop a full size pitch to reduce identified 3G pitch shortfall. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.				L	L		H
		Tennis		Two standard quality sand-based AstroTurf courts and two poor quality macadam courts.	Retain for curricular use and improve quality as required.			LTA School	L	L		L

**BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
		Netball		One standard quality sand-based AstroTurf court and two poor quality macadam courts.	Retain for curricular use and improve quality as required.	EN School		L	L	L	
		Hockey		One poor quality small sided sand dressed hockey pitch. The hockey pitch is not used for either hockey training or for competitive matches.	Explore funding opportunities to improve quality.	EH School		M	M	H	
7	Countesthorpe Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality cricket square. The Club aspires to develop a new site on agricultural land on Leicester Road in Countesthorpe to accommodate its 3 rd and 4 th senior men's teams which current play outside of the District.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Explore opportunities to develop a new site for the Club to accommodate its exported demand.	ECB Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
18	Greenfield Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 5v5 football pitches. Pitches are unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
19	Greystoke Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality adult football pitch. Tenure is unsecure on site.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
23	Holmes Park	Football	CFA	One good quality adult football pitch. No club partner on site.	Sustain quality of pitch by upholding the current maintenance regime, unless the pitch is to be replaced by 3G pitch.	FA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance
		Football (3G)		One good quality small sided 3G pitch. The site is identified in the Blaby LFFP as having the potential to accommodate a full size 3G.	Work with football partners to explore opportunities to develop a full size pitch to reduce identified 3G pitch shortfall.			M	M	H	
		-		Leicestershire & Rutland CFA is considering future plans to redevelop the site. At this stage it is not determined what redevelopment will look like or translate to.	If the site is to be redeveloped in the future, ensure that it is to the benefit of community grassroots football and that there is no net loss of onsite facilities for community sport users (unless suitably re-provided as per Sport England Playing Policy Guidance). Consider any redevelopment to align to the Blaby District LFFP.			H	M	H	
34	Leicester Road Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch all poor quality. Small levels of overplay on adult pitch. Two main pitches have been unplayable for long periods due to bad weather and drainage issues	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality.	FA, FF Parish Council	Local Site	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One good quality cricket square with 13 wickets. Home of Narborough & Littlethorpe CC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.			ECB Council	L	L	
36	Lutterworth Road	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch, two mini 5v5 pitches, two mini 7v7 and four youth 9v9 pitches all standard quality. Overplay on adult pitch. Changing provision assessed as poor quality and needing refurbishment or replacing as identified through the LFFP.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality. Work with football partners to develop a new pavilion/clubhouse on site aligned to the Blaby LFFP.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	M	L	M	Protect Enhance
37	Meadows Sports Ground	Football	Sports Club	Three poor quality adult pitches, one good quality adult pitch, one poor quality mini 7v7 pitch and one poor quality youth 9v9	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality. The Club recently received funding to enhance pitch maintenance and quality should	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	M	M	H	Protect Enhance

**BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				pitch. Small levels of overplay on three adult pitches and youth 9v9 pitch. On site ancillary provision is poor. It is identified in the LFFP for replacement/refurbishment.	consequently improve. Explore funding opportunities to replace/refurbish the changing pavilion.						
		Cricket		An eight wicket square which is good quality. Home to Wigston CC. Ancillary provision poor.	Ensure quality of the cricket square is sustained. Explore opportunities to improve the quality of the pavilion.	ECB Sports Club		M	M	H	
39	Northfield Park	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult pitch which spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Look to improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance.	FA, FF Parish Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with six wickets. There is the potential for one additional Saturday cricket team to access the site for competitive matches.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Pitch likely to be used by Blaby Village CC senior men's 2 nd team for the 2020 cricket season.	ECB Council		L	L	L	
40	Oakfield Park	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult pitch which has small levels of overplay, one standard quality mini 7v7 pitch and two poor quality youth 9v9 pitches. Changing provision site assessed as poor quality and needing either refurbishment or replacing as identified through the LFFP.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage. Work with football partners to refurbish and improve the poor quality pavilion and pitches as identified in the LFFP. Look to utilise the Blaby LFFP to improve quality.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
44	Saffron Dynamo FC	Football	Sports Club	Two standard quality adult pitches which are at capacity, one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which there is no capacity at peak period. Saffron Dynamo FC compete in the United Counties Premier Division.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
		Football (3G)		One good quality small sided 3G pitch which is on the FA pitch register.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.			L	L	M	
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with nine wickets. Outfield has declined in quality in the last season due to outfield being maintained by Saffron Dynamo FC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	ECB Sports Club		L	L	L	
52	The Pastures Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 football pitch. Pitch not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
57	Vipers RFC	Rugby union	Sports Club	Three standard quality (M1/D1) senior rugby union pitches. The three senior pitches are suitably maintained. Noted close to being considered as good quality by the RFU. One senior pitch (floodlit) is overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent session due to being used for training also. The changing facility is largely outdated and in need of refurbishment.	Work to alleviate identified site overplay through a combination of providing new floodlighting and improve pitch quality through maintenance and drainage solutions. Consider the medium to long term feasibility of refurbish current changing facility.	RFU Sports Club	Local Site	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
58	Warwick Road Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult football pitch which is at capacity and three poor quality mini 7v7 pitches.	Improve pitches quality through maintenance improvements.	FA, FF Parish Council	Local Site	M	L	L	Protect Enhance

**BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with six wickets. Changing provision site assessed as poor quality.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Explore funding options to improve the onsite ancillary offer.	ECB Parish Council		L	L	L	
59	Leicester Lions RFU	Rugby union	Sports Club	Three standard quality pitches. The 1 st XV pitch (M1/D3) has a recent pipe drainage system installed. Ancillary facilities are good condition having been recently provided in 2018.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	RFU Sports Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
60	Willoughby Road Playing Field	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 football pitch which has small levels of overplay and one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage.	FA, FF Parish Council	Local Site	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
63	Blaby Victoria Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Three standard quality macadam courts. All courts floodlit. Poor quality ancillary provision that requires refurbishment. The current facility is a wooden structure which offers little in terms of social space, changing or appropriate toilet facilities.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Explore opportunities to refurbish the ancillary offer to service current and future membership.	LTA Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
64	Blaby Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat bowling green. The Club has a strong club membership.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BE Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
65	David Lloyd Narborough	Tennis	Private	Six good quality artificial courts which are all floodlit.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	LTA Private	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
70	Coventry Road	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat bowling green. The Club (Narborough & District) has a strong membership.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BE Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
71	Countesthorpe Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat bowling green. The Club has a strong club membership.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BE Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
72	New Lubbesthorpe Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 football pitch. Tenure is unsecure on site.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect

BLABY NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	
3	Brockington College	Football	School	One poor quality adult football pitch, one poor quality youth 11v11 pitch and one poor quality youth 9v9. Small levels of overplay on pitches.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality.	FA FF School	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance	
		Football (3G)		One poor quality full size 3G pitch. The pitch was installed 11 years ago required remedial works to be undertaken to remain on the FA Pitch Register but needs resurfacing.	Explore funding opportunities to resurface the pitch. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.			H	S	H		
		Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D1) senior rugby union pitch. The pitch has basic maintenance. Pitch is available for community use but is unused, the pitch is at capacity through curricular use.	Improve pitch quality for curricular use	RFU School		L	L	L		
		Tennis		Four poor quality macadam courts due to surface quality and grip underfoot.	Improve court quality for curricular use as required.	LTA School		L	L	M		
		Netball		Three poor quality macadam courts. These are overmarked on the tennis courts.	Improve court quality for curricular use as required.	EN School		L	L	L		
8	County Hall Sports Ground	Football	County Council	One standard quality adult pitch with pitch being at capacity.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	FA, FF County Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with eight wickets.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.			ECB County Council	L	L		L
		Tennis		Three standard quality artificial tennis courts.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.			LTA County Council	L	L		L
10	Danemill Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 football pitch. Pitch unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	
11	Dorothy Avenue Playing Field	Football	Parish Council	Two poor quality adult football pitches. Changing provision site assessed as poor quality and needing either refurbishment or replacing as identified in LFFP.	Work with football partners to refurbish and improve the poor quality pavilion and pitches as identified in the LFFP. Look to utilise the Blaby LFFP to improve quality. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage.	FA, FF Parish Council	Local Site	L	L	H	Protect Enhance	
12	Ellis Park	Hockey	Council	Two standard quality small sided sand dressed hockey pitches. The hockey pitches are not used for either hockey training or for competitive matches.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.	EH Council	Local Site	L	L	M	Protect	
13	Enderby Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality cricket square with nine wickets.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	ECB Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	
14	Forest East Park	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality mini 7v7 football pitch and one standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. Changing provision is not designed to FA specifications.	Sustain pitch quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	

**BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
15	Fossebrook Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 football pitch. Pitch not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
16	Glen Hills Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 football pitch. Pitch not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
17	Glenfield Sports Ground	Football	Sports Club	Two poor quality adult football pitches, one standard quality mini 5v5 pitch, one poor quality mini 7v7 pitch and two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches. Levels of overplay on adult pitches. Pitches are basically maintained, and the site suffers from drainage issues. Pitches are identified in the LFFP for pitch improvements.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage. Look to utilise the Blaby District LFFP to improve quality.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One good quality cricket square with nine wickets. Home venue of Anstey and Glenfield CC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	ECB Sports Club		L	L	L	
28	King George V Playing Field	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality mini 7v7 football pitch. Actual spare capacity on pitch.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	FA, FF Parish Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance
		Bowls		One good quality flat bowls green. Home of Enderby Bowls Club. Lease expires on the site in 2025. The Club highlight a need to upgrade its toilet facilities for members.	Sustain quality of the green. Ensure that the Club is able to secure a long term lease from the Parish Council to ensure it is in a position to apply for grant funding. Explore funding opportunities to enhance its toilet provision on the site.	BE Council		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Three good quality artificial tennis courts. Home venue of Enderby Tennis Club. Lease expires in 2020. The Club highlight an aspiration to develop a new clubhouse with improved disability access. The Club has growth aspirations equating to 100 members. If it achieves this it will be oversubscribed.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. As a priority, look to secure a long term lease arrangement for the Club to allow it to secure potential grant funding opportunities. If future demand aspirations are reached, explore opportunities to develop additional provision on site or alternatively consider a partnership agreement with Brockington College to utilise its tennis provision.	LTA Parish Council		M	M	M	
30	Kirby Muxloe Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 football pitch. Pitch is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
31	Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	Three poor quality adult pitches, one poor quality mini 5v5 pitch, one poor quality mini 7v7 pitch and one poor quality youth 9v9 football pitch. All pitches have limited maintenance identified through the Blaby LFFP. Changing provision site assessed as poor quality and needing either refurbishment or replacing as identified in the LFFP.	Work with football partners to refurbish and improve the poor quality pavilion and pitches as identified in the LFFP. Explore options to improve pitch quality. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage.	FA FF Council	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

**BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
		Cricket		Disused - One disused cricket square. Not been used for formal cricket in several years.	Ensure that the square is retained on the site to service anticipated future demand / identified exported demand. The square has the potential for future use given identified future shortfalls for cricket in the District. Consideration should be given to the cost of ensuring the square is usable for competitive cricket.	ECB Parish Council		L	L	L	
		Bowls		One standard quality flat bowling green. Home of Kirby Muxloe BC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BE Council		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Two standard quality macadam tennis courts. Used as a venue for a Parks Tennis League.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	LTA Council		L	L	L	
32	Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which has small levels of overplay. Changing provision site assessed as poor quality and needing either refurbishment or replacing as identified through the LFFP.	New 3G pitch development will alleviate all overplay on site. Explore funding opportunities to refurbish/replace the existing changing pavilion to accommodate the additional demand created on site to cater for new 3G pitch.	FA, FF Sports Club	Key Site	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Football (3G)		3G pitch at this site is already under construction and is planned to be ready for the season 20/21, this was identified through the Blaby LFFP.	Ensure the pitch is developed to a good standard meeting the appropriate technical specifications for competitive match play. Ensure a sinking fund is in place and that usage is maximised.			H	S	H	
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with nine wickets. Home of Kirby Muxloe CC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	ECB Sports Club		L	L	L	
		Hockey		One poor quality small sided sand dressed hockey pitches. Predominately used for small sided football.	Consider refurbishment to a 3G surface to complement on site provision. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.	EH Sports Club		M	L	M	
33	Leicester Forest RFC	Rugby union (3G)	Sports Club	One good quality full size 3Gpitch. The pitch is a World Rugby compliant, also the pitch is managed and operated by the RFU. Primary function is to service rugby union clubs in Leicestershire. Pitch was installed in 2018.	Ensure that usage is maximised and that it continues to provide a pivotal role in providing rugby union opportunities for clubs and schools across the region. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.	RFU Sports Club	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
		Rugby union		Two standard quality (M1/D1) rugby union pitches. Both pitches are adequately maintained. Pitches at capacity through match play demand, predominately from its mini and junior section.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	RFU Sports Club		L	L	L	

**BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
38	Mossdale Meadows	Football	Town Council	Two poor quality adult pitches which have small levels of overplay, four poor quality mini pitches and one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch. Changing provision site assessed as poor quality and needing either refurbishment or replacing as identified through the LFFP.	Work with football partners to refurbish and improve the poor quality pavilion and pitches. Look to utilise the Blaby LFFP to improve quality. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	H	M	M	Protect Enhance
41	Old Newtonians RFC	Football	Sports Club	One poor quality adult pitch, one standard quality mini 5v5 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which has small levels of overplay.	Explore options to alleviate overplay. Demand transfer or alternate site	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		Two standard quality (M1/D1) senior rugby pitches and one standard (M1/D1) quality mini pitch. All pitches are adequately maintained by the club and each has spare capacity for additional growth. The Club aspires to provide additional floodlighting on the site. The clubhouse and changing facilities are highly outdated and require refurbishment to ensure it remains fit for purpose for coming years.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Support the club if it is to consider providing further floodlighting at the site to support its midweek training structures for all its teams. Explore funding opportunities to refurbish/replace the existing changing pavilion.	RFU Sports Club		M	M-L	H	
46	Shakespeare Park	Football	Town Council	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch, one poor quality mini 7v7 pitch and one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch.	Improve pitches quality through maintenance improvements.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Bowls		One good quality flat bowling green. The pavilion at this site is now disrepair and is no longer fit for purpose. Braunstone Town Council has announced plans to redevelop the clubhouse facility.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Work with Braunstone Town Council to redevelop the clubhouse facilities.	BE Sports Club		M	L	M	
		Tennis		Two poor quality macadam tennis courts. The non-technical audit found that these courts had poor surface quality and grip underfoot. Currently out of action as the new pavilion is constructed.	Ensure that when courts are re-established that they are of a sufficient quality to accommodate recreational demand. Consider exploring LTA Gate Access if they are to be invested in.	LTA Council		H	S	M	
48	Southey Close	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is at capacity.	Sustain current maintenance regime.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	M	L	L	Protect
54	Thorpe Astley Community Centre	Football	Town Council	One poor quality adult pitch. Pitch has limited maintenance.	Improve pitches quality through maintenance improvements.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Two standard quality macadam tennis courts.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	LTA Town Council		L	L	L	
61	Winstanley Community College	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches, one standard quality mini 7v7 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Tenure is unsecure at site.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Explore opportunities to secure a community use agreement.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Football (3G)		The site is identified in the Blaby LFFP as having the potential to accommodate a small sided 3G. There is a live application in place with the Football Foundation to resurface existing small sided AstroTurf pitch.	Work with football partners to convert small sided pitch to 3G to aid reduction in 3G pitch shortfalls.			M	M	H	

**BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with nine wickets.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	ECB School		L	L	L	
		Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D1) junior rugby union pitch. This pitch is basically maintained.	Consider improving pitch quality if linked to a community club.	RFU School		L	L	L	
66	Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	Two standard quality cricket squares. Ten wickets on one square and seven wickets on the other.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	ECB Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
67	Braunstone Lane	Cricket	Council	One standard quality cricket square with ten wickets. Ancillary facilities are poor quality. The site is owned and maintained by Leicester City Council.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Consider the feasibility to improve ancillary facilities.	ECB Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
68	Leicester Forest East Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Two good quality clay tennis courts and two good quality artificial tennis courts. The site also has two indoor tennis courts. Leicester Forest East TC is planning to develop a new indoor court to expand on its indoor provision, this will involve covering an existing outdoor court.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Support Leicester Forest East TC on its planned development to increase the scale of its indoor provision. The loss of an outdoor court is outweighed by the membership capacity benefit of an additional indoor court.	LTA Sports Club	Local Site	S-M	S-M	H	Protect Provide
69	Glenfield Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality flat bowling green. The Green is annual rented from Parish Council. The onsite ancillary offer is poor and the Club has aspirations to improve the disability offer to members.	Explore options to improve the quality of the bowling green. Consider potential options to secure a long term lease arrangement.	BE Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

BLABY WEST ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
25	Huncote Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 football pitch. Pitch not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
27	Huncote Sports and Social Club	Football	Sports Club	Two poor quality adult pitches which both have small levels of overplay.	Explore opportunities to improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with eight wickets.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	ECB Sports Club		L	L	L	
29	King George's Field	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality youth 9v9 on site which has spare capacity.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
35	Lissman Fields (Sharnford CC)	Cricket	Private	Disused - Sharnford Cricket Club folded in 2017 and as such the site is now disused with no formal cricket activity affiliated to the site. The cost to reinstate the square and onsite ancillary facilities is likely to be significant.	Site should also be protected from development or be replaced (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls. Opportunities to bring the site back into formal use should also be considered. Given identified cricket shortfalls, this could potentially provide a site for Enderby CC and Countesthorpe CC as overspill sites.	ECB LC BDC	Local Site	-	-	-	Protect
45	Sapcote Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult pitch. Limited maintenance on pitch.	Improve pitches quality through maintenance improvements.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with eight wickets. The square was not maintained in 2020 due to issues relating to Covid 19. It is not anticipated this issue will continue into 2021 and that the square will be fully utilised for club cricket.	Ensure that the square is restored to its usual quality as it was in the 2019 cricket season and that it is ready for competitive cricket intime for the 2021 season.	ECB Council		L	L	L	
51	Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	Two standard quality adult pitches and two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches. Changing provision site assessed as poor quality and needing either refurbishment or replacing.	Sustain pitch quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Work with football partners to refurbish and improve the poor quality pavilion as identified in the LFFP.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	M	M	H	Protect Provide Enhance
		Tennis		Four good quality floodlit macadam tennis courts. The onsite ancillary provision servicing Stoney Stanton TC is good. The Club has an aspiration to develop two additional tennis courts to enable increased levels of participation on the site.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime and by ensuring a sufficient sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment work (when required). Where possible, support the Clubs aspiration to increase the number of tennis courts available on the site.	LTA Council		L	L	L	
53	The Pavilion Leisure Centre	Football	Commercial	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	FA, FF Commercial	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
		Football (3G)	Parish Council	Two standard quality small sided 3G pitch.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.			L	L	M	

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
55	Thurlaston Football Club	Football	Sports Club	Two poor quality adult pitches which have small levels of overplay, two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches and one poor quality youth 9v9 pitches which also has small levels of overplay. Site identified in the Blaby LFFP for pitch improvements and new clubhouse/changing pavilion.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality. Explore options to improve pitch quality aligned to LFFP. Work with football partners to develop a new pavilion/clubhouse.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
62	Winston Avenue Sports Ground	Football	Parish Council	Two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches which are at capacity and two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches which have small levels of overplay. Limited maintenance on pitches. Certain areas of the playing field are unusable due to pitch quality. The onsite ancillary offer is poor and offers little to service football demand. The site is identified in the Blaby District LFFP for pitch improvements and changing pavilion replacement/refurbishment. Home ground to Croft Juniors FC.	Work with football partners to deliver the actions within the Blaby LFFP.	FA, FF Parish Council	Local Site	H-M	M	H	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with nine wickets. The square is no longer used by any community cricket club following a decision by Croft Parish Council to only permit use to clubs/teams which are based within Croft. Croft CC folded several years ago and is not expected to reform.	Actively work with Cricket partners and Croft Parish Council to ensure that the site can be accessed for clubs from within the District or from the wider Leicestershire region. Given identified future shortfalls for cricket in the District it is imperative that access can be secured to service demand.	ECB Council		H	S	L	
		Tennis		One poor quality macadam tennis court. The non-technical audit found that these courts had poor surface quality and grip underfoot.	Consider the feasibility of resurfacing the court to encourage recreational usage.	LTA Council		M	M	M	

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2037 (in line with the emerging Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) 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 scenario below shows the additional demand for pitch sports generated from the New Lubbethorpe development which lies to the south of Leicester Forest East and is bordered by the M1 to the east. 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 figures assume that population growth will average 2.4 per dwelling. Based on an anticipated 4,250 dwellings, it is expected that population growth from this development will equate to an additional population of 10,200.

Please note that the PPC can be updated as required over the Local Plan period throughout the lifespan of the PPS to reflect population projections and projections, changes in the housing requirement and change in the average household size.

The number of pitches required in the following tables has been rounded up or down accordingly, however, capital and revenue costs are based on indicative pitch costs, proportionate to the total match equivalent sessions required rather than just whole pitches required. Though increases in match sessions for some sports are not sufficient to warrant the creation of new pitches, the associated costs have been incorporated and investment into alternative sites could instead be considered to increase capacity to accommodate this new demand.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

New Lubbethorpe - 4,250 forecasted dwellings

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 2019-2036 is 10,200 (based on 4,250 dwellings being delivered). This population increase equates to 14.2 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports and 53.38 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 25.26 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches. There are also 1.89 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from Lubbethorpe development

Pitch sport ¹²	Estimated demand by sport (Lubbethorpe)	
	Match demand (MES) per week ¹³	Training demand ¹⁴
Adult football	2.71	25.26 hours
Youth football	5.67	
Mini soccer	4.24	
Rugby union	1.58	1.89
Cricket	53.38	-

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

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches				
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ¹⁵	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ¹⁶	Changing rooms (numbers)	Changing rooms (capital cost)
Adult football	2 (2.71)	£287,225	£60,604	5 (5.42)	£976,564
Youth football	5 (5.67)	£451,159	£94,743	7 (7.06)	£1,271,375
Mini soccer	4 (4.24)	£112,451	£23,615	-	-
Rugby union	1 (1.58)	£235,199	£50,333	3 (3.17)	£571,198
Cricket	1 (1.19)	£373,411	£75,429	2 (2.39)	£430,372
Sand based AGPs	-	-	-	-	-
3G	0 (0.66)	£697,468	£24,346	1 (1.33)	£239,534

¹² Note that no figures for hockey AGPs are identified as no current demand exists in the District.

¹³ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

¹⁴ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

¹⁵ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

¹⁶ 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 PPS provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across the District. By addressing issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of District can 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 Strategy 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, 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 PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the Steering Group should not end with the completion of the PPS document

To help ensure that the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document 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 PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of PPS 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 PPS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the Steering Group to understand, the key areas to which its influence should be applied and strategy delivered.

Following sign off of the PPS, a short-term Action Plan should be prepared by the Council, in consultation with relevant partners, in order to distil the existing Action Plan and to give the Steering Group a short-term focus. This would then need to be revised through regular meetings.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should be a key component of monitoring its delivery and be an on-going role of the Steering Group.

The Steering Group that takes the PPS forward should be made up of Blaby District Council as well as other partners such as the NGBs, and Leicestershire & Rutland Sport. This offers benefits in terms of joint working on strategic and cross-boundary issues and will also be more efficient in terms of administration when compared to each authority having its own individual Steering Group.

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KKP will provide the tools used to produce the PPS to the Council as well as training on how to use such tools, such as the PPS database used to hold all information gathered. This will enable the monitoring and updating process to be carried out.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, Sport England and the NGBs will consider the PPS 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.

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

An annual 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 PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

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

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

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Alongside regular Steering Group meetings, a good way to keep the PPS 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.

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. Discussion 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 regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

It is important that the Council maintains the data contained with the accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental 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.

Blaby Local Football Facilities Plan


The findings of and any subsequent changes to the PPS should align with the Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) for the Blaby District (completed in 2019) which will also serve as a live document requiring concurrent management. The position for formal and affiliated football provision determined and updated through the PPS should form the basis for investment into formalised football provision echoed through the LFFP, which will further explore opportunities for investment into informal, recreational, small sided and indoor football as an extension of the PPS findings, the result being a wholistic plan for partnership investment into football facilities in the District over the next decade. The PPS and LFFP should demonstrate synergy and should inform each other.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Checklist

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

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

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

APPENDIX ONE: 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.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

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

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

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

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

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

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

National Planning Policy Framework (2018)

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 and safe communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sports and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

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 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 benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

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

The FA National 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"*

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

£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 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.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.

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 (2019-2024)

"Inspiring Generations" is the new ECB participation strategy which was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women's and girls' cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

- ◀ Growing and nurture the core
- ◀ Inspiring through elite teams
- ◀ Making cricket accessible
- ◀ Engaging children and young people
- ◀ Transforming women's and girl's cricket
- ◀ Supporting communities

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.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+Strategy).
<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+Strategy>

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.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

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

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017

This version remains the most up to date available. The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

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

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

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

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

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The intention is to:

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

British Tennis Strategy 2019

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

Vision: tennis opened up

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 from 1.9% (858,700) of the population to 2.2% (1,000,000) 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.

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business. To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

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

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

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

Awarding body	Description
<p>Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/</p>	<p>The Big Lottery Fund distributes over £500m a year to communities across the UK, raised by players of The National Lottery.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 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. <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 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. <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 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.
<p>Sport England</p>	<p>Sport England’s vision is that everyone in England feels able to take part in sport or activity, regardless of age, background or ability.</p>

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
<p>The current funding streams may change throughout 2019/20 so refer to the website for the latest information: https://www.sportengland.org/funding/</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Community Asset Fund – this programme is dedicated to enhancing the spaces in your local community that give people the opportunity to be active.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</p>	<p>This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Grass pitch drainage/improvements, ◀ Pavilions, clubhouses and changing rooms, ◀ 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTPs) and multi-use games areas, ◀ Fixed floodlights for artificial pitches. <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 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), ◀ Fencing.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Rugby Football Foundation (RFF) http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=113</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Projects eligible for funding include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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). <p>'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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>The England and Wales Cricket Trust https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Small Grant Scheme aims to support the ECB's national programmes – Get the Game On, All Stars Cricket, Women's Cricket and U19 Club T20. Clubs can apply for funding towards the purchase of relevant products or materials, and associated professional labour costs.</p> <p>Project themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Covers – supporting Get the Game On, ◀ Family Friendly Facilities – supporting All Stars Cricket,

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Improved Changing Facilities for Females – supporting Women’s Cricket, ◀ Great Events – supporting U19 Club T20.
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 active in the field of the environment because they are key players in the development and implementation of environmental policy.
LTA Transforming British Tennis Together https://www.lta.org.uk/workforce-venues/tennis-venue-support/tennis-facility-funding-and-advice/transforming-british-tennis-together/	TBTT is the largest capital investment programme the LTA has undertaken. It aims to invest £125 million over the next ten years in tennis facilities which it hopes can be match funded by partners to bring £250 million into the sport.
Bowls England Grants https://www.bowlsengland.com/funding/	Provided a club is affiliated to the Bowls England it is eligible to apply for a club loan. These loans can relate to a variety of ancillary issues and include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Fencing ◀ Car parking ◀ New pavilion/clubhouse development ◀ Changing rooms ◀ Purchase of lawn mowers, scarifiers, turf irons or sprinkler systems ◀ Repair of ditches and banks

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 is providing which services/facilities? Unit and overall costs).
- ◀ Technical information and requirements (e.g. planning permission).
- ◀ Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e. the anticipated situation after the project/what the project is anticipated to achieve)
- ◀ Evidence of support from partners and stakeholders.
- ◀ Background/essential documentation (e.g. community use agreement).
- ◀ Assessment of risk.

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.