



# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation turf (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BC	Bowling Club
CC	Cricket Club
CSP	County Sports Partnership
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LCCB	Lancashire County Cricket Board
LCFA	Liverpool County Football Association
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body of Sport
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
SC	Sefton Council
TGR	Team Generation Rate
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LTC	Lawn Tennis Club

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## SUMMARY OF THE KEY POINTS

- ◀ The purpose of the Strategy is to provide a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2015 and 2025.
- ◀ It follows Sport England guidance in a partnership approach with the key pitch sport National Governing Bodies (NGBs):  
<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>
- ◀ The Strategy has been developed by a strong and effective Steering Group which comprises representatives from the four main pitch sport National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) i.e. Liverpool County FA (LCFA), Lancashire County Cricket Board (LCCB), England Hockey (EH) and the Rugby Football Union (RFU), Sport England, Council officers from planning, schools' services, sports development and parks & greenspaces and representation from Sefton Sports Council.
- ◀ The key benefits of strategy include drawing in facilities investment in Sefton and for it to contribute to Sefton Council's corporate and strategic objectives including, for example, the Local Plan and Sefton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Overview of the Assessment on a sport by sport basis:

- ◀ There are shortfalls in both the quality and quantity of **grass football pitches** across Sefton. This is likely to be further exacerbated in the future if displaced teams to neighbouring authorities such as Liverpool and West Lancashire (where there is no existing charges to hire local authority youth pitches) were to travel back into Sefton in the likely event that pitch charges are introduced in those authorities.
- ◀ There is a significant shortfall of **3G football pitches** in Sefton as there are currently none. There is a recommended need for at least 11 full size 3G pitches using the FA model to service current demand for training.
- ◀ When taking into account unmet, displaced and future demand there is an overall shortfall of 2.5 grass wicket **cricket pitches** in Sefton. This is primarily a result of overplay in Formby and Maghull & Sefton East which cannot be addressed through utilising spare capacity expressed in other areas.
- ◀ Overall in Sefton there is a current shortfall of **grass rugby union pitches** which is further exacerbated when accounting for future demand. The shortfall expressed is mostly as a result of overplay at Waterloo Recreation Ground, Southport (Southport RUFC), Litherland Sports Park (Waterloo RUFC) and Waterloo RUFC, Crosby coupled with unmet demand. There are also no 3G AGPs in Sefton that are World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant.
- ◀ There is sufficient availability of **sand based AGPs for hockey** within Sefton to accommodate current and future demand for both competitive hockey play and organised training. However, there is an identified need to increase the quality of existing provision and in particular Greenbank High School, Birkdale, which is assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ There are a sufficient number of **tennis courts** that are available for community use to accommodate current demand in Sefton. However, there is a shortfall in the quality of some courts and some isolated areas where additional courts may be required to meet future demand i.e. Blundellsands Lawn Tennis Club.
- ◀ In terms of quantity, the provision of **bowling greens** in Sefton is sufficient to accommodate both current and future demand. However, there are shortfalls in the quality of existing provision.

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- ◀ There are huge opportunities to address deficiencies identified e.g. improving maintenance, more community use of school sites and in particular creation of football 'hub' sites and provision of 3G pitches to serve both current and future demand.
- ◀ The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach.
- ◀ The Strategy outlines that the Council must identify a lead officer to drive recommendations forward. In other significant local authorities it has also been important to have Director level overview in order to secure appropriate political support.
- ◀ It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the Strategy has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. This should form an on-going role of the steering group. It is possible that in the interim between annual reviews the steering group could operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.
- ◀ As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the Strategy being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. If the Strategy is used as a 'live' document, and kept up to date, the time frame can be extended to five years.

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Sefton Council (SC) and its partners. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report it provides a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2015 and 2025. The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches (AGPs) (Hockey)
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Tennis courts

There is a real opportunity for the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), if used to its full potential, to draw in facilities investment in Sefton and for it to contribute to a range of corporate and strategic objectives including, for example, Sefton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. In order to achieve this, the Council must identify a lead officer to drive the PPS forward. In other significant local authorities it has also been important to have Director level overview of the PPS in order to secure appropriate political support.

In addition, the PPS has been developed by a strong and effective Steering Group. This has representatives from the four main pitch sport National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) i.e. Liverpool County FA (LCFA), Lancashire County Cricket Board (LCCB), England Hockey (EH) and the Rugby Football Union (RFU), Sport England, Council officers from planning, schools' services, sports development and parks & greenspaces and representation from Sefton Sports Council. This group also presents a ready-made opportunity to help implement recommendations and actions outlined with the Strategy with a lead from the Council. Indeed there is still the need to prioritise site specific actions, sport by sport, in order to further develop the action plan. It is therefore strongly recommended that the Steering Group continues to meet regularly, for example, quarterly in the first 1-2 years of delivery. Further information on monitoring and evaluation can be found in Part 7: Keeping the Strategy robust and up to date.

The Strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting playing fields, as appropriate, directing open space contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy
- ◀ Informing the protection and provision of sports facilities and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and S106 and CIL schedules.
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing outdoor sports areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches) across the Borough;
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of outdoor sports across the Borough;
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for outdoor sports facilities;
- ◀ Providing the basis for on-going monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sport.

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## 1.1: Structure

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

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

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Sefton which should be implemented from 2015 to 2025. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding will be identified.

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

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

## 1.2 Context

*Corporate and strategic:*

- ◀ It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. The PPS will act as a tool for Sefton Council and our partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for pitch 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 playing pitch strategy 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. The site specific action plan that will form an integral part of this PPS will identify and prioritise sites that require improvements and where the funding should be secured from.
- ◀ The strategy will contribute towards a number of objectives of the Sefton Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- ◀ The Strategy will bring together joint working:
  - ◀ Consultation with pitch-based sports clubs, providers and organised leagues in Sefton
  - ◀ Collaboration with regional officers from national governing bodies to gain a strategic perspective of sport delivery and growth
  - ◀ Challenges current systems for sports pitch ownership, management and maintenance

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- ◀ Comparison with other local authority neighbours (Knowsley, West Lancashire and Liverpool) to establish usage from clubs from neighbouring authorities and usage of their playing pitches by Sefton clubs.
- ◀ Competition, for example, for pitch and associated facility management / maintenance contracts

### *Planning:*

- ◀ The Playing Pitch Strategy will provide important evidence to support the Sefton Local Plan.
- ◀ It will support strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being in the emerging Sefton Local Plan.
- ◀ It will provide evidence for Community Infrastructure Levy and Developer Contributions.
- ◀ It will provide evidence to inform decisions on planning applications relating to playing pitches.

### *Operational:*

- ◀ It can help improve the management of assets, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ◀ The Action Plan will identify sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.
- ◀ An assessment of all pitches will be undertaken to understand how pitches 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.

### **Aims**

- ◀ To provide information to support the preparation of the emerging Sefton Local Plan;
- ◀ To provide adequate planning guidance for the Council to assess development proposals affecting playing fields;
- ◀ To provide a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches in Sefton;
- ◀ To support external funding bids and maximise support for outdoor sport and physical activity facilities and playing pitches;
- ◀ To provide the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality, and accessibility of outdoor sport, physical activity facility provision, and playing pitches;
- ◀ To help support the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.



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## 1.3 Study area

The study area is the Sefton Council administrative area. Further to this sub areas or analysis areas have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. Sefton is divided into five analysis areas:

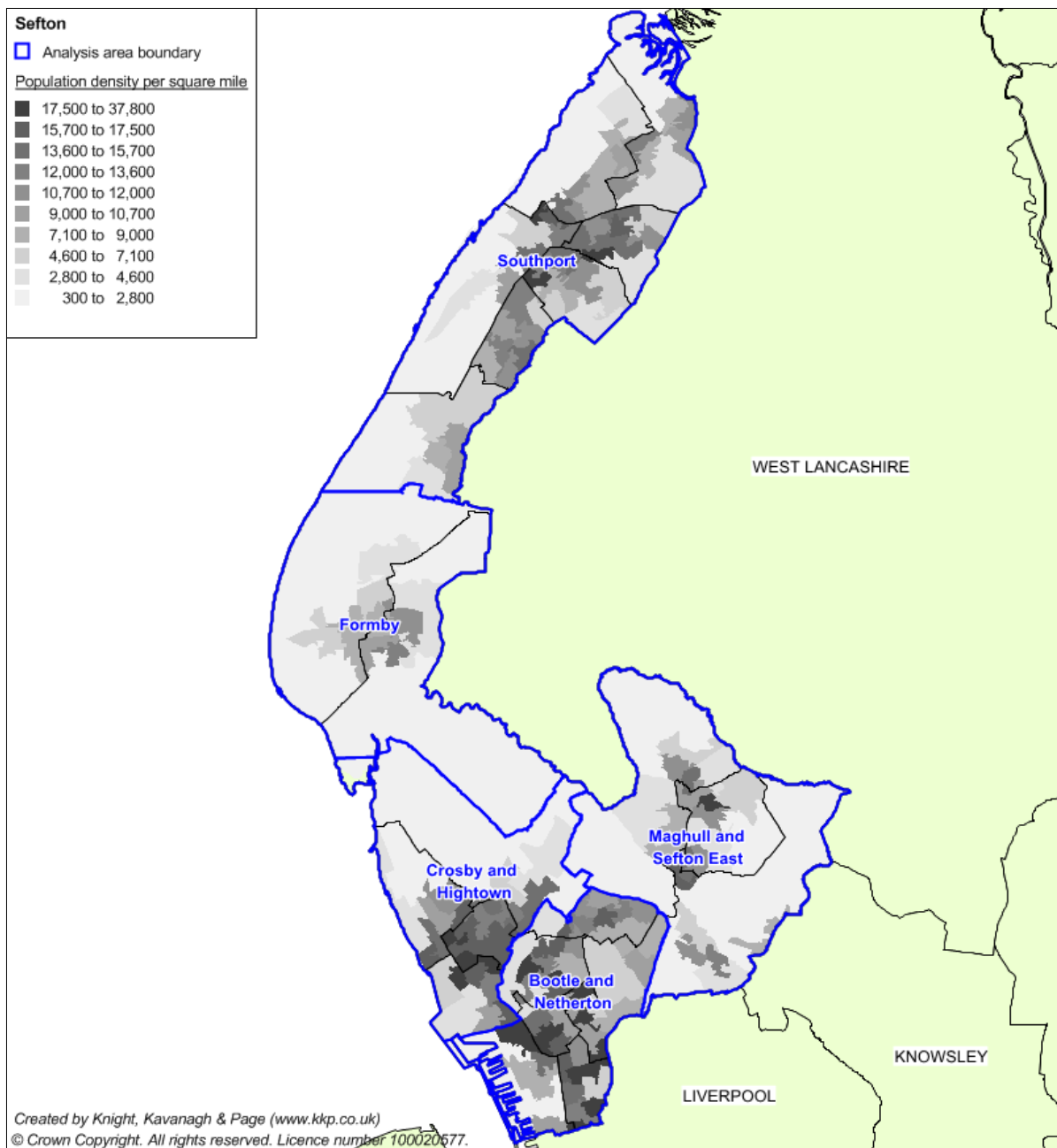
The strategy covers the whole of the Borough of Sefton. The study, however, is presented by each of the main five settlement areas. They are (wards in brackets):

- ◀ Bootle and Netherton (Linacre, Derby, Litherland, Ford, St Oswald and Netherton and Orrell)
- ◀ Crosby and Hightown (Church, Blundellsands, Manor and Victoria)
- ◀ Formby (Ravenmeols and Harrington)
- ◀ Sefton East parishes (including Maghull) (Molyneux, Park and Sudell)
- ◀ Southport (Ainsdale, Birkdale, Dukes, Kew, Cambridge, Meols and Norwood)

Whilst the above areas should be used for the basis of reporting, the strategy must also address the sport specific geography of Sefton. Many sports and leagues cross these boundaries and pitch facilities in one area may also be suitable for clubs in another area. The strategy must also look into Sefton clubs playing in leagues covering an area outside of Sefton, Sefton clubs playing outside of the borough and vice versa. There are also a number of sports teams from outside the specified area that use pitches within Sefton and sports teams from inside Sefton that use facilities outside of the Borough. This cross boundary movement will be taken into consideration when producing this strategy.

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Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



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## 1.4 Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings from the Sefton Playing Pitch Assessment Report.

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand shortfall <sup>1</sup>	Future demand shortfall (2027) <sup>2</sup>
Football (grass pitches)	Bootle and Netherton	Shortfall of 3 adult match sessions	
	Crosby and Hightown	Shortfall of 11.5 adult match sessions Shortfall of 17.5 youth match sessions Shortfall of 2.5 mini match sessions	
	Formby	None	
	Maghull and Sefton East	Shortfall of 1.5 youth match sessions	
	Southport	Shortfall of 6 youth match sessions	
	<b>Sefton</b>	Shortfall of 10 adult match sessions Shortfall of 23 youth match sessions	
Football (3G AGPs)	Sefton	Shortfall of 11 full size 3G pitches	Shortfall of 12 full size 3G pitches for all mini matches
Cricket	Bootle and Netherton	Demand being met	
	Crosby and Hightown	Demand being met	
	Formby	Shortfall of 1 cricket pitch	
	Maghull and Sefton East	Shortfall of 0.5 cricket pitches	
	Southport	Demand being met	
	<b>Sefton</b>	Demand being met	
Rugby union	Bootle and Netherton	Shortfall of 3 match sessions	Shortfall of 3 match sessions
	Crosby and Hightown	Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 6.5 match sessions
	Formby	Demand being met	Demand being met
	Maghull and Sefton East	Demand being met	Demand being met
	Southport	Shortfall of 6 match sessions	Shortfall of 7.5 match sessions
	<b>Sefton</b>	Shortfall of 12.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 17 match sessions
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	Sefton	Demand being met	Demand being met

Current demand for tennis is being met in Sefton; however, there is a shortfall in the quality of some courts and some isolated areas where additional courts may be required to meet future demand e.g. Blundellsands Lawn Tennis Club.

<sup>1</sup> Current demand is calculated from an analysis of overplay and spare capacity only.

<sup>2</sup> This is demand that will exist in 2027 if the current demand is not met and also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

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For bowls, in terms of quantity, the provision of bowling greens in Sefton is sufficient to accommodate both current and future demand. However, there are shortfalls in the quality of existing provision.

## **Conclusions**

The existing position for all pitch sports is either demand is being met or there is a shortfall. The future position shows the sports with current shortfalls is exacerbated and those where demand was being met will experience shortfalls. Therefore there is a need to protect all existing provision and create access to school sites or bring some disused/lapsed sites back into use if feasible.

## **1.5 Definitions**

### **Match sessions**

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

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football, rugby union and rugby league pitches relate to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season.

### **Pitch capacity**

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

As a guide, each NGB has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity):

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

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## ***Shortfalls***

Shortfalls are expressed in match sessions at this stage rather than converted to pitches as most shortfalls can be accommodated by improving pitch quality (and therefore capacity) to accommodate more match sessions. This is explored further within the action plan.

To convert match sessions into pitches, the number of match sessions should be halved (to take account of teams playing on a home and away basis).

For a full glossary of terms please refer to Appendix Three.

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## PART 2: VISION

### 2.1 Vision

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

*'That Sefton will be able to best meet the need for outdoor pitch sports in quantity, quality and accessibility within the constraints of limited resources'.*

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## PART 3: OBJECTIVES

The Sefton PPS is a strategy not just for the local authority, but holistically for sport across the Borough as a whole.

Delivery of the Strategy is the responsibility of, and relies on, *all* stakeholders.

The following overarching objectives are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 1 below). It is recommended that the following are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Strategy and Sport England planning objectives.

### AIM 1

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

### AIM 2

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

### AIM 3

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

Figure 1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England 2015

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## 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 the playing pitch sports resulting in the sport specific recommendations.

### Football pitches

#### **Key issues - grass**

- ◀ Due to lower pitch hire charges in neighbouring West Lancashire and Liverpool in particular, displacement of youth and mini teams from Sefton is high with 168 teams being displaced (2014/15 season).
- ◀ A significant proportion of pitches are assessed as either standard (72%) or poor quality (15%) which is often a result of basic levels of maintenance. Clubs report insufficient maintenance and poor drainage as reasons for poor quality.
- ◀ Approximately 21% of education sites are unavailable for community use (36 sites). A further 15 education sites state during consultation that they are available for community but are unused.
- ◀ There are four leagues all catering up to u14s or u16s in Sefton but with no further progression. There was little demand at u18s and u21s when trialled through the Southport and District League. However, Hightown Junior Football League has aspirations to create an u17 division. Liverpool County (LCFA) trends suggest teams generally move to play in Liverpool at u18 (free pitch hire) or stop playing. However, there may be an opportunity with likely future pitch increases in neighbouring authorities to accommodate this unmet demand.
- ◀ Overall in Sefton, there are insufficient adult pitches available to meet current demand (ten match sessions) albeit in three analysis areas there are small amounts of spare capacity. The overall shortfall is all as a result of overplay in Crosby & Hightown expressed at Buckley Hill Playing Fields. The current situation is further exacerbated when taking account of latent and displaced demand.
- ◀ Overall in Sefton, there are insufficient youth pitches available to meet current demand (23 match sessions) albeit in two analysis areas there are small amounts of spare capacity. The overall shortfall is a result of overplay at Buckley Hill Playing Fields (11) and Hightown Junior Football League (6.5).
- ◀ A further 60 youth (u13-u16) match sessions are recorded as playing on adult pitches in Sefton and as such further exacerbates the shortfall of youth pitches.
- ◀ Overall in Sefton, there is an oversupply of mini match sessions to meet current demand (25.5 match sessions) with only one analysis area having a shortfall which is due to overplay at Hightown Junior Football League.
- ◀ If all displaced teams were to travel back into Sefton (when based on likely future increases in pitch charges in Liverpool and West Lancashire), there are not enough youth pitches to accommodate such demand.

#### **Scenarios - grass**

- ◀ **Addressing current shortfall of adult pitches** – improving poor quality adult pitches to good quality (either through increased maintenance or drainage improvements in order to increase pitch capacity) will create an additional 11 match sessions of capacity to meet the current shortfall (of ten match sessions).
- ◀ **Addressing current shortfall of youth pitches** - improving quality at Buckley Hill PF (17.5 match sessions) will in part address the current shortfalls identified (23 match sessions). In order to fully address overplay at the site, usage should be reduced by the remaining 5.5 match sessions.



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- ◀ Given the cost of improving all poor and standard quality pitches and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives 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 AGPs for competitive matches and this is something that the FA is supporting, particularly for mini football.
- ◀ **Accommodating displaced adult demand** – if displaced adult teams (19 teams or 9 match sessions) came back to play in Sefton, demand could potentially be accommodated through utilising spare capacity (14 match sessions).
- ◀ **Accommodating displaced youth demand** – if displaced youth teams (77 teams or 36 match sessions) came back to play in Sefton, access to additional pitches (such as at school sites) would need to be secured; failing this regular use of sites currently used for pitch rotation or lapsed sites would need to be considered.
- ◀ **Accommodating displaced mini demand** – if displaced mini teams (72 teams or 38 match sessions) came back to play in Sefton, demand could potentially be accommodated. There are currently 25.5 match sessions of spare capacity which could be used (which would then result in a shortfall of 12.5 sessions). The remaining shortfall could then be met by opening up further primary school sites or increasing the capacity of pitches to accommodate more pitches (a good quality pitch being able to accommodate six mini matches).

### **Recommendations – grass**

- ◀ Existing quantity of football pitches to be protected, unless equivalent alternative provision is provided.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as standard or poor quality, prioritise investment for pitch improvements and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality.
- ◀ Address overplay on adult and youth pitches at Buckley Hill Playing Fields by improving pitch quality to good and reducing usage by six match sessions.
- ◀ Work with schools to maximise and secure access to pitches on school sites which are currently unavailable for community use and have sufficient capacity to accommodate community use in addition to school use.
- ◀ Annual monitoring of junior pitch charges in neighbouring authorities in order to fully assess the feasibility of displaced demand coming back into Sefton.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnership and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development.
- ◀ Further work with the key leagues should be carried out to look at development of u17-u21 divisions in the middle/south end of the Borough (where most demand is). This may require some reconfiguration of pitches at key sites in order to cater better for these age groups.

### **Key issues – 3G pitches**

- ◀ There are four full size AGPs within Sefton, all of which are sand based (there is currently no full size 3G AGP within the Borough).
- ◀ On the basis that there are 587 teams playing competitive home fixtures on grass pitches within Sefton, there is a recommended need for at least 11 full size 3G pitches using the FA model to service current demand for training.
- ◀ From 2014/15 only 3G pitches with a valid performance test and listed on the FA Register can be used for competitive play. This is the responsibility of the pitch provider and has an associated cost of £1,500.

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- ◀ Given the lack of 3G pitches in Sefton there is significant existing use of sand based AGPs for football training. As more 3G pitches are provided it is likely that use of existing sand AGPs for football will reduce which may impact on their future sustainability.

### **Scenarios – 3G pitches**

- ◀ **Increasing the number of 3G pitches** – as there are currently no full size 3G pitches in Sefton and there is significant use of sand AGPs for football training particularly Litherland Sports Park and Greenbank High School (Birkdale) there is a likely impact on the future sustainability of these AGPs, as some football will transfer off to play on 3G pitches.
- ◀ **Converting Litherland Sports Park to 3G** – this will reduce the number of full size sand AGPs to accommodate hockey in Sefton to three. Hillwood Ladies HC (which is not expected to grow) is the only hockey team playing at Litherland Sports Park (plays Sat am and trains one session midweek). This level of play could potentially be accommodated on spare capacity at The Northern Club which would still retain enough spare capacity should Northern HC meet its aspirations to grow.
- ◀ **Moving mini teams to play on 3G pitches** - there are currently 90, 5v5 teams which would require 11.25 (rounded to 12) AGPs and there are 111 7v7 teams which would require 9.25 (rounded to ten) AGPs. Based on the above programming and separate start times for 5v5 and 7v7 matches, the overall need is for 12 full size 3G pitches to accommodate all mini football demand within Sefton.

### **Recommendations – 3G pitches**

- ◀ Increase provision of 3G pitches in Sefton (current shortfall of up to 11 full size). As a priority explore options to provide double pitch sites in three locations to service North, Central and South Sefton.
- ◀ In partnership with England Hockey look to convert one sandbased AGP to a 3G surface whilst maintaining adequate provision to accommodate hockey demand.
- ◀ Retain some use of sand AGPs for football training in order to ensure continued sustainability of existing provision.
- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface replacement when required) are in place to maintain 3G pitch quality in the long term.
- ◀ Carry out consultation with leagues/clubs to gauge acceptance/buy in of moving competitive play to 3G pitches in the future.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches meet FA requirements and are subsequently tested and FA registered. In addition, ensure that existing and future 3G pitches are used to maximum potential to allow for future back to back programming of mini/youth matches at peak times.
- ◀ As the largest northwest borough for football after Liverpool (in terms of football participation), there may be a future opportunity for Sefton Council to apply for FA Parklife which should be explored further.

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## Cricket pitches

### Key issues

- ◀ There are 13 clubs in Sefton with a total of 85 teams (41 senior teams and 44 junior teams).
- ◀ Two pitches, located at Holy Family Catholic High School, Crosby (disused) and Maricourt Catholic High School, Maghull (no community use non turf wicket) are identified as poor quality.
- ◀ Two sites are rated as having poor quality ancillary facilities, Moss Side Maghull CC and Rookery Sports Ground, Southport.
- ◀ Ten clubs report additional practice facilities are required.
- ◀ Bedford Park CC is displaced and currently playing in Tarleton but has aspirations to return to Sefton.
- ◀ There is currently no Last Man Stands (LMS) operating in Sefton but it is likely that there is unmet demand for this. Future demand is quantified as two junior teams and one women's team identified as future demand.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity on grass wicket pitches in Sefton equates to 3.5 pitches. However, 3.2 pitches (191 match sessions per season) are required to meet demand expressed from overplay.
- ◀ When just accounting for current demand there is limited overall spare capacity in Sefton (0.5 pitches) which is not sufficient to be classified as a surplus. In addition, overplay in Formby and Maghull & Sefton East cannot be met through spare capacity expressed in other areas.
- ◀ When taking into account unmet, displaced and future demand there is an overall shortfall of 2.5 pitches in Sefton.

### Scenarios

- ◀ **Addressing overplay** – improving the quality of standard pitches which are overplayed i.e. Ainsdale Sports & Social Club (16 match sessions), Fleetwood Hesketh Sports Club, Southport (20 match sessions), The Hightown Club (35 match sessions) will in part meet demand.
- ◀ **Addressing overplay** – increasing the number of wickets on squares at Formby Cricket Club (65 match sessions) and Maghull Cricket Club (55 match sessions) to accommodate junior play coupled with improving quality as per above will meet current demand.
- ◀ **Accommodating unmet demand** (one pitch) - demand from LMS could be accommodated, for example, at Merchant Taylor's School Playing Fields (off site at Blundellsands) where there are three non turf wicket pitches which are available for community use.
- ◀ **Accommodating displaced demand** (one pitch) – utilising peak time spare capacity at Savio Salesian College, Bootle (one pitch) and The Northern Club, Crosby (one pitch) could accommodate displaced demand expressed by Bedford Park CC, Bootle if the locations were deemed to be appropriate.
- ◀ **Accommodating future demand** (one pitch) – Firwood Bootle and Southport & Birkdale cricket clubs both state aspirations to introduce women's cricket. Spare capacity at Savio Salesian College where Firwood Bootle CC already plays has enough spare capacity to enable growth. However, Southport & Birkdale Sports Club is already being played to capacity and as such access to additional pitches would need to be secured to enable an additional team to be accommodated.

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## **Recommendations – cricket**

- ◀ Existing quantity of cricket pitches to be protected, unless equivalent alternative provision is provided.
- ◀ Lancashire County Cricket Groundsmen Association and LCCB to work with clubs to review quality issues on those pitches assessed as standard quality and as a priority those which are overplayed.
- ◀ Address overplay on grass wickets through ensuring that maintenance levels are appropriate to current usage and where possible increasing the number of wickets on squares.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for increasing junior play on non turf wickets.
- ◀ Utilise spare capacity to accommodate possible future demand for Last Man Stands (LMS) and junior/women/girls development. In particular, explore opportunities at Merchant Taylor's School Playing Fields (off site).
- ◀ Explore opportunities for Bedford Park CC to return to Sefton and work with the club to utilise spare capacity at existing sites.
- ◀ Work with Firwood Bootle and Southport & Birkdale cricket clubs to introduce women's cricket in the future and to secure access to pitches to allow this.
- ◀ Work with clubs to ensure appropriate access to ancillary facilities supports provision of pitches/sites.
- ◀ Work with clubs to improve access to indoor training facilities during the winter months.

## **Rugby union pitches**

### **Key issues**

- ◀ There has been significant investment in rugby union facilities in Sefton in recent years which has put rugby in a stronger position than it previously was.
- ◀ There are a total of 36 competitive rugby union teams within Sefton; 12 senior teams, 12 junior teams and 12 mini teams.
- ◀ Future demand is likely to equate to nine more teams (4.5 match sessions) in Sefton, mostly junior teams.
- ◀ There is 1 adult match session and 0.5 mini/midi match session available in the peak period per week at the Hightown Club (Crosby St. Mary's RUFC).
- ◀ Two school sites are available for community use but currently unused and may be able to accommodate match sessions - Chesterfield High School, Crosby and Stanley High Sports College, Southport (both with available ancillary facilities). In addition, there are 3 good quality adult pitches at St. Mary's College Games Field (Blundell Park, Crosby) which are currently unavailable for community use but may have capacity to be used if access can be negotiated.
- ◀ In total, overplay in Sefton totals of ten match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Overall in Sefton there is a current shortfall of 14.5 match sessions which is further exacerbated to account for future demand (19 match sessions). The shortfall expressed is mostly as a result of overplay at Waterloo Recreation Ground, Southport (Southport RUFC), Litherland Sports Park (Waterloo RUFC) and Waterloo RUFC, Crosby coupled with unmet demand.
- ◀ There are no 3G AGPs in Sefton that are World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant.

### **Scenarios**

- ◀ **Improving pitch quality** - significant improvements are required to the maintenance programme and drainage at Waterloo Recreation Ground (Southport RUFC) which is overplayed (2.5 sessions on adult and 1.5 sessions on mini pitches) and assessed as poor quality, in order to address overplay.

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- ◀ **More pitches** - improving pitch quality at Waterloo RUFC and Litherland Sports Park (also Waterloo RUFC) alone cannot address overplay and therefore access to additional pitches is required in order to meet shortfalls identified.
- ◀ **Utilising spare capacity** – Although Chesterfield High School (potential for use by Waterloo RUFC) and Stanley High Sports College (potential for use by Southport RUFC) are both available with ancillary facilities and both express potential spare capacity, both also assessed as poor quality pitches which is unlikely to provide a short term solution to overplay. These pitches would only provide a realistic option if investment into the quality could be levied against them prior to any external usage.
- ◀ Waterloo RUFC is in discussion with St. Mary's College Games Field (Blundell Park) with regards to securing access. It has 3 good quality (M2/D1) pitches which could provide up to 9 match sessions (dependent on the extent of school usage).

### **Recommendations – rugby**

- ◀ Existing quantity of rugby pitches to be protected and access to additional pitches to be sought.
- ◀ Seek to address overplay at Waterloo Recreation Ground (Southport RUFC) via improvements to pitch quality (both maintenance schedules and drainage) and in doing so explore options for the Club to take on the longer maintenance/management of the pitches.
- ◀ Seek to address overplay at Waterloo RUFC and Litherland Sports Park through, where possible pitch improvements, but as a priority securing access to additional pitches. Support the Club in its approaches to accessing Blundell Park, Crosby (St. Mary's College Playing Fields).
- ◀ Explore opportunities to secure access to additional pitches to meet future demand identified. For example, Chesterfield High School (Crosby & Hightown) and Stanley High Sports College (Southport) may be able to provide capacity for matches. However, pitch quality would need to be improved.
- ◀ Support club developments in relation to ensuring access to appropriate standard ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlighting. In particular, improving changing room facilities at Waterloo RUFC is considered to be a priority.
- ◀ Work to reduce training on match pitches through access to dedicated floodlit training areas and explore options to provide full size 3G pitches in partnership with the RFU/FA which are World Rugby compliant to help address shortfalls.
- ◀ Improved vehicular access to the Southport RUFC site also needs to be looked at in order to improve safety and visibility.

### **Hockey pitches (AGPs)**

#### **Key issues**

- ◀ There are currently four full sized sand based AGPs suitable to accommodate competitive hockey in Sefton; two of which are assessed as standard quality (Litherland Sport Park and Formby Hockey Club), one as poor quality (Greenbank High School, Birkdale) and one is assessed as good quality (The Northern Club, Crosby).
- ◀ Consultation with hockey clubs indicates that there is currently no unmet or latent demand within Sefton. However, with the exception of Hillwood Ladies Hockey Club, all clubs confirmed their aspirations to increase the number of teams, particularly at junior level via links and partnerships with local schools.
- ◀ England Hockey predicts there to be a growth in membership of 10% in Sefton (based on affiliation data trends) which results in an overall increase of 28 adults and 53 juniors. In particular this is useful to show a truer picture of future needs for mid week training usage and junior training at the weekends.



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- ◀ Although there is significant football use of AGPs in Sefton, particularly at Litherland Sports Park and Greenbank High School, there is sufficient availability of AGPs within Sefton to accommodate current demand for both competitive play and organised training.
- ◀ The Northern Club AGP has spare capacity to increase both match and training hockey usage and although the Club is keen to increase membership (following a recent decline) there remains opportunity to accommodate additional teams.
- ◀ Given the lack of 3G pitches in Sefton there is significant existing use of sand based AGPs for football training. As more 3G pitches are provided it is likely that use of existing sand AGPs for football will reduce which may impact on their future sustainability.

### **Scenarios**

- ◀ **Current and future demand** – there is a need for three full size hockey suitable AGPs to service current and future demand for competitive hockey in Sefton (if programming is maximised).
- ◀ **Future sustainability of sand AGPs** – there are currently no full size 3G pitches in Sefton (for football) and there is significant use of sand AGPs for football training particularly Litherland Sports Park and Greenbank High School. There is a likely impact on the future sustainability of sand AGPs, as some football will transfer off to play on 3G pitches.
- ◀ **Converting Litherland Sports Park to 3G** – this will reduce the number of full size sand AGPs to accommodate hockey in Sefton to three. Hillwood Ladies HC (which is not expected to grow) is the only hockey team playing at Litherland Sports Park (plays Sat am and trains one session midweek). This level of play could potentially be accommodated on spare capacity at The Northern Club which would still retain enough spare capacity should Northern HC meet its aspirations to grow. Discussions with both clubs would need to take place prior to any change in surface to ensure both parties are happy to proceed with this.

### **Recommendations – hockey**

- ◀ Retain a sufficient level of sand based pitch provision to accommodate current and future demand.
- ◀ Ensure that the quality of pitches is improved and in doing so retain hockey usage, particularly at Greenbank High School as a priority site for hockey and hockey development moving forward.
- ◀ Liverpool FA and England Hockey to work together to further assess feasibility of converting Litherland Sports Park to 3G which would require Hillwood Ladies HC to play at The Northern Club (owned/managed by the Club and used by Northern HC).
- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface replacement when required) are in place to maintain AGP pitch quality in the long term.
- ◀ Ensuring that the sustainability of existing AGPs is not compromised by the provision of new 3G pitches.

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## Tennis courts

### Summary

- There are a total of 172 tennis courts identified in Sefton across a range of sites including private sports clubs, parks and educational sites.
- There are a total of 42 floodlit tennis courts and 61 (37%) tennis courts are located at educational sites, 16 of which are available for community use.
- Of the provision that is available for community use, 88 courts (75%) are assessed as good quality and 22 courts (19%) assessed as standard quality. The remaining 7 courts (6%), located at Brownmoor Park Tennis Club, Crosby, Sandy Lane Tennis Courts, Maghull and Sphynx Lawn Tennis Club, Southport are assessed as poor quality.
- There are a total of 14 tennis clubs located in Sefton. Responding clubs suggest the key issue is one of trying to increase participation.
- Responding clubs provide a total of 1,125 senior members and 640 junior members playing tennis across Sefton. In general membership is static and where clubs do report plans to increase membership, all are able to sustain future demand on existing provision.
- Blundellsands Lawn Tennis Club is the only club which reports aspirations to increase the number of courts it has (from six to eight). However, a number of the clubs report aspirations and plans to upgrade court quality (Blundellsands, North Meols, Southport and Sphynx Lawn Tennis Club, Southport) and install or upgrade floodlighting (Formby Holy Trinity Tennis Club, Rookery Sports Ground, Southport (Southbank LTC) and Waterloo Tennis Club).
- As no unmet or latent demand is identified within Sefton, there are a sufficient number of courts that are available for community use to accommodate current demand. However, there is a shortfall in the quality of some courts and some isolated areas where additional courts may be required to meet future demand i.e. Blundellsands Lawn Tennis Club.

### Recommendations – tennis

- Support the LTA in working to improve accessibility to tennis in order to help deliver its Strategy. The LTA is keen to encourage parks and clubs to make use of technology solutions, which includes online court booking and fob access to courts and facilities.
- Improve court quality and prioritise investment to sites which are available for public/community use.
- Ensure clubs can access the appropriate standard of courts to allow LTA competitions to be played.

## Bowling greens

### Summary

- There are 38 crown green bowling greens in Sefton which are situated on 33 sites, and two flat green bowling greens located at one site (Southport Bowling Club).
- The majority of greens are in good condition. However, four greens across three sites (Botanic Gardens and Sphynx Tennis Club both in Southport, Coronation Park in Crosby, and Hightown) are assessed as poor quality. Coronation Park loses marks due to signs of wear and tear and lack of fencing, Botanic Gardens loses marks due to wear and tear and so too does Sphynx Tennis Club.
- Of clubs responding to consultation, 20 deem their greens to be of improved quality whilst just two indicate it as reducing in quality in the past three years.
- Of the responding clubs, there are a total of 2,126 members consisting of 1,430 men, 661 women and 35 juniors. The average number of members per bowling club is 73 people.

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- ◀ Plans to increase membership are noted by 20 of the clubs which replied to the survey. Of those who wish to increase membership nine of them have a target of over ten. Only two responding clubs have written development plans.
- ◀ Six clubs indicate that they have increased senior membership, six have reduced and the remainder have stayed approximately the same.
- ◀ Two clubs report an increase in junior membership, although the majority of clubs do not have junior sections.
- ◀ London Hotel Bowling Club has been displaced from its homeground at London Hotel, Windsor Road, Southport due to the sites closure. Its five teams are currently being accommodated at other sites including Botanic Gardens and Scarisbrick BC (in West Lancashire). However, the long term security of tenure has not been yet agreed. In addition the quality of Botanic Gardens is assessed as poor and as such needs to be improved in order to sustain further use.
- ◀ Eight clubs are operating significantly below the average club/green membership and have capacity to increase usage.
- ◀ No club identifies that it is operating at capacity, although five clubs have over 120 members and no club reports enough demand to make a case for the provision of additional outdoor greens.
- ◀ In terms of quantity, the provision of bowling greens in Sefton is sufficient to accommodate both current and future demand. However, there are shortfalls in the quality of existing provision.

### ***Recommendations – bowling greens***

- ◀ Address spare capacity and maximise the availability of bowling greens for pay and play in order to raise the profile of the game, increase levels of membership and the revenue generated by sites.
- ◀ Support clubs which plan to attract younger people through hosting events such as family days as well as establishing links with local primary schools.
- ◀ Where demand exists, ensure that quality is sustained or improved.



# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed from the key issues cutting across all outdoor sports and categorised under each of the Strategy Aims. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs

#### Recommendations:

- a. Protect playing field sites through 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.
- d. To ensure a consistent approach to the management and pricing of Council playing pitch stock.

#### Recommendation a – Protect playing field sites through local planning policy

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation. Planning policy should either seek to protect sites from development or replace them to an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.

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

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

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

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is a requirement for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls.

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

The PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields, pitches 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 as statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against their Playing Fields Policy

Sport England's playing field policy only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields where one of 5 exceptions are met (E1-E5):

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/planning-applications/playing-field-land/>

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 the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements, then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with Sport England policy exception E4.

Policy Exception E4:

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

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

Further to this, all playing fields should be protected or replaced up until the point where all demand has been satisfied within the study area or individual sports catchment area.

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Several sites within Sefton are currently not in use and, therefore, classified as disused/lapsed sites:

- ◀ (Former) Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale (Southport)
- ◀ (Former) Birkdale School for Hearing Impaired Children (Southport)
- ◀ (Former) Bootle High School (Bootle & Netherton)
- ◀ (Former) Daleacre School (Bootle & Netherton)
- ◀ (Former) St John Stone School, Meadow Lane, Ainsdale (Southport)
- ◀ (Former) St Mary's Primary School Playing Fields, Waverley Street, Bootle (Bootle & Netherton)
- ◀ (Former) St Raymond's School playing field, Harrops Croft, Netherton (Bootle & Netherton)
- ◀ (Former) St Wilfrid's School (Bootle & Netherton)
- ◀ Ashworth Hospital South (Maghull & Sefton East)
- ◀ Bank End Recreation Ground (Southport)
- ◀ Chaffers Playing Field (Crosby & Hightown)
- ◀ Crossens Recreation Ground (Southport)
- ◀ KGV Watchyard Lane (Formby)
- ◀ Land at Former Gasworks Site, Marsh Lane, Bootle (Bootle & Netherton)
- ◀ Land at Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale (Southport)
- ◀ Land South of Formby Industrial Estate (Formby)

Each site is included within the action plan together with a recommendation in relation to the need to bring the site back into use or mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified with the Assessment.

There are also a number of sites in Sefton which may not be in current use but are used for regular pitch rotation (i.e. every other season) and **it is recommended that they should be retained as such in order to help sustain the quality of pitches:**

- ◀ Bank End Recreation Ground, Ferryside Lane, Southport (2 pitches) - changing rooms owned by Southport & Ainsdale Amateurs
- ◀ Bedford Park, Southport (2 pitches)
- ◀ Brookvale Playing Fields, Bootle and Netherton (3 pitches)
- ◀ Carr Lane Recreation Ground, Southport (3 pitches)
- ◀ Devonshire Road Recreation Ground, Southport (2 pitches)
- ◀ Duke Street Park, Formby (2 pitches),
- ◀ Meols Park Recreation Ground, Southport (2 pitches)
- ◀ Portland Street Playing Fields, Southport (4 pitches)
- ◀ Crossens Recreation Ground also known as Rufford Road, Southport (1 pitch) - changing rooms owned by Crossens Village Hall
- ◀ Sandbrook Road Recreation Ground, Southport (2 pitches)
- ◀ Smithy Green Recreation Ground, Formby (1 pitch)

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### **Recommendation b – Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through a range of solutions and partnership agreements**

A number of school sites are being used in Sefton for competitive play, predominantly for football. In most cases use of pitches is classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and further work should be carried out to ensure an appropriate Community Use Agreement (CUA) is in place (including access to changing provision where required).

When an educational establishment decides that its sports facilities will be available for community use it is valuable to agree in a CUA how it is intended to operate, covering such matters as hours of availability, management arrangements, pricing policy etc. The use of a CUA should help secure well managed and safe community access to sports facilities on educational sites

NGBs can often help to negotiate and engage with schools, particularly academies where the local authority may not have direct influence.

Sport England has also 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/accessing-schools/>

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council, NGBs or the County Sports Partnership (CSP) to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example:

- ◆ Support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an income through their facilities.
- ◆ Encourage clubs to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>3</sup>.
- ◆ Encourage clubs to work with partners locally whether volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

As well as improving the quality of well-used, local authority sites, there are a number of sites which have poor quality (or no) ancillary facilities. **The Council should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted to the clubs playing on these sites (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so the clubs are in a position to apply for external funding to improve the ancillary facilities.**

Further to this there could be examples in Sefton where long term leases could be put into place for the continued use of a site. Each club should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered, which takes into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations in order that they may be able to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities.

To facilitate this, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds to allow this.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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## *Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations*

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

The Council can further recognise the value of NGB club accreditation by adopting a policy of prioritising the clubs that are to have access to these better quality facilities. This may be achieved by inviting clubs to apply for season long leases on a particular site as an initial trial.

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

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

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields.

Local plan policy should also seek to protect playing field sites and the scope to legally safeguard long term use of strategically important sites to the community such as the strategic sites and key centres should be considered. For example, through the Fields in Trust programme ([www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org)).

### ***Community asset transfer***

The Council should continue to work towards adopting a policy which supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and national governing bodies with opportunities to take ownership of their own facilities; it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building.

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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: [http://archive.sportengland.org/support\\_advice/asset\\_transfer.aspx](http://archive.sportengland.org/support_advice/asset_transfer.aspx)

### **Recommendation c – Maximise community use of education sites where there is a need to do so**

In order to maximise community use of educational facilities it is recommended to establish a more 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. In Sefton pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some of the education sites but physical access and resistance from schools, especially academies, to open up provision is also an issue.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the 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 underlying problems. Consideration should be given to a centralised booking system for community use of schools and colleges to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.

It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to grass pitches for community use is limited.

In some instances grass pitches are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before community use can be established.

As detailed earlier, Sport England has also 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/accessing-schools/>

**It is recommended that a working group, led by a partner from the education sector but supported by a range of other sectors including sport and leisure is established to implement the strategic direction in relation to the increased/better use of school facilities.** Broadly speaking, its role should be to:

- ◀ To better understand current community use, practices and issues by 'auditing' schools.
- ◀ Ensure community use agreements are upheld
- ◀ Identify and pilot one school/club formal community use agreement with a view to rolling out the model across the area.
- ◀ Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
- ◀ As part of any agreement secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not rely on existing school staff structures.
- ◀ Ensure that pitch provision at schools is sufficient in quality and quantity to be able to deliver its curriculum. Once this has been achieved provision could contribute to overcoming deficiencies in the area.

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



## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

### Recommendation d - to ensure a consistent approach to the management and pricing of playing pitch stock

There is a real opportunity as part of the PPS for partners to drive the way forward to resolve and make transparent the management of pitches (particularly football pitches) in Sefton for the benefit of everyone.

#### **Current (2015) pitch costs**

The cost of a Council full size 11 x 11 pitch in Sefton is £1,690 per season for marking, cutting and maintenance.

The Southport & District League (S&DL) purchase' pitches at the start of each season from Sefton Council once it knows how many pitches will be required for the season. The League only use pitches in the north of the Borough.

The S&DL charge each team £650 per pitch per season. Based on two teams sharing a full size 11 x 11 pitch the shortfall is £390 which is subsidised by a combination of S&DL, Sefton Council (SC) and junior pitch hire. However, if required more teams will be allocated to a pitch and charged accordingly (also adding a utility charge of £25).

SC has committed to subsidise junior pitch hire costs and as such SC pays S&DL the difference between the junior charge (£245) and the S&DLs hire charge (£650). This enables S&DL to subsidise its teams when only two teams use a pitch per season rather than charging teams different pitch hire costs.

Further to this, the standard charge for hiring a local authority education pitch was previously £89. Given the substantial cost difference, this has recently been uplifted to £400 which will continue to increase to come in line with other local authority pitch costs.

**It is recommended that the pitch management and bookings for local education authority pitches be coordinated through the same system as other local authority pitches i.e. through Sefton Council's Managing Pitch Agent.**

The Table below illustrates the cost of hiring football pitches (per season) in Sefton against neighbouring local authorities (West Lancashire, Liverpool, Knowsley and Wirral).

#### *Local authority football pitch-hire charges (per season)*

Local authority	Adult teams		Youth teams		Mini teams	
	Pitch	Inc. Changing	Pitch	Inc. Changing	Pitch	Inc. Changing
<b>Sefton</b>	-	<b>£650</b>	<b>£190</b>	<b>£245</b>	<b>£125</b>	<b>£150</b>
West Lancashire	£303	£420	-	-	-	-
Liverpool (Good quality pitch)	-	£600	-	-	-	-
Liverpool (Medium quality pitch)	£300	£450	-	-	-	-
Knowsley (Centre for Learning)	£35*	-	£150	-	-	-
Wirral Class A	-	£549	-	£292	-	£105
Wirral Class B	-	£442	-	£220	-	-
Wirral Class C	-	£338	-	£171	-	-

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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\* Per game price for adult 11v11 grass pitch, £25 per game for youth 11v11 grass pitch. Based on an average of 15 games per season this would total £525 for an adult pitch.

The cost of an adult pitch per season (including changing) in Sefton is more expensive than neighbouring authorities. Indeed, the price of a pitch in Sefton (including changing but no showers available) is almost twice as expensive as the cost of a pitch in Wirral (Class C).

In addition there is currently no charge for junior teams (age 18 and under) playing in Liverpool and West Lancashire. This is also the main reason why there is significant displaced football demand from Sefton. However, please note that this is likely to change in the future as both local authorities are in the process of reviewing junior pitch charges. In addition, Knowsley Council also identifies it is in the process of reviewing its pitch hire charges.

**It is recommended that the PPS Steering Group further reviews playing pitch charges across the whole of the Borough in order to ensure a consistent approach is achieved.**

As a priority the Council should work with key leagues likely to be affected by price reviews, for example, the Alice Petricca Junior League which is a significant user of primary school sites and may be affected by the increase in local education pitch hire increases.



# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## **AIM 2**

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

### **Recommendation:**

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

### **Recommendation e – Improve quality**

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality, including for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. These are explored in more detail below.

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

Generally where pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, review/improve maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring existing maintenance of good quality pitches continues is also important.

Based on an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database, provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to these 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 the Quality Assessments, this Strategy will refer to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as Good, Standard or Poor quality. In Sefton, for example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements i.e. changing rooms or a specific pitch.

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

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

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Poor quality refers to pitches that have, for example, poor levels of maintenance coupled with inadequate grass cover, uneven surface and damage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and out dated interior. For rugby union, drainage is natural and inadequate.

Please refer to the Sport England/NGB quality assessments. Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this.

In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and out dated interior.

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 such as those mentioned above 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 Area, to provide a steer on future investment.**

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

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

### **Addressing overplay**

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

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		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	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		

\* Please note that the RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme afforded to a site.

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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

Whilst it works both ways in so much as poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being over played, potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular.

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

### ***Increasing pitch maintenance***

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

For example, the FA and ECB in partnership have recently introduced a Pitch Advisor Scheme and have been working in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a Grass Pitch Maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots football clubs with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide football clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas, with the simple aim of improving the club's playing surface.

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

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

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

### **Recommendation g – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitch facilities.

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

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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

Please refer to Appendix Two for further funding information which includes details of the current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs.

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

# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## AIM 3

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

### Recommendations:

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

### Recommendation h - Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock

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

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

- ◀ Improving pitch quality in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.
- ◀ The re-designation of pitches for which there is an oversupply.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

While maximising the use of existing pitches offers scope to address the quantitative deficiencies for most sports, new or additional cricket squares on public or private fields, as well as improving existing wickets is required to meet the levels of demand identified for cricket both now and in the future.

There may be an opportunity to use some senior pitches to provide senior, junior or mini pitches (through different line markings/coning areas of the pitch). However, further work should be undertaken on this as an action for the Council/NGBs. Furthermore the re-designation of adult pitches that are not currently used may lead to a deficiency of adult pitches in the medium to longer term as younger players move up the ages. It is likely that for some sports, particularly football, that the provision of new pitches and facilities will be required in the future to support the predicted future demand.

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.

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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.

### *Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends*

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Future development trend</b>	<b>Strategy impact</b>
Football	The needs of the game will change significantly from the 2013/14 season with the implementation of the FA Youth Development Review. As a result, pitch demands will change. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).	Consider re-allocating leases to Community Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams. Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities. Work with clubs in relation to their pitch demands as a result of the FA Youth Development Review.
	Demand for senior football is likely to be sustained based on current trends and the move to small sided football. County FA focus to maintain growth of youth football through to adults.	Sustain current stock but consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required.
	An increase in women and girls football following £2.4m investment over the next two years (2014-2016) from Sport England to increase the number of women and girls taking part in football sessions.	A need to provide segregated ancillary facilities and the potential need for more pitches.
Cricket	Demand is likely to remain static in Sefton for grass wickets for both junior and adult participation.	Isolated pockets of demand for access to additional facilities where pitches are operating at capacity. A need to encourage greater use of non turf wickets particularly for junior use to help meet shortfalls.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Rugby union	The RFU work towards achieving the stated outcomes of the Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017), the Rugby Football Union National Women and Girls Strategy and the Rugby Football Union National Male XV-a-side Strategy. Locally the RFU want to ensure access to pitches in Sefton that satisfies the existing demand and predicted growth particularly in light of the Rugby World Cup 2015. The RFU is also aiming to protect and improve pitch quality plus that of ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights as current and future demand requires'.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. Given current shortfalls in Sefton there is a priority to find additional pitch space or increased capacity from a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
AGPs	Demand for 3G pitches for competitive football will increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches to service competitive football, particularly mini and youth will result in some reduced demand for grass pitches. Provision of 3G pitches which are World Rugby compliant will help to reduce overplay as a result of training on rugby pitches.	Ensure that access to new AGP provision across the Borough is maximised and that community use agreements are in place. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface: <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf">http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf</a>
Bowls	The general trend of demand for bowling greens remains static and is not thought likely that future demand will result in the need for new greens.	Current and future demand for bowling greens is being met by provision in Sefton.
Tennis	It is likely that future demand for access to tennis courts in Sefton will generally remain static.	Poor quality courts, especially parks courts, will require future investment in order to retain usage, even for recreational play. Increasing court capacity through floodlighting and/or increasing the quality of parks provision could build in future capacity to accommodate growth.

### **Recommendation i - Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both current and future demand**

The Council should use, and regularly update, the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to its own pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Furthermore any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy may offer potential for meeting community needs on a localised basis. Where schools are closed their playing fields may be converted to dedicated community use to help address any unmet community needs.

## **SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

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Some sites (or adjacent land) in Sefton also have the potential to accommodate more pitches which may be a solution to meeting shortfalls identified as is further explored within the action plan.



# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## PART 6: ACTION PLAN

### Introduction

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

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

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

### **Recommendation f - 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.

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

In the context of developing a tiered model approach to the management of sports facilities Sefton has a large number of multi-team junior clubs which place a great demand on the pitch stock. There are therefore a number of sites which are still owned and maintained by the local authority, but are actually booked by the clubs for the entire season. The sites are then recognised as the 'home ground' of the club. Such sites are fundamentally different from those which can be hired on a regular basis because they are in effect, 'allocated' to a certain club and management responsibility, in terms of allocating teams to pitches, is transferred to the individual club.

# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## Tiered site criteria

Strategic sites	Key centres	Local or education sites
Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGB.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Accommodates three or more grass pitches. Including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.
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 control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Club either has long-term lease/hires the pitch for the entire season or owns the site. Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.
Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).

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

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

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/planning\\_tools\\_and\\_guidance/sports\\_hubs.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/sports_hubs.aspx)

Where development of Strategic Sites includes provision of 3G pitches for football it is **recommended that further modelling/feasibility work is carried out to ensure sustainability of new 3G pitches to accommodate competitive fixtures. However, as a priority consultation should be carried out with leagues/clubs to gauge acceptance/buy in of moving competitive play to 3G pitches in the future.**

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

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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

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

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

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

In addition there are a handful of sites which are considered low value for football in particular in Sefton which if re provided on local strategic or key centres could be reallocated as open space or informal pitches. These have been categorised as potential **Reserve sites** within the action plan.

### Management and development

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

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

# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## Action plan columns

### *Partners*

The column indicating Partners refers to the main organisation that the Council will liaise with in helping to deliver the actions. The next stage in the development of the action plan will be to agree a Lead Partner to help deliver the actions.

### *Site hierarchy tier and priority level*

Although Strategic Sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority level as they have Borough 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 and therefore some Key Centres are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

**It is recommended that as the Steering Group reviews and updates the action plan that medium and low priority sites are then identified** as the next level of sites for attention. As a guide it is recommended that:

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

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

### *Costs*

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

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

### *Timescales*

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

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

### *Aim*

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

# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## BOOTLE & NETHERTON SUMMARY

### Football – grass pitches

*Summary of current and future demand*

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)	
		Overplay	Total (current)
Adult	1.5	4.5	-3
Youth	2	1	1
Mini	14	-	14

- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 20 adult match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).
- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 73.5 youth match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).
- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 23.5 mini match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).

### Football – 3G pitches

- ◀ Current shortfall of at least 11 full size 3G pitches across the Borough.
- ◀ There is a shortfall of three full size 3G pitches in Bootle & Netherton specifically.

### Cricket

- ◀ Demand is being met in the Area.
- ◀ Cricket pitch at Savio Salesian College is used by Firwood Bootle CC and has some spare capacity at peak time.

### Rugby union

- ◀ Current shortfall of 3 match sessions as a result of overplay at Litherland Sports Park. This floodlit grass pitch is used by Waterloo RUFC.

### Hockey

- ◀ Demand is being met in the area.
- ◀ One full size AGP at Litherland Sports Park which has spare capacity at the peak period for hockey matches. Hillwood Ladies Hockey Club (one team) is currently based here but the AGP is heavily used for football training midweek.

### Tennis

- ◀ There are enough courts that are available for community use to accommodate both the current and future demand.
- ◀ No club identified in the Area.
- ◀ All park courts are free to use for the community, however, quality is an issue and often prevents use.
- ◀ No tennis courts within schools are available for community use.

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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### **Bowls**

- ◀ Current supply is deemed adequate to service demand, as the majority of bowling greens are considered to have spare capacity. However, further investigation will be required to determine any loss.
- ◀ Although the majority of greens are assessed as good quality, there are some site by site improvements needed.

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

### BOOTLE & NETHERTON ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>4</sup>	Timescales <sup>5</sup>	Aim
1	Activity For All Bootle Football & Tennis Centre (Old Bootle Stadium)	Football	Council	Two youth pitches and two mini pitches all of which assessed as standard quality (although clubs rate as poor). Spare capacity identified on all pitches with the exception of the mini (7v7) pitch. No changing provision on site.	Work to improve pitch quality. Explore potential lease of the site by JM Sports & Education.	SC LCFA	Key Centre	L	S	Protect Enhance
		Baseball		One baseball diamond. Liverpool Trojans Baseball Club has been playing at Bootle Stadium for a number of years. The Trojans is a very successful club which has two adult teams playing home and away games mainly on Sundays and usually train two nights per week.	Work with the Club to make any necessary improvements to ensure a good quality ground and associated facilities are achieved.	SC		L-M	M	
N/A	Bootle High School (Former)	Football	Education / Council	Disused/lapsed site with previous football provision.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. Or alternatively, if bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.	SC LCFA	TBC	M	S	Provide
N/A	Brookvale Playing Fields	Football	Council	Previous football site brought back into use for 2015/16 season. Accommodates three pitches that are currently used by Crosby Stuart JFC. Changing provision available but rated poor quality.	Retain site for pitch rotation and explore potential lease options by Crosby Stuart JFC. Investing funding opportunities to refurbish changing provision.	SC LCFA	Local (high)	L	M	Protect
172	Christ Church CE Primary School	Football	Education	One mini (7v7) pitch assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect
83	Crescent Bowling Club	Bowls	Club leased	Leased from SC. One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members. Club is seeking funding for provision of wooden shelters.	Maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
20	Delta Taxi Stadium (Bootle FC)	Football	Club leased	One adult pitch (floodlit) assessed as good quality. The ground is leased from SC on a 50 year lease. Pitch is only used by Bottle FC 1 <sup>st</sup> team and 2 <sup>nd</sup> team. The 1st team plays at Step 5 of the football pyramid structure. No spare capacity at peak time. Club report significant latent and displaced demand.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage. Support the Club in seeking access to additional pitches to help meet demand identified.	LCFA	Local	L	L	Protect
		AGP		Two small sided AGPs both of which are 3G and floodlit. Available for community use but predominantly used by Bootle FC junior/mini teams.	Maximise use and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality.			L	L	

<sup>4</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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



**SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>4</sup>	Timescales <sup>5</sup>	Aim
84	Derby Park	Bowls	Council	One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
N/A	Daleacre School (Former)	Football	Education / Council	Disused/lapsed site with previous football provision.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. Or alternatively, if bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.	SC LCFA	TBC	M	S	Provide
185	English Martyrs Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	One mini (7v7) pitch assessed as poor quality. Available for community use but not used.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect
90	Firwood Bootle Cricket Club	Cricket	Club leased	One pitch (14 grass wickets) assessed as good quality. Pitch is currently being played to capacity. Changing provision available and rated as good quality although the Club reports that additional non-turf practice nets and a mobile batting cage are required.	Support the Club to investigate funding opportunities to install additional non turf practice facilities.	LCCC	Local	L	M	Protect
N/A	(Land at) Former Gasworks Site, Marsh Lane, Bootle	Football	Council	Lapsed sports and social club site with previous football provision. This is a heavily contaminated site.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. Or alternatively, if bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.	SC LCFA	TBC	M	S	Provide
95	Hatton Hill Park	Bowls	Council	One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
178	Holy Spirit Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect Enhance
187	Litherland Moss Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect

**SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>6</sup>	Timescales <sup>7</sup>	Aim
35	Litherland Sports Park	Football	Council	Four adult pitches and six mini pitches, all of which are assessed as standard quality with the exception on the main adult pitch (floodlit and located inside the athletics track) which is assessed as good quality. The main pitch is used by Litherland REMYCA FC (1st team - Step 6). The Club has recently invested into facilities at Litherland Sports Park to comply with League regulations. The main pitch is also used by Waterloo Grammar School Old Boys FC which plays at Step 7. Adult pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week but spare capacity is identified in the peak period for mini pitches.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage. Maximise use of the mini pitches to meet shortfalls identified. Possible site for FA Pitch Improvement Programme.	SC LCFA	Hub Site (High Priority)	M	S	Protect Enhance Provide
		AGP		One full size sand filled AGP (floodlit) assessed as standard quality (built in 2006). A new carpet will be required in the near future. Has spare capacity at the peak period for hockey matches. Hillwood Ladies Hockey Club is currently based here but the AGP is heavily used for football training midweek.	Liverpool FA and England Hockey to work together to further assess feasibility of converting Litherland Sports Park to 3G which would require Hillwood Ladies HC to play at The Northern Club (owned/managed by the Club).			SC LCFA EH	H	
35	Litherland Sports Park	Rugby union	Council	One senior grass pitch (floodlit) assessed as M1/D1 (standard). The pitch is used by Waterloo RUFC for training and is overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week.	Seek to address overplay via improvements to pitch quality i.e. the maintenance programme and/or drainage.	SC RFU	Hub Site	M	S	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Four courts (floodlit) assessed as good quality (hard surface). Courts are located on Litherland High School site but are available for community use outside of school hours and operated by Litherland Sports Park.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.			SC LTA	L	
43	Netherton Activity Centre	Football	Council	One adult pitch and six mini pitches, all assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week but spare capacity is identified in the peak period for mini pitches.	Seek to address overplay by increasing pitch quality. Possible site for FA Pitch Improvement Programme.	SC LCFA	Key Centre	M	M	Protect Enhance
				Six small sided (5v5) 3G AGPs (floodlit) assessed as good quality. Available for community use but underutilised due to noise restraints.	Seek advice from Sport England on noise pollution from 3G pitches and where possible maximise usage. If the issues cannot be resolved consider relocation to another site.			L-H	M	
112	Netherton Park	Bowls	Sports Club	One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Explore opportunities for access to maintenance equipment to help club maintain quality and maximise use.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
44	Orrell Mount Park	Football	Council	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Spare capacity identified in the peak period due to lack of demand as no changing provision on site.	Explore options for access to changing to be secured. Alternatively do not continue to maintain and invest savings in Hub Site developments.	SC	TBC	L	S	Provide

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

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

**SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>6</sup>	Timescales <sup>7</sup>	Aim
161	Our Lady of Walsingham Primary School	Football	Education	One adult pitch, one youth pitch and one mini pitch, all of which are assessed as standard quality. The adult and youth pitch are both played to capacity but spare capacity identified in the peak period for the mini pitch.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve/maintain quality and sustain current usage.	LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect Enhance
188	Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect
47	Play Football (Liverpool North)	Football	Private	Five adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by various clubs with minimal spare capacity identified at peak time.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve/maintain quality and sustain current usage.	LCFA	Key Centre	L	M	Protect Enhance
		AGP		Five small sided (5v5) 3G AGPs (floodlit) assessed as good quality. Available for community use.	Maximise use and sustain quality.					
55	Savio Salesian College	Football	Education	Two adult and two youth pitches, all assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect
		Cricket		One pitch (ten grass wickets) assessed as good quality. In addition to school use, the pitch is used by Firwood Bootle CC 3rd team. Actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for senior cricket.	Seek options to secure and maximise use of the pitch to help accommodate potential growth for women's cricket from Firwood Bootle CC.	LCCB		L	S	
147	South Sefton College	Football	Education	One adult pitch (floodlit) assessed as poor quality. Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week due to school use and midweek training (clubs).	Seek to improve pitch quality in order to address overplay or reduce usage.	LCFA	Education	L-M	S	Protect Enhance
191	Springwell Park Primary School	Football	Education	One adult pitch assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect
60	St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic High School	Football	Education	One youth pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by Davenhill United FC with minimal spare capacity identified at peak time. There is also one adult pitch assessed as standard quality that is available for community use but not used.	In the event of the school closing the pitches will be protected for 10 years, due to the playfield protection legislation. Ensure existing community users are able to remain playing at the site and look to secure their usage.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		One mini pitch assessed as M0/D1 (poor). Not available for community use.						
		Tennis		Four courts assessed as standard quality (hard surface) Not available for community use.						
176	St. Benedict's Primary School	Football	Education	Two mini pitches assessed as poor quality. Available for community use but not used.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect
190	St. Elizabeth's RC Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect
N/A	(Former) St Mary's Primary School Playing Fields	Football	Education / Council	Disused/lapsed site with previous football provision.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. Or alternatively, if bringing the	SC FA	TBC	M	S	Provide

**SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>6</sup>	Timescales <sup>7</sup>	Aim
	(Waverley Street, Bootle)				site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.					
174	St. Philips CE Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but not used.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect
N/A	(Former) St. Raymond's School Playing Fields (Harrops Croft, Netherton)	Football	Education / Council	Disused/lapsed site with previous football provision.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. Or alternatively, if bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.	SC FA	TBC	M	S	Provide
N/A	(Former) St. Wilfrid's School	Football	Education / Council	Disused/lapsed site with previous football provision.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. Or alternatively, if bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.	SC FA	TBC	M	S	Provide
62	Stuart Road Playing Field	Football	Education	Three adult pitches assessed as standard quality. One pitch has a barrier and is used by Belfry FC (1st team plays at Step 7 of the football pyramid structure). The Club accesses changing provision at neighbouring Hillside High School as there is no specific changing servicing the site. There are two other community club users using the remaining pitches, however, due to pitch increases one team has decided not to continue to hire the pitches. In addition, due to the change in status of Hillside High School to an academy, the School now also has to hire the field from the Council.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve/maintain quality. Seek options to maximise use to address current shortfalls including options to lease to a suitable club.	SC LCFA	Local	L	S	Protect Enhance
180	The Grange Primary School	Football	Education	One mini (7v7) pitch assessed as good quality. Available for community use but not used.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect

# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## CROSBY & HIGHTOWN SUMMARY

### Football – grass pitches

*Summary of current and future demand*

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)	
		Overplay	Total (current)
Adult	0.5	12	-11.5
Youth	-	17.5	-17.5
Mini	-	2.5	-2.5

- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 20 adult match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).
- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 73.5 youth match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).
- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 23.5 mini match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).

### Football – 3G pitches

- ◀ Current shortfall of at least 11 full size 3G pitches across the Borough.
- ◀ There is a shortfall of four full size 3G pitches in Crosby & Hightown specifically.

### Cricket

- ◀ Demand is being met in the Area and there is limited spare capacity (0.5 pitches).
- ◀ There are two clubs located in the Area; Crosby St. Mary's CC and The Northern CC.
- ◀ Potential demand for LMS should a franchise start in Sefton.

### Rugby union

- ◀ Current shortfall of 3.5 match sessions due to overplay and unmet demand, expected to increase to 6.5 match sessions in the future.
- ◀ There are two clubs located in the Area; Crosby St. Mary's RUFC and Waterloo RUFC.
- ◀ Waterloo RUFC is in discussion with St. Mary's College Games Field (Blundell Park) with regards to securing access. It has 3 good quality (M2/D1) pitches which could provide up to 9 match sessions (dependent on the extent of school usage).

### Hockey

- ◀ Demand is being met in the area with one full size sand AGP based at The Northern Club (Northern Hockey Club)
- ◀ The AGP has spare capacity during the peak period for hockey matches, particularly on a Sunday.

### Tennis

- ◀ There are five clubs located in the Area.
- ◀ Blundellsands Lawn Tennis Club reports demand for additional courts at its homeground.
- ◀ All park courts are free to use for the community, however, quality is an issue and often prevents use.
- ◀ No tennis courts within schools are available for community use.

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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### **Bowls**

- ◀ Current supply is deemed adequate to service demand, as the majority of bowling greens are considered to have spare capacity. However, further investigation will be required to determine any loss.
- ◀ Although the majority of greens are assessed as good quality, there are some site by site improvements needed.



## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

### CROSBY & HIGHTOWN ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>8</sup>	Timescales <sup>9</sup>	Aim
72	Blundellsands Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Club leased	Four floodlit artificial courts and two hard courts, all of which are assessed as good quality. Club reports aspirations to increase the number of courts it has to eight.	Explore funding and planning permission options and for additional courts to support future demand.	LTA	Local	M	S	Protect Provide
77	Brooke Hotel PH	Bowls	Private	One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
78	Brownmoor Park Tennis Club	Tennis	Private	Two courts assessed as poor quality (hard surface).	Seek funding options to improve court quality in order to maximise use.	LTA	Local	M	M	Protect Enhance
11	Buckley Hill Playing Fields	Football	Council	Four adult pitches and nine youth pitches all of which are assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by various clubs in addition to being a central venue for the Bootle, Litherland & Netherton Junior Football League (Saturday) and the Hightown Junior Football League (Sunday). Adult pitches are overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions per week with the youth 11v11 pitches also overplayed by 9.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The three youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to good in order to help address overplay. In addition, reduce usage of the site by six match sessions. Possible site for FA Pitch Improvement Programme.	SC LCFA	Hub site	M	S	Protect Enhance
79	Campion Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Club leased	Seven courts (three of which are floodlit) assessed as good quality (artificial surface).	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	LTA	Local	L	L	Protect
N/A	Chaffers Playing Field	Football	Council	Disused/lapsed site with previous football provision.	Retain for future use pitch rotation by SC Managing Agent.	SC	Local	L	L-M	Protect Provide
13	Chesterfield High School	Football	Education	One adult pitch assessed as poor quality. Available for community use but not used.	Explore option for use by Sefton Softball League which reports latent demand and is looking to be accommodated in Sefton. Ensure appropriate maintenance is applied to help increase quality.	SC	Education	L	S	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as M0/D0 (poor). Available for community use but not used. Pitch is overplayed due to school fixtures. No current capacity.	Retain for school use and where opportunities exist seek to improve quality.	SC				
		Tennis		Nine courts assessed as standard quality (hard surface).	No local demand for community use. Retain for school use.	SC				
82	Coronation Park	Bowls	Council	One crown green assessed as poor quality due to of wear and tear and lack of fencing.	Upgrade the security of the green with high fences and maximise use.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect Enhance
17	Crosby High Cooperative Learning Trust	Football	Education	One youth pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by Litherland Remyca FC and overplayed by 1.5 match sessions per week.	Secure access and seek to address overplay by improving pitch quality via improvements to the maintenance programme.	LCFA	Education	L	S	Protect Enhance
167	Great Crosby Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	One youth pitch assessed as good quality. Available for community use but not used.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect

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

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



## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>10</sup>	Timescales <sup>11</sup>	Aim
141	Hightown Junior Football League	Football	Private	Central Venue for the Hightown Junior Football League. Three youth pitches and nine mini pitches, all of which are assessed as standard quality. Youth pitches are overplayed by 6.5 match sessions per week and the mini pitches are overplayed by 2.5 match sessions per week.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage. Possible site for FA Pitch Improvement Programme.	LCFA	Hub site	L-M	S	Protect Enhance
32	Holy Family Catholic High School	Football	Education	Two adult pitches and one youth pitch all assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but not used.	Retain for school use but potential for site to be used for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		Disused (previous pitch with one non turf wicket).	No current demand for non turf wicket provision in the area.					
36	Liverpool Ramblers AFC	Football	Private	Two adult pitches assessed as good quality. No spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	LCFA	Local	L	L	Protect
38	Maghull High School	Football	Education	Two youth pitches assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect
41	Merchant Taylors School	Cricket	Education	One pitch (ten grass wickets) assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Retain for school use and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect
		Rugby union		Two senior pitches assessed as M2/D1 (good). Not available for community use.						
		Tennis		Three courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Available for community use.						
42	Merchant Taylors School Playing Fields	Football	Education	Two adult and two youth pitches, all assessed as good quality. Available for community use but not used.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		Three pitches (non turf wickets) assessed as good quality. Available for community use but unused.	Potential site for LMS in the future should a franchise start in Sefton.	LCCB		L	M	
		Rugby union		Three senior pitches assessed as M2/D1 (good). In addition to school use, pitches are used by Waterloo RUFC teams for competitive fixtures. All pitches are currently played to capacity.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	RFU		L	L	
108	Moorside Park	Bowls	Council	One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
110	Nags Head Inn	Bowls	Private	One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
171	Rimrose Hope CE Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC LCFA	Education	L	S	Protect
52	Sacred Heart Catholic College (Lower School Site)	Tennis	Education	Three courts assessed as standard quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.	No local demand for community use. Retain for school use.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect

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

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

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>12</sup>	Timescales <sup>13</sup>	Aim
148	Sacred Heart Catholic College (Main Site)	Football	Education	One adult pitch and one youth (9v9) pitch, both assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect
192	St. Edmunds & St. Thomas Primary School	Football	Education	One mini (7v7) pitch assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect
168	St. Luke's Halsall CE Primary School	Football	Education	One mini (7v7) pitch assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Seek to improve pitch quality via improvements to the maintenance programme and explore options to open up for community use to meet shortfalls identified.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect
150	St. Mary's College Games Field (Blundell Park)	Football	Education	Three adult pitches assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC LCFA	Education	L	S	Protect Provide
		Cricket		Two pitches (each with eight grass wickets) assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	No local demand for community use. Retain for school use.	SC		L	L	
		Rugby union		Three senior pitches assessed as M2/D1 (good). Not available for community use.	Explore the suitability of the site as a satellite site for Waterloo RUFC including security of tenure. Facilitate discussions between Waterloo RUFC and College to explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC RFU		L	S	
59	St. Michaels CE High School	Football	Education	Two adult pitches and one youth (9v9) pitch, all assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect
196	St. Nicholas CE Primary School	Football	Education	One youth (9v9) pitch assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC LCFA	Education	L	S	Protect
181	St. William of York Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	One mini (7v7) pitch assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect
63	The Arriva Arena (Marine FC)	Football	Private	One adult pitch (floodlit) assessed as good quality. 1st team plays at Step 3 of the football pyramid structure although the pitch is also used by AFC Liverpool that plays at Step 5 of the football pyramid structure.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage. Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality.	LCFA	Local	L	L	Protect

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

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

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>14</sup>	Timescales <sup>15</sup>	Aim
64	The Hightown Club	Football	Club leased	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. The pitch is marked on the cricket outfield and used by FC Hightown. Minimal spare capacity identified at peak time.	Retain spare capacity to help protect quality. Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to help improve quality.	LCFA	Key Centre	L	S	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One pitch (nine grass wickets and one non turf wicket) assessed as standard quality. Pitch is significantly overplayed by 35 matches per season (non turf wicket is not used for competitive matches). Changing provision available and rated as good quality. The Club reports that the current non-turf practice nets require refurbishment and a new mobile batting cage is required.	Lancashire County Cricket Groundsmen Association and LCCB to work with club to review quality issues. Explore opportunities to install additional wickets on current square (specifically for junior play) to address overplay.	LCCB		M	S	
		Rugby union		One senior pitch (partially floodlit) and one junior pitch, both assessed as M1/D1 (standard). Pitches are used by Crosby St. Mary's RUFC for competitive fixtures and training. Limited spare capacity in the peak period (0.5 senior and 1 junior).	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	RFU		L	S	
		Tennis		Four grass courts and three hard courts, all of which are assessed as good quality. Used by Hightown Tennis Club.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	LTA		L	L	
		Bowls		One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC		L	L	
65	The Northern Club	AGP	Private	One full size sand filled AGP (floodlit) assessed as good quality (new carpet was laid in 2012 and new floodlights installed in 2014). Spare capacity during the peak period for hockey (weekends particularly Sunday PM). In addition to hockey training there is also junior football teams training midweek.	Maximise hockey use and explore availability to accommodate Hillwood Ladies should Litherland Sports Park AGP be converted to 3G. Ensure sinking fund is in place for the future replacement / refurbishment of the carpet.	SC EH LCFA	Key Centre	L	S	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Home to Northern Cricket Club. Three pitches (14 grass wickets, 14 grass wicket and ten grass wickets) all assessed as good quality. Actual spare capacity (1.5 pitches) identified in the peak period for senior cricket. The Club also hosts various County fixtures throughout the season. Changing provision available and rated as acceptable quality but the Club reports that a new three lane non-turf practice facility is required.	Retain some spare capacity in order to help protect pitch quality and to account for softball usage on the outfield. Support the Club to investigate funding opportunities in order to refurbish changing provision and install non turf practice facilities.	LCCB		M	M	
		Softball		Two pitches overmarked on the cricket outfields. The quality of the pitches is good with the Club maintaining them (including marking). The League reports latent demand for access to additional pitches albeit this isn't restricted to being in Sefton and has a number of options for achieving this between hiring Chesterfield High School pitches and accessing a pitch in St Helens.	Support club to secure use of the site and to seek other local options to accommodate latent demand.	SC		L	S	

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

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

**SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>14</sup>	Timescales <sup>15</sup>	Aim
		Bowls		One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC				
194	Valewood Primary School	Football	Education	One mini (7v7) pitch assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect
134	Victoria Park (Waterloo)	Tennis	Council	Four courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
145	Waterloo RUFC (Memorial Ground)	Rugby union	Club leased	Long term lease from the Blundell family. One senior pitch assessed as M1/D2 (standard). Pitch is used by the 1st & 2nd team as well as the ladies 1st team for matches and training (prior to floodlighting issue) and as such is overplayed by 3 match sessions per week. Changing provision rated as poor quality.	As a priority, address floodlighting issue. Seek to address overplay through (where possible pitch improvements) but as a priority securing access to additional pitches. Support the Club in its approaches to accessing Blundell Park (St. Mary's College Playing Fields). In the longer term, support the Club to investigate funding opportunities in order to refurbish changing provision.	RFU	Local	M-H	M	Protect Enhance
137	Waterloo Tennis Club	Tennis	Private	Six courts assessed as good quality (artificial surface).	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	LTA	Local	L	L	Protect

# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## FORMBY SUMMARY

### Football – grass pitches

*Summary of current and future demand*

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)						
		Overplay	Total (current)	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult	2.5	1.5	1	-	-	-	-	-
Youth	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Mini	9	-	9	-	-	-	-	-

- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 20 adult match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).
- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 73.5 youth match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).
- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 23.5 mini match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).

### Football – 3G pitches

- ◀ Current shortfall of at least 11 full size 3G pitches across the Borough.
- ◀ There is a shortfall of one full size 3G pitch in Formby specifically.

### Cricket

- ◀ There is a shortfall of one pitch in the Area due to overplay at Formby CC.

### Rugby union

- ◀ No Club located in the Area and therefore no demand.
- ◀ Rugby provision at educational sites is not available for community use.

### Hockey

- ◀ Demand is being met in the Area with one full size sand AGP at Formby Cricket & Hockey Club home to Formby Hockey Club.
- ◀ The AGP has some spare capacity for hockey but with predicted future growth this will be operating at capacity.

### Tennis

- ◀ There are two clubs located in the area.
- ◀ There are enough courts that are available for community use to accommodate both the current and future demand.
- ◀ All park courts are free to use for the community, however, quality is an issue and often prevents use.
- ◀ No tennis courts within schools are available for community use.

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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### **Bowls**

- ◀ Current supply is deemed adequate to service demand, as the majority of bowling greens are considered to have spare capacity. However, further investigation will be required to determine any loss.
- ◀ Although the majority of greens are assessed as good quality, there are some site by site improvements needed.

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

### FORMBY ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>16</sup>	Timescales <sup>17</sup>	Aim
15	Clarence High School	Football	Education	One adult pitch assessed as poor quality. Pitch is used by Café D'Art FC (Vets) and overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Seek to improve pitch quality and address overplay via improvements to the maintenance programme.	SC	Education	L	S	Protect Enhance
19	Deansgate Lane Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Two adult pitches, two youth (9v9) pitches and five mini (7v7) pitches, all of which are assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by various clubs including Formby Junior Sports FC and Redgate Rovers FC. Spare capacity identified in the peak period for both adult and mini (7v7) pitches but youth (9v9) pitches are played to capacity. No changing provision on site.	Improve quality in order to address overplay and build future capacity. If required ensure access to appropriate changing room provision.	SC LCFA (high)	Key Centre	M	M	Protect Enhance
24	Duke Street Park	Football	Council	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by Formby Dons FC and Redgate Rovers FC with minimal spare capacity identified at peak time.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain/improve quality. Site to be used for pitch rotation by SC Managing Agent.	SC	Local	L	M	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Six courts assessed as standard quality (hard surface). Available for community use.	Sustain/improve court quality and seek to maximise use.			L	L	
		Bowls		One crown green assessed as standard quality and likely to be able to accommodate more members.	Where possible improve quality and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.			L	L	
26	Formby Cricket & Hockey Club	AGP	Private	One full size sand filled AGP (floodlit) assessed as standard quality (refurbished in 2006). A new carpet may be required in the near future. Minimal spare capacity for hockey but enough to accommodate any future demand likely to be expressed by Formby HC. AGP is also used by football teams for midweek training.	Seek to maximise community use to accommodate future hockey demand. Ensure sinking fund is in place for the future replacement / refurbishment of the carpet.	EH	Key Centre	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		One pitch (nine grass wickets) assessed as good quality. Pitch is significantly overplayed by 65 matches per season. Changing provision available and rated as good quality. The Club reports that additional non-turf practice nets are required.	Explore opportunities to install additional wickets on current square (specifically for junior play) to address overplay. Support Club to investigate funding opportunities to install additional non turf practice facilities.			LCCB	L-M	
27	Formby Football Club Formby Play Sport (small sided 3G)	Football	Private	One adult pitch (floodlit), two youth and one mini pitch, all of which are assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by various clubs including Redgate Rovers FC (1st team) and Formby Juniors Sports FC. The adult pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week although spare capacity is identified in the peak period on youth and mini pitches.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain/improve quality and sustain current usage.	LCFA	Local	L	L	Protect Enhance

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

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



## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>18</sup>	Timescales <sup>19</sup>	Aim
N/A	(Land South of) Formby Industrial Estate	Football	Council	Disused/lapsed site with previous football provision. Forms part of Formby Football Club Site ID:27 The site specific policy requires the provision of 2 full size 3G pitches and other replacement sports provision.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. Or alternatively, if bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.	SC LCFA	Local	M-H	M	Protect Enhance
28	Formby High School	Football	Education	One adult pitch and one youth (9v9) pitch, both assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Retain for school use and ensure appropriate pitch/court maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		One pitch (non turf wicket) assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.						
		Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as M0 / D0 (poor). Not available for community use.						
		Tennis		Six courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.						
98	Formby Holy Trinity Tennis Club	Tennis	Club leased	Four hard courts which have recently been refurbished, all of which are floodlit. The floodlights are likely to require upgrading in the near future.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use. Seek options for future funding to upgrade the floodlights.	LTA	Local	L-M	M	Protect
91	Formby Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Private	Six artificial courts (floodlit) and two grass courts, all assessed as good quality.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	LTA	Local	L	L	Protect
92	Formby Sports & Social Club	Bowls	Private	One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
93	Freshfield Bowling Club	Bowls	Private	One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
186	Freshfield Primary School	Football	Education	One mini (7v7) pitch assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect
98	Holy Trinity	Bowls	Private	One crown green assessed as good quality. Formby Holy Trinity Bowling Club suggests that there is a need for more car parking, renovations to the pavilion and improved toilet facilities.	Support the Club as required in seeking funding options to improve the ancillary facilities.	SC	Local	M	M	Protect Enhance

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

<sup>19</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>20</sup>	Timescales <sup>21</sup>	Aim
N/A	KGV Watchyard Lane	Football	Council	Disused/lapsed site with previous football provision with no changing provision. Redgate Rovers FC is interested in taking up a lease of the site and has a provisional lease for land adjacent to Watchyard Lane from the Diocese and has strong links with Formby Sports & Social Club (also located on site).	Explore possible lease options for Redgate Rovers FC (which would require access to changing) or retain for future pitch rotation by SC Managing Agent.	SC LCFA	Local	H	M	Protect Enhance Provide
117	Our Lady's (Formby)	Bowls	Private	One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
165	Our Lady of Compassion Primary School	Football	Education	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by Formby Railway FC with minimal spare capacity identified at peak time.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain/improve quality.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect Enhance
50	Range High School	Football	Education	One adult pitch and one youth (9v9) pitch, both assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Retain for school use and ensure appropriate pitch/court maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		One pitch (non turf wicket) assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.						
		Rugby union		One mini pitch assessed as M0/D1 (poor). Not available for community use.						
		Tennis		Six courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.						
156	Redgate Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by Redgate Rovers FC with spare capacity identified in the peak period.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect
56	Smithy Green Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One adult pitch assessed as good quality. Pitch is used by various clubs including Formby Junior Sports FC. Minimal spare capacity identified at peak time.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality. Site to be used for pitch rotation by SC Managing Agent.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
138	Weld Blundell Arms	Bowls	Private	One crown green assessed as good quality, likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect

<sup>20</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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

**SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>22</sup>	Timescales <sup>23</sup>	Aim
157	Woodlands Primary School	Football	Education	Two mini pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by Redgate Rovers FC. Spare capacity identified in the peak period.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect

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

<sup>23</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## MAGHULL & SEFTON EAST SUMMARY

### Football – grass pitches

*Summary of current and future demand*

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)	
		Overplay	Total (current)
Adult	3.5	2	1.5
Youth	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini	2.5	-	2.5

- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 20 adult match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).
- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 73.5 youth match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).
- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 23.5 mini match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).

### Football – 3G pitches

- ◀ Current shortfall of at least 11 full size 3G pitches across the Borough.
- ◀ There is a shortfall of one full size 3G pitch in Maghull & Sefton East specifically.

### Cricket

- ◀ There is a shortfall of 0.5 pitches in the Area due to overplay at Maghull CC although there is also some spare capacity at Moss Side Maghull CC

### Rugby union

- ◀ Demand being met as there are no clubs/demand identified in the area.

### Hockey

- ◀ No clubs/demand identified in the area.

### Tennis

- ◀ There is one Club located in the Area.
- ◀ There are enough courts that are available for community use to accommodate both the current and future demand.
- ◀ All park courts are free to use for the community, however, quality is an issue and often prevents use.
- ◀ No tennis courts within schools are available for community use.

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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### **Bowls**

- ◀ Current supply is deemed adequate to service demand, as the majority of bowling greens are considered to have spare capacity. However, further investigation will be required to determine any loss.
- ◀ Although the majority of greens are assessed as good quality, there are some site by site improvements needed.

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

### MAGHULL & SEFTON EAST ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>24</sup>	Timescales <sup>25</sup>	Aim
177	Aintree Davenhill Primary School	Football	Education	One youth (9v9) pitch assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC	Education	L	M	Protect Enhance
3	Aintree Golf Centre	Football	Private	One adult pitch assessed as poor quality. Available for community use but not used.	Seek to improve pitch quality via improvements to the maintenance programme. Potential for site to be used for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	LCFA	Local	L	S	Protect Enhance
68	Aintree Parish Playing Fields	Tennis	Aintree Parish Council	Three courts assessed as standard quality (hard surface). Available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
		Bowls		One crown green assessed as standard quality and likely to be able to accommodate more members.	Where possible improve quality and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.					
N/A	Ashworth Hospital South	Cricket	Council	Disused playing field with outline planning permission for 370 dwellings (ref DC/2014/00980). This permission secured the retention and improvement of the existing (currently disused) cricket pitch.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. Or alternatively, if bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.	SC LCCB	TBC	M	S	Provide
22	Deyes High School	Football	Education	One youth (11v11) pitch assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		Six courts assessed as standard quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.	Retain for school use and sustain court quality.					
158	Holy Rosary Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	Two youth pitches and two mini pitches all of which are assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by GRS Hornets FC and Holy Rosary Hurricanes FC. The adult and youth pitches are currently played to capacity but both mini pitches have spare capacity in the peak period.	Maximise use and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve/maintain quality.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect Enhance
163	Hudson Primary School	Football	Education	Two youth (9v9) pitches assessed as poor quality. Pitches are used by Georges FC and overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve pitch quality in order to address overplay.	SC LCFA	Education	M	M	Protect Enhance
101	KGV Complex (Maghull)	Tennis	Maghull Town Council	Six courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Used by Maghull Tennis Club and available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
		Bowls		Two crown greens assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.					

<sup>24</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

<sup>25</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>24</sup>	Timescales <sup>25</sup>	Aim
37	Maghull Cricket Club	Cricket	Club leased	One pitch (11 grass wickets and one non turf wicket) assessed as good quality. Pitch is significantly overplayed by 55 matches per season (non turf wicket is not used for competitive matches). Changing provision available and rated as good quality.	Explore opportunities to install additional wickets on current square (specifically for junior play) to address overplay. Alternatively seek access to a second pitch for junior play.	LCCB	Local	M	S	Protect Provide
159	Maghull Football Club	Football	Club leased	One adult pitch assessed as good quality. Pitch located on Old Hall Playing Fields is leased from Maghull Town Council. A new 28 year lease was signed in 2013. Clubhouse is owned by the Club. Pitch is used by Maghull FC 1st team and 2nd team. No spare capacity at peak time. 1st team plays at Step 7 of the football pyramid structure.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	LCFA	Local	L	L	Protect
39	Maricourt Catholic High School	Football	Education	One adult pitch and two youth pitches, all assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Retain for school use and ensure appropriate pitch/court maintenance is applied in order to improve quality and current usage.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		One pitch (non turf wicket) assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.						
		Rugby union		One mini pitch assessed as M0/D1 (poor). Not available for community use.						
		Tennis		Eight courts assessed as poor quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.						
109	Moss Side Maghull Cricket Club	Cricket	Club leased	One pitch (six grass wickets) assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity (one pitch) identified in the peak period for senior cricket. Changing provision available and rated as poor quality. The Club reports that non-turf practice nets are required.	Lancashire County Cricket Groundsmen Association and LCCB to work with club to review quality issues. Support the Club to investigate funding opportunities in order to refurbish changing provision and install non turf practice facilities.	LCCB	Local	M-H	M	Protect Enhance
189	Northway Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect
115	Oakhill Cottage Lane	Bowls	Private	Two crown greens assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
46	Pimbley Playing Field	Football	Maghull Town Council	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by Richmond FC and Southport Juniors FC (u17s). Spare capacity identified in the peak period.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain/improve quality.	LCFA	Local	L	L	Protect Enhance
120	Punch Bowl Public House	Football	Private	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by South Sefton Borough FC which plays at Step 7 of the football pyramid structure. Minimal spare capacity identified at peak time.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve/maintain quality.	LCFA	Local	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Bowls		One crown green assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC		L	L	



## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>24</sup>	Timescales <sup>25</sup>	Aim
54	Sandy Lane Playing Fields	Football	Lydiate Parish Council	One adult pitch assessed as good quality. Pitch is used by various clubs and overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week.	Seek to address overplay by transferring play to sites with spare capacity.	LCFA	Local	L	S	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Three courts assessed as poor quality (hard surface). Available for community use.	If demand exists locally, investigate funding opportunities to improve court quality and seek to maximise use.	LTA		M	M	
183	St. Andrews Maghull CE Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect
162	St. Georges Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as poor quality. Pitch is used by Georges FC (u8s) with minimal spare capacity identified at peak time.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve quality.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect Enhance
127	St Georges RC Church	Bowls	Private	One crown green assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
164	St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	One youth pitch and one mini pitch both assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by St. Thomas Lydiate Leopards FC. The youth pitch is overplayed by one match session per week and the mini has no spare capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality in order to address overplay and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied.	SC LCFA	Education	L	S	Protect Enhance
182	St. John Bosco Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	One youth pitch and three mini pitches, all assessed as good quality. Available for community use but not used.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	M	Protect
193	St. Thomas CE Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect
175	Summerhill Primary School	Football	Education	One youth pitch assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet displaced demand.	SC LCFA	Education	L	L	Protect
67	Whinney Brook Playing Fields	Football	Maghull Town Council	One adult pitch and one youth pitch, both assessed as standard quality. Adult pitch is used by Maghull Community Association with spare capacity identified in the peak period. Youth pitch is available for community use but not used.	Seek options to improve quality and maximise use to meet shortfalls identified.	SC LCFA	Local	L	S	Protect Enhance

# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## SOUTHPORT SUMMARY

### Football – grass pitches

*Summary of current and future demand*

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)	
		Overplay	Total (current)
Adult	6	4	2
Youth	0.5	6.5	-6
Mini	4.5	2	2.5

- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 20 adult match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).
- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 73.5 youth match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).
- ◀ In addition to above there is a Borough wide future shortfall of 23.5 mini match sessions (including latent and displaced demand).

### Football – 3G pitches

- ◀ Current shortfall of at least 11 full size 3G pitches across the Borough.
- ◀ There is a shortfall of three full size 3G pitches in Southport specifically.

### Cricket

- ◀ Demand is being met overall in the Area and there is limited spare capacity (0.5 pitches) at Crossens Recreation Ground (New Victoria CC). However, Ainsdale Sports & Social Club is slightly overplayed.
- ◀ There are seven clubs located in the area.

### Rugby union

- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 6 match equivalent sessions expected to increase to a future shortfall of 7.5 match sessions at Southport RUFC.
- ◀ Rugby provision at educational sites provides potential spare capacity (alongside available ancillary facilities), however, pitch quality is rated as poor and therefore this is not seen as a short term solution but may be an option for future demand.

### Hockey

- ◀ Demand is being met in the area with one full size sand AGP at Greenbank High School used by Southport Hockey Club.
- ◀ The AGP has some spare capacity for hockey but with predicted future growth this will be operating at capacity. However, it is heavily used for football.
- ◀ In addition, the AGP is assessed as poor quality.

# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## **Tennis**

- ◀ There are seven clubs located in the Area.
- ◀ There are enough courts that are available for community use to accommodate both the current and future demand.
- ◀ All park courts are free to use for the community, however, quality is an issue and often prevents use.
- ◀ No tennis courts within schools are available for community use.

## **Bowls**

- ◀ Current supply is deemed adequate to service demand, as the majority of bowling greens are considered to have spare capacity. However, further investigation will be required to determine any loss.
- ◀ Although the majority of greens are assessed as good quality, there are some site by site improvements needed.

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

### SOUTHPORT ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>26</sup>	Timescales <sup>27</sup>	Aim
N/A	(Former) Ainsdale Hope High School	Football	Education / Council	Disused/lapsed site with previous football provision. Initial plans are in place for development of at least half of the site for housing. However, Southport & Ainsdale Amateurs FC is keen to explore opportunities to bring back into use.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. If bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.	SC LCFA	Local	M	S-M	Protect Enhance
2	Ainsdale Sports & Social Club	Football	Private	One adult pitch and one mini pitch, both assessed as good quality. Pitches are marked on cricket outfield and used by Southport & Ainsdale Amateurs FC. Adult pitch is currently played to capacity and the mini pitch has no spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	LCFA	Key Centre	L	L	Protect Enhance
				Three small sided (5v5) 3G pitches assessed as good quality. Available for community use. No longer floodlit due to proximity of local houses.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage. Consider future use without floodlighting.	LCFA		L	L	
		Cricket		Used by Ainsdale CC. One pitch (12 grass wickets and one non turf wicket) assessed as standard quality. Pitch is overplayed by 16 matches per season (non turf wicket is not used for competitive matches). Changing provision available and rated as good quality. The Club reports that additional non-turf practice nets are required due to increasing membership (particularly juniors).	Lancashire County Cricket Groundsmen Association and LCCB to work with club to review quality issues and in doing so address overplay. Support Club to investigate funding opportunities to install non turf practice facilities.	LCCB		L-M	S	
		Bowls		One crown green assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC		L	L	
N/A	Bank End Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Disused/lapsed site with previous football provision (two pitches). Changing rooms owned by Southport & Ainsdale Amateurs FC.	Site to be used for pitch rotation by SC Managing Agent.	SC	Local	L-M	M	Protect
7	Bankfield Lane (Southport Juniors FC)	Football	Club leased	One adult pitch and one youth (11v11) pitch, both assessed as standard quality. Site is leased to Southport Juniors FC from Hesketh Estates. Some spare capacity on both pitches.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve/maintain quality.	SC	Local	L	M	Protect Enhance
8	Bedford Park	Football	Council	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by various clubs but spare capacity identified in the peak period.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage. Site to be used for pitch rotation by SC Managing Agent for football.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect Enhance

<sup>26</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

<sup>27</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>26</sup>	Timescales <sup>27</sup>	Aim
9	Birkdale High School	Football	Education	Two adult, one youth and one mini pitch, all assessed as poor quality. Available for community use but not used.	No local demand for community use. Seek to improve quality and retain for school use.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One pitch (non turf wicket) assessed as good quality. Available for community use but not used.	Retain for school use but potential site for LMS in the future should a franchise start in Sefton.	LCCB				
		Tennis		Five courts assessed as poor quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.	No current demand for community use. Seek to improve quality and retain for school use.	SC				
N/A	(Former) Birkdale School for Hearing Impaired Children	-	Education / Council	Lapsed playing field site last used approx. 12 years ago. Southport & Birkdale Sports Club is operating at capacity for cricket and the Club (Southport & Birkdale CC) has aspirations for growth including for women's cricket.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. Or alternatively, if bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.	SC LCCB	TBC	M	M	Provide
75	Botanic Gardens	Bowls	Council	Two crown greens assessed as poor quality surface due to wear and tear. Additional teams have transferred to this site recently following the closure of London Hotel bowling green.	Seek options to improve quality in order to sustain increased levels of usage.	SC	Local (high)	L-M	S	Protect Enhance
80	Canning Road	Bowls	Private	Two crown greens assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
197	Carlton Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Private	Four courts (one of which is floodlit) assessed as standard quality (hard surface).	Work to improve court quality in order to maximise usage.	LTA	Local	M	M	Protect Enhance
12	Carr Lane Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Three adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by various clubs and slightly overplayed by 1.5 match sessions per week.	Improve pitch quality in order to address overplay and sustain future use. Site to be used for pitch rotation by SC Managing Agent for football.	SC LCFA	Key Centre	L-M	S	Protect Enhance
14	Christ the King Catholic High School	Football	Education	Two adult pitches assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Retain for school use and ensure appropriate pitch/court maintenance is applied in order to improve quality.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as M0/D0 (poor). Not available for community use.						
		Tennis		Three courts assessed as poor quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.						
169	Churchtown Primary School	Football	Education	One youth (9v9) pitch assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>28</sup>	Timescales <sup>29</sup>	Aim
18	Crossens Recreation Ground (also known as Rufford Road)	Football	Council	Disused site with previous football provision. No changing provision on site but Crossens Village Hall can provide changing provision if required.	Site to be used for pitch rotation by SC Managing Agent for football.	SC LCFA	Key Centre	L-M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket	Club leased	One pitch (eight grass wickets) assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by New Victoria CC. Actual spare capacity (one pitch) identified in the peak period for senior cricket. Changing provision available and rated as acceptable quality. The Club reports that non-turf practice nets are required.	Lancashire County Cricket Groundsmen Association and LCCB to work with club to review quality issues in order to maximise use.  In the longer term, support the Club to investigate funding opportunities in order to refurbish changing provision and install non turf practice facilities.	LCCB		M	M	
		Bowls	Council	One crown green assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC		L	L	
21	Devonshire Road Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by Birkdale Utd FC, Churchtown Jaguars FC and Devonshire FC. Pitch is currently played to capacity.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.  Site to be used for pitch rotation by SC Managing Agent for football.	SC LCFA	Local	L	L	Protect Enhance
87	Emmanuel Church	Bowls	Private	One crown green assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
88	Falkland Road	Bowls	Private	One crown green assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
25	Fleetwood Hesketh Sports Club	Football	Private	One adult pitch and one youth pitch, both assessed as good quality. 1st team plays at Step 7 of the football pyramid structure. No spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	LCFA	Key Centre	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One pitch (12 grass wickets and one non turf wicket) assessed as standard quality. Pitch is overplayed by 20 matches per season (non turf wicket is not used for competitive matches). Changing provision available and rated as good quality.	Lancashire County Cricket Groundsmen Association and LCCB to work with club to review quality issues in order to address overplay.  Explore opportunities to install additional wickets on current square (specifically for junior play) to address overplay.	LCCB		M	S	
		Bowls		One crown green assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC		L	L	

<sup>28</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

<sup>29</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).



**SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>30</sup>	Timescales <sup>31</sup>	Aim
30	Greenbank High School	Football	Education	One adult pitch, one youth pitch and two mini pitches, all of which are assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by various clubs. The adult pitch and youth pitch are both overplayed by one match equivalent session per week. Spare capacity identified in the peak period on both mini pitches.	Secure usage for clubs and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	SC LCFA	Education Key Centre (high priority)	L	L	Protect Enhance
		AGP		One full size sand filled AGP (floodlit) assessed as poor quality (refurbished in 2008). A new carpet is will be required in the near future. Used by Southport Hockey Club for matches and training but is also heavily used for football for midweek training. Southport & Birkdale Sports Club is in early negotiations with Greenbank High School (now an Academy) with regard to potential investment for a replacement carpet.	Priority site for future hockey development. Improve pitch quality and explore funding opportunities for a replacement sand based carpet. In the longer term, review programming to assess impact of less football use as a result of new 3G provision in Sefton.	SC EH		H	S	
		Cricket		One pitch (non turf wicket) assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but not used.	Retain for school use.	SC		L	L	
97	Hesketh Arms Hotel	Bowls	Private	One crown green assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
184	Kew Woods Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet future shortfalls identified.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect
33	King George V College	Football	Education	One adult pitch assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use. Southport FC has aspirations to install a full size 3G AGP in conjunction with KGV College and Southport College. The proposed development would involve land provided by KGV College with funding from both Southport FC and Southport College used to fund part of the project.	Further assess the feasibility for a 3G pitch on this site. Although there is no current demand for adult grass pitches in the area, there is a significant future shortfall due to displaced and latent demand expressed by clubs. Provision of a full size 3G pitch would help to address a shortfall in the area if the pitch is made available for community use for other local football clubs to use.	LCFA	Education	H	M	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Two courts assessed as poor quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.	Retain for school use and ensure appropriate maintenance is applied in order to improve quality.	SC		L	L	
170	Larkfield Primary School	Football	Education	One adult pitch and one youth pitch, both assessed as standard quality. Some community use of the adult pitch but has spare capacity.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve quality and sustain current usage.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect
104	Liverpool Road Recreation Ground (Ainsdale Village Park)	Tennis	Club leased	Five courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Used by Hillside Lawn Tennis Club and available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	LTA	Local	L	L	Protect
190	Marshside Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect

<sup>30</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

<sup>31</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).



## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>30</sup>	Timescales <sup>31</sup>	Aim
146	Meols Cop High School	Football	Education	Two youth pitches assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet future shortfalls identified.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Two courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.	Retain for school use.					
40	Meols Park Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Three adult pitches (only two pitches currently in use), three youth pitches and four mini pitches, all of which are assessed as poor quality. Pitches are used by various clubs. All pitch sizes are currently overplayed with the exception of the mini pitches (no spare capacity at peak time).	Improve pitch quality in order to address overplay expressed. Possible site for FA Pitch Improvement Programme. Site to be used for pitch rotation by SC Managing Agent.	SC LCFA	Key Centre (high)	M	S	Protect Enhance
143	North Meols Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Club leased	Eight courts (three of which are floodlit) assessed as good quality (artificial surface).	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	LTA	Local	L	L	Protect
179	Norwood Primary School	Football	Education	One mini pitch assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet future shortfalls identified.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect
48	Portland Street Playing Fields	Football	Council	Four adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by various clubs with minimal spare capacity at peak time.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve quality and sustain current usage. Site to be used for pitch rotation by SC Managing Agent.	SC LCFA	Local	L	M	Protect Enhance
49	Preston New Road Recreation Ground (Hesketh Casuals FC)	Football	Club leased	Two adult pitches assessed as good quality. Site is leased to Hesketh Casuals FC from SBC on a 20 year lease (expiry date unknown). No spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	LCFA	Local	L	L	Protect
51	Russell Road Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One youth pitch and two mini pitches, all of which are assessed as poor quality. Pitches are used by Phoenix FC. Youth pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalents sessions per week and the mini pitch is currently played to capacity. The mini pitch has minimal spare capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality in order to address overplay expressed. In the shorter term transfer play to sites with spare capacity.	SC LCFA	Local	L	S	Protect Enhance
53	Sandbrook Road Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by various clubs. No spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain/improve quality and sustain current usage. Site to be used for pitch rotation by SC Managing Agent.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
		Bowls		One crown green assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC		L	L	

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>32</sup>	Timescales <sup>33</sup>	Aim
57	Southport & Birkdale Sports Club	Cricket	Club leased	Used by Southport & Birkdale CC. One pitch (12 grass wickets) assessed as good quality. The pitch is currently being played to capacity; however, the Club has aspirations to development women and girls cricket. Changing provision available and rated as good quality but the Club reports aspirations to rebuild the indoor practice facility as well as refurbishing that the current non-turf practice nets.	Work with the Club to introduce women's cricket in the future and to secure access to pitches to allow this. Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage. Support the Club to investigate funding opportunities in order to refurbish non turf practice facilities and rebuild the indoor practice facility.	LCCB	Local	L-M	M	Protect
		Tennis		Four courts (floodlit) assessed as good quality (artificial surface). Available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	LTA		L	L	
70	Southport Argyle Tennis Club	Tennis	Private	Six artificial courts (floodlit) and one hard court, all assessed as good quality.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	LTA	Local	L	L	Protect
125	Southport Bowling Club	Bowls	Private	Two flat greens assessed as standard quality. The Club suggests that the greens need to be fenced off to prevent damage. Signage to the facility is also weak, which is affecting the recruitment of new members. No parking facilities. This Club suggests the need for an indoor bowling facility which would be used by crown green and flat green players alike.	Engage with Bowls England and support the Club in seeking funding opportunities to address green quality issues as the priority, particularly in relation to fencing. Further assess the strategic need for an indoor bowling facility.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect
143	Southport RUFC	Rugby union	Club leased	One senior pitch (floodlit) assessed as M1/D1 (standard). No spare capacity identified with usage restricted to retain quality.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	RFU	Local	L	L	Protect
126	Sphynx Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Private	Four artificial courts (floodlit) assessed as good quality and two hard courts assessed as poor quality.	Investigate funding opportunities to improve hard court quality in order to maximise use.	LTA	Local	M	S	Protect Enhance
		Bowls		One crown green assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC		L	L	
N/A	(Former) St. John Stone School	Football	Education / Council	Google Earth shows no pitch or outdoor sport markings since 2000. However, all the imagery is taken in the summer months and there is evidence of goal mouth and centre circle wear. So although there are no white line markings it is possible cones and pop up goals have been used to delineate the pitch. The area is much greater than 0.2ha and with the evidence of goal mouth and centre wear falls within the definition of a playing field. Therefore this site is classified as a disused site.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. Or alternatively, if bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.	SC FA	TBC	M	M	Provide
173	St. Johns CE Primary School	Football	Education	One youth (9v9) pitch assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet future shortfalls identified. However, quality would need to be improved.	SC	Education	M	L	Protect

<sup>32</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

<sup>33</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

**SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>34</sup>	Timescales <sup>35</sup>	Aim
61	Stanley High Sports College	Football	Education	Three adult, two youth and four mini pitches, all assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but not used.	Retain for school use but potential for site to be used for community use to help meet future shortfalls identified.	SC	Education	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as M0/D1 (poor). Available for community use but not used. Spare capacity identified in the peak period. No current capacity.	Explore the suitability of the site as a satellite site for Southport RUFC including security of tenure. Future potential for the site to be used to meet shortfalls if quality can be improved.	RFU SC		M	S	
		Tennis		Three courts (floodlit) assessed as standard quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.	Sustain court quality and retain for school use.	SC		L	L	
155	Tarleton Playing Fields	Football	Council	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by Cream FC and Lancashire Amateurs FC. Minimal spare capacity identified at peak time.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain/improve quality.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect Enhance
31	The Merseyrail Community Stadium (Southport FC)	Football	Private	One adult pitch (floodlit) assessed as good quality. Pitch is used by Southport FC 1st team and 2nd team. 1st team plays at Step 1 of the football pyramid structure (fifth tier of English Football). Minimal spare capacity identified in the peak period but not included in order to retain pitch quality.	Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality. Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	LCFA	Local	L	L	Protect
66	The Rookery Sports Ground	Football	Club leased	Three adult pitches, one youth pitch and two mini pitches, all of which are assessed as standard quality. Pitches are leased to Southport Trinity FC from Holy Trinity Church. Spare capacity identified in the peak period for all size pitches.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve/maintain quality.	LCFA	Key Centre	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Two pitches (one with 12 grass wickets leased to Southport Trinity CC and one with five grass wickets leased to Churchtown CC and Portland Wine CC), both of which are assessed as good quality. The pitch used by Southport Trinity CC has minimal actual spare capacity (0.5 pitches) identified in the peak period for senior cricket but the second pitch has no actual spare capacity. Changing provision available and rated as poor quality with all three clubs reporting that that non-turf practice nets are required.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage. Support the Club to investigate funding opportunities in order to refurbish changing provision and install non turf practice facilities.	LCCB		M	M	
		Tennis		Five courts assessed as good quality (artificial surface). Used by Southbank Tennis Club.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	LTA		L	L	

<sup>34</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

<sup>35</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

## SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>36</sup>	Timescales <sup>37</sup>	Aim
N/A	(Land at) Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale	Football	Council	Google Earth shows no pitch or outdoor sport markings since 2000. However, all the imagery is taken in the summer months and there is evidence of goal mouth and centre circle wear. So although there are no white line markings it is possible cones and pop up goals have been used to delineate the pitch. The area is much greater than 0.2ha and with the evidence of goal mouth and centre wear falls within the definition of a playing field. Therefore this site is classified as a disused site.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. Or alternatively, if bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.	SC FA	TBC	M	M	Provide
133	Victoria Park	Bowls	Council	Two crown greens assessed as good quality.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Key Centre	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Club leased	Home to Southport and Birkdale Croquet Club. This facility has 11 full size lawns which are split into the North and South lawns. The site is fenced with security lights but no floodlights. Leased from the Council at a peppercorn rent with the Club taking responsibility for maintenance. The quality of the lawns is excellent, although the quality of the South lawns is considered superior to that of the North.  The pavilion security is good but, as with many older buildings, it is not necessarily DDA compliant as there are steps up to the front of the pavilion.	Support the Club where possible to make the necessary improvements to the North lawns to enable it to attract national competitions in the future and where possible improve DDA access to the pavilion.	SC		L-M	M	
152	Waterloo Recreation Ground	Rugby union	Club leased	Leased from the Council. Two senior pitches and four mini pitches. Pitches are assessed as M0/D0 (poor) with drainage said to be natural (inadequate) due to evidence of standing water. The maintenance of such pitches is completed via the Council's external contractor and is rated as poor by the Club. The site is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Seek to address overplay via significant improvements to the maintenance programme and drainage. Facilitate discussions between Southport RUFC and Sefton Council to further explore options for the Club to take on the longer term maintenance and management of the site.	SC RFU	Local (high)	M	S	Protect Enhance
139	West End Lodge	Tennis	Private	One court assessed as poor quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.	Further investigate ownership/management and likely availability for community use in the future.	SC LTA	Local	L	S	Provide
140	Zetland Hotel	Bowls	Private	One crown green assessed as good quality likely to be able to accommodate additional members.	Protect and maximise use to cater for potential future demand.	SC	Local	L	L	Protect

<sup>36</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

<sup>37</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost <sup>38</sup>	Timescales <sup>39</sup>	Aim
-	London Hotel, Windsor Road	Bowls	Private	London Hotel Bowling Club has been displaced from its homeground at the site due to the sites closure. Its five teams are currently being accommodated at other sites including Botanic Gardens and Scarisbrick BC (in West Lancashire). However, the long term security of tenure has not been yet agreed. In addition the quality of Botanic Gardens is assessed as poor and as such needs to be improved in order to sustain further use.	If bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF.	SC	Local	M	S	Provide

<sup>38</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

<sup>39</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## **PART 7: KEEP THE STRATEGY ROBUST AND UP TO DATE**

### ***Delivery***

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Sefton. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Sefton can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Monitoring and updating***

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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Alongside the regular steering group meetings it is recommended that Sefton Council holds annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant organisations. These meetings should look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities. Things to consider include formation of new teams or loss of teams, any new formats of the sports that would impact on facilities, changes in quality or creation of new facilities.

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

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


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

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

# SEFTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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

### National context

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

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

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

### ***Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)***

In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England aspires to transforming sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics. The strategy will:

- ◀ See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- ◀ Create more opportunities for young people
- ◀ Nurture and develop talent
- ◀ Provide the right facilities in the right places
- ◀ Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- ◀ Ensure real opportunities for communities

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The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- ◀ Maximise value from current NGB investment
- ◀ Places, People, Play
- ◀ Strategic direction and market intelligence
- ◀ Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- ◀ Market development

The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habit for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes:

- ◀ 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's area.
- ◀ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ◀ All secondary schools that wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ◀ At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.
- ◀ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
- ◀ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ◀ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ◀ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ◀ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

### ***National Planning Policy Framework***

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

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

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Champion Counties Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2013 which seeks to deliver successful England teams at all levels, to produce a vibrant domestic game as well as increasing participation during the period 2014-17. It builds on the 2005 plan, Building Partnerships and the subsequent 2009 initiative, Grounds to Play.

The plan will take advantage of local partnerships developed in earlier plans and support local delivery of priorities through the County network. It targets operational excellence to make maximum use of scarce resources and facilities during a time of economic austerity.

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Among the targets set under the four pillars of Effective Governance, Vibrant Domestic Game, Enthusing Participation and Successful England teams, which are relevant to the playing pitch strategy, are:

- ◀ An increase in participation as measured by Sport England's Active People Survey from 183,400 to 197,500
- ◀ Expand the number of clubs participating in NatWest CricketForce from 2,000 to 2,200
- ◀ Increase the number of cricket's volunteers to 80,000 by 2017
- ◀ Expand the number of participants in women's and disabilities cricket by 10% by 2017
- ◀ To increase the number of TwelfthMan members from 220,000 to 250,000 by 2017
- ◀ Complete an approved Community Engagement programme with all 18 First Class Counties and MCC
- ◀ For each £1 provided in facility grants through the 'Sport England Whole Sport Plan Grant Programme' ensure a multiplier of three with other funding partners
- ◀ Provide a fund of £8.1m of capital investment to enhance floodlights, sightscreens, replay screens, power sub-stations and broadcasting facilities at First Class County venues
- ◀ Provide an interest-free loan fund to community clubs of £10 million
- ◀ Qualify and engage 50 Level 4 coaches to support the development of professional cricketers
- ◀ Expand the number of coaches who have received teacher level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications to 50,000
- ◀ Provide a fund of £2 million for community clubs to combat the impact of climate change
- ◀ Introduce a youth T20 competition engaging 500 teams by 2017

The following actions executed during the duration of Building Partnerships provide a strong base for this plan. Actions include:

- ◀ Streamlining ECB governance
- ◀ Building participation by more than 20% per annum (as measured through ECB focus clubs and County Cricket Boards)
- ◀ Developing women's cricket
- ◀ Attracting volunteers
- ◀ Expanding cricket's spectator base
- ◀ Introducing grants and loans to clubs
- ◀ Developing disabilities cricket

This plan therefore influences 'Grounds to Play' in the areas of facilities and coaches, which is where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

### ***The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)***

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

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- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

### **England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)**

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

*"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"*

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body



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England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP) that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximise playing opportunities

## ***‘The right pitches in the right places’<sup>40</sup>***

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90’s. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

## ***England Hockey Strategy***

EH’s new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

- 1 Having great leadership
- 2 Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
- 3 Inspired and Effective People
- 4 Different Ways to Play
- 5 Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
- 6 Being Local with Strong Community Connections
- 7 Stretching and developing those who want it

## ***British Crown Green Bowling Association***

Please note there is no current facility guidance provided by British Crown Green Bowling Association responsible for crown green bowls in England.

<http://crowngreenbowls.sharepoint.com/Pages/default.aspx>

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<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143&sectionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

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## ***Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017***

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

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

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.
- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

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

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

## ***2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy***

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

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

1. Deliver great service to CLUBS
2. Build partnerships in the COMMUNITY, led by parks
3. Enhance the tennis offer in EDUCATION

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

1. Becoming more relevant to COACHES
2. Refocusing on RECREATIONAL COMPETITION
3. Providing results orientated FACILITY INVESTMENT
4. Applying best in class MARKETING AND PROMOTION
5. JUMP STARTING THE PEAK SUMMER SEASON
6. Establishing a "no compromise" HIGH PERFORMANCE programme with focus.

The final layer is comprised of three participation "enablers" that underpin our ability to be successful. These enablers are rooted in how the LTA will get better; how the entire network of 4 / 17/03/2015 partners must be harnessed to work together and the need to raise more financial resources to fund our sport's turnaround. They include:

1. Becoming a more effective and efficient LTA
2. Harnessing the full resource network
3. Generating new revenue

For further information and more detail on the framework please go to <http://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision>

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## 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
Big Lottery Fund <a href="http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/">http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/</a>	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement Fund</li> <li>• Sportsmatch</li> <li>• Small Grants</li> <li>• Protecting Playing Fields</li> <li>• Inspired Facilities</li> <li>• Strategic Facilities Fund</li> </ul> <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx">http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx</a> <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/strategic-facilities/">http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/strategic-facilities/</a>	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation <a href="http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/">http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/</a>	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme <a href="http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org">www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org</a>	The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).
EU Life Fund <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</a>	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
EH Capital Investment Programme (CIP)	The CIP fund is for the provision of new pitches and re-surfacing of old AGPs. It forms part of EH's 4 year Whole Sport's Plan.
National Hockey Foundation <a href="http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/">http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</a>	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: Young people and hockey. Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

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## ***Protecting Playing Fields***

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

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

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

The programmes three priorities are:

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

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also providing opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces

## ***Strategic Facilities Fund***

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

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

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Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

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

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

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

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

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

### **Funder's requirements**

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

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

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## **Indicative costs**

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

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance.aspx)

The costs are for the development of community sports facilities and are based on providing good quality sports facility for the 1st Quarter 2015. 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.



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## APPENDIX THREE: GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

There are several surface types that fall into the category of artificial grass pitch (AGP). The three main groups are rubber crumb (third generation turf 3G), sand (filled or dressed) and water based. A full size pitch is considered to be 100x60 yards.

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces with a FA approved certificate and a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play at mini soccer and youth level. Only competition up to (but not including) regional standard can take place on a 40mm pile. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but is not the preferred option.

Hockey is played predominantly on sand based/filled AGPs. Although competitive play cannot take place on 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable, in some instances, for beginner training and are preferred to poor grass or tarmac surfaces.

#### *AGP type and sport suitability*

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22, requires a minimum of 60mm. Football surface.
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football
Sand	Sand filled	Competitive hockey and football training
Sand	Sand dressed	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training
Water	Water based	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated.

### Cricket's Last Man Stands (LMS)

LMS was founded in 2005, in London. LMS is a wide reaching amateur cricket league. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game lasts approximately two hours and can only be played on non-turf wickets as opposed to grass wickets. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the 'Last Man Stands' on his own. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport, for example, approximately 30,000 players took part in LMS T20 cricket leagues in 2012.