

# **SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH PLAN**

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH PLAN

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## PLAYING PITCH PLAN

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### INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Plan (PPP) for Sunderland. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report (updated 2017/18) it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2017 and 2022. It updates the previous 2014 Sunderland Playing Pitch Plan.

The PPP covers the following playing pitches and outdoor pitch sports:

- ◀ Football pitches (grass and 3G)
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water AGPs)
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Tennis courts (indoor and outdoor)

Please note that rugby league was also included in the scope, however, there is no reported demand for provision in Sunderland.

The challenge facing Sunderland City Council (SCC) continues to be to create the conditions for 'more people to become more active more often', given regular participation in physical activity and sport is proven to contribute to better physical and mental health, skills development and levels of attainment. The PPP will contribute to creating the conditions necessary for people to be active.

In refreshing the existing PPP, the Council will provide a framework from which to guide future investment, resources and subsequently increase satisfaction and participation in sport and physical activity in the City.

The City Council places a specific emphasis on football as one of its highest participation activities. Indeed, the key driver for the PPP is Sunderland's Parklife submission to the Parklife Funding Programme. The programme is funded by The Department of Culture, Media and Sport, The FA, and The Premier League aims to provide thriving and sustainable community football hubs across England.

In adopting this strategic approach to improving participation levels the following issues will be areas for focus:

- ◀ To impact on the greatest number of people.
- ◀ To support people in communities that are benefiting least from the opportunities that being physically active brings.
- ◀ To provide universal access to an appropriate provision of sport and leisure facilities and support sporting excellence.

The vision for playing pitches in Sunderland is that:

**'Sunderland has an accessible range of playing pitch facilities and venues which offer increased opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in both formal and informal opportunity, contributing to a higher quality of life.'**

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This PPP will help in identification and prioritisation, of outdoor sports that are of local and citywide significance and guide the Council and its partners to work collaboratively (i.e., reduce duplication and competition), identify and use limited resources to optimum effect.

Since the last Playing Pitch Plan and Action Plan was drafted in 2014, there has been notable progress:

- ◀ Sunderland is now progressing with the Football Association Parklife programme, with three new Hub sites to be developed at Community North Sports Complex, Ford Quarry and Northern Area, Washington. It is anticipated that the Hub sites will be operational by summer 2019.
- ◀ Everyone Active now manage public sports facilities on behalf of the City Council and have installed two full size 3G surfaces at Silksworth Sports Complex (used by Sunderland Sunday Football League and Russell Foster Youth League), as well as now managing the new Washington Leisure Centre which incorporates much needed 3G pitches in this area of the City (6 x 5v5).
- ◀ The Sunderland AFC Foundation of Light has progressed with the Beacon of Light development, opening in September 2018 new pitch provision will include, six 5v5 pitches and one indoor 7v7 pitch, both 3G.
- ◀ Castle View Academy have developed a new full size 3G and has a partnership agreement with the Russell Forster Youth League for access.
- ◀ Washington AFC have signed a lease agreement with the Council to manage and maintain 4 adult pitches and two 9v9 pitches at Northern Area, Washington.

At community and club level more work still needs to be achieved, particularly with regard to improving facilities. Clubs are continually seeking funding opportunities and evidence suggests that most funding attracted is revenue based (equipment, coaching fees, bursaries, first aid, clothing), rather than capital funding to improve facilities.

### Structure

The PPP is split into three distinct sections but have been developed to inform one another as follows:

- i). **The Strategy** sets out the aims and objectives and provides the framework for improvements and has been developed from the key findings from the Assessment Report. The objectives will require to be implemented in order for the aims to be delivered.
- ii). **The Action Plan** seeks to address site-by-site actions to address the key findings and the Strategy framework. It provides recommendations for each site, based on current levels of usage, quality and demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.
- iii). **Playing Pitch Plan Priorities** have been developed from the outcomes of the Action Plan and Assessment Report. The priorities have been developed with the aim of ensuring maximum benefit and access to pitches for city residents.

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## Headline findings

Sport	Current picture (MES <sup>1</sup> )	Future picture (2033)
Football (grass pitches)	<i>Peak time spare capacity:</i> 1 x mini 5v5 MES per week 4 x mini 7v7 MES per week 8 x adult MES per week <b><i>Capacity shortfalls:</i></b> <b>1.5 x youth 9v9 MES per week</b> <b>1 x youth 11v11 MES per week</b>	<i>Peak time spare capacity:</i> 1 x mini 7v7 MES per week 3 x adult MES per week <b><i>Capacity shortfalls:</i></b> <b>9.5 x mini 5v5 MES per week</b> <b>9.5 x youth 9v9 MES per week</b> <b>13 x youth 11v11 MES per week</b>
Football training (3G pitches) <sup>2</sup>	<b>Shortfall of 8 full sized 3G pitches</b> with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand	<b>Shortfall of 10 full sized 3G pitches</b> with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand
Cricket	<b>Capacity shortfall of 17 MES per season.</b>	<b>Capacity shortfall of 41 MES per season.</b>
Rugby union	<b>Capacity shortfall of 22 senior MES per week.</b>	<b>Capacity shortfall of 25 senior MES per week.</b>
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	Current demand is being met. <b><i>Priority need for qualitative improvements at Raich Carter</i></b>	Future demand can be met. <b><i>Priority need for qualitative improvements at Raich Carter</i></b>
Bowling greens	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
Tennis courts	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.

Note: MES = match equivalent sessions

## Conclusions

The existing position for all pitch sports is either demand is currently being met or there is a shortfall.

For football, there is evidence of current spare capacity on grass pitches, particularly on adult pitches. When factoring in future demand (if realised) there becomes a position of shortfall on all pitch formats except adult football. However, on the basis that this level of future demand will be accommodated on 3G pitches from 2019, this will release pitches from being needed to service football (the extent to which is tested with the football scenarios).

The future position for rugby union and cricket shows exacerbation of current shortfalls. Existing provision of two full size sand based pitches is adequate to meet current and future demand for hockey in the City. However, the quality of Raich Carter is inadequate to sustain hockey use in the long term.

As such, there is a need to ensure that all demand is met for rugby union and cricket. Some shortfalls can be reduced through increased and secured access to existing provision and through increasing the quality of existing provision (which may include use of football pitches). For cricket there are some opportunities to increase the quality of the wickets being played on which can help with capacity.

<sup>1</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>2</sup> Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

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## Definitions

### Match equivalent sessions

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

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union 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 (MES) 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	Number 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
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	N/A	N/A

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

### Shortfalls

Please note that shortfalls are expressed in match equivalent sessions rather than as pitches as it is possible that shortfalls could be accommodated in various ways (e.g. through pitch improvements) and not just by providing more pitches. For a full Glossary of terms please refer to Appendix Three.

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## AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see Figure 1 below). Delivery of the Strategy is the responsibility of and relies on, the Steering Group.

It is recommended that the following are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sport England's requirements.

### Aim 1

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

### Aim 2

To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

### Aim 3

To **provide** new playing pitches where there is current or future demand to do so

Figure 1: Sport England planning objectives - Protect, Enhance and Provide



Source: Sport England 2015

### 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

##### ***Assessment summary – grass***

- Overall the current supply of grass football pitches is sufficient to accommodate current demand. However, shortfalls are identified on mini 7v7 and youth 9v9 pitches.
- When considering future demand significant shortfalls are created on grass youth and mini pitches, however, this level of future demand will be accommodated on 3G pitches from 2019.
- In terms of adult football, which in the main is likely to remain playing on grass pitches, both current and future demand can be sufficiently accommodated.
- The audit identifies 48 sites providing grass football pitches in Sunderland which are currently in use, totaling 151 grass football pitches. Of which 39 pitches are maintained by the City Council.
- 26% of grass football pitches in Sunderland have a quality rating of good. The remaining includes, 64% rated as standard quality and 10% (15 pitches) rated as poor quality.
- There are 208 football clubs playing competitively in Sunderland during the 2017/18 season, producing a total of 624 football teams. Please note that some of these are imported from outside the boundary to play in Russell Foster Youth League (RFYL) central venue leagues.
- Club participation growth indicates aspirations to create 25 adult teams of which six will be women's teams; 16 youth 11v11 teams, two of which will be girls' teams; 13 youth 9v9 teams all of which will be boys' teams; six mini 7v7 teams and 19 mini 5v5 teams. It is unlikely the adult football aspirations will be fully realised within Sunderland.
- Spare capacity at peak time amounts to 27 match equivalent sessions across 16 sites, the majority of which is on adult pitches (16 match equivalent sessions).
- Nine sites are identified as being overplayed in Sunderland, totaling 13.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Although sites with actual spare capacity could accommodate some play from overused sites, improvements to the quality pitches of the pitches rated as poor would help to alleviate current overplay; alongside agreeing formal user agreements at education sites.

##### ***Assessment summary – 3G pitches***

- Supply and demand analysis highlights that Sunderland has insufficient supply of 3G pitches to meet current and future training demand.
- There are six full sized 3G pitches in Sunderland, all of which have floodlighting. All six pitches available for community use.
- There are a further 21 small sized 3G pitches, ten of which are located at a commercial small sided football centre.
- All six full sized 3G pitches are FA or FIFA certified and suitable for competitive football play,
- The full size pitch at Houghton Kepier School is suitable for competitive and contact rugby union activity as it is certified as World Rugby compliant and on the RFU register of compliant pitches.



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- Of the six pitches, three are rated as good quality, two as standard and one rated as poor.
- The pitch at Houghton Kepier School currently exceeds the recommended lifespan and is scheduled to be resurfaced at the conclusion of the 2017/18 winter sports season.
- Where feasible and where there is no impact on hockey, sand AGPs could be extended and converted to 3G surfaces.
- The majority of demand for 3G pitches is from football demand, with one operator reporting that as well as all of the peak time slots, 50% of the off peak slots are filled for football use.
- There is minimal community rugby union use of the 3G pitch at Houghton Kepier School. However, there is an identified need for rugby training use of the pitch to increase which may affect availability for football training use.
- The FA training model estimates that there is a need for 14 full sized 3G pitches to service all current football training needs in the City. There are presently six full sized pitches, all available for community use, therefore representing a shortfall of eight full sized pitches. This shortfall will increase to ten when future demand is factored in.
- Sunderland Parklife will address the future shortfall of 3G pitches, based on the FA training model.

### Football scenarios

#### How many 3G pitches are required to meet mini and youth competitive demand?

The FA scenario testing (carried out as part of the Parklife modelling December 2016) identifies a Citywide need for 16 full size 3G pitches to be provided to meet current and future matches for mini (5v5 and 7v7) and youth football (9v9) teams.

As there are already six (6) full size FA registered 3G pitches in Sunderland and a further ten (10) to be provided as part of Parklife (one to be World Rugby compliant at Northern Area), there is a need for the programming of all 3G pitches in Sunderland to follow the example FA principals to maximise usage<sup>3</sup>:

5v5, 7v7					9v9				
1/4 PITCH		1/4 PITCH	1/4 PITCH	1/4 PITCH	1/2 Pitch		1/2 Pitch		
9:30 AM	1	1	1	1	9:30 AM	1	1	1	1
9:45 AM	1	1	1	1	9:45 AM	1	1	1	1
10:00 AM	1	1	1	1	10:00 AM	1	1	1	1
10:15 AM	1	1	1	1	10:15 AM	1	1	1	1
10:30 AM	1	1	1	1	10:30 AM	1	1	1	1
10:45 AM	1	1	1	1	10:45 AM	1	1	1	1
11:00 AM	1	1	1	1	11:00 AM	1	1	1	1
11:15 AM	1	1	1	1	11:15 AM	1	1	1	1
11:30 AM	1	1	1	1	11:30 AM	1	1	1	1
11:45 AM	1	1	1	1	11:45 AM	1	1	1	1
12:00 PM	1	1	1	1	12:00 PM	1	1	1	1
12:15 PM	1	1	1	1	12:15 PM	1	1	1	1
12:30 PM	1	1	1	1	12:30 PM	1	1	1	1
12:45 PM	1	1	1	1	12:45 PM	1	1	1	1
1:00 PM	1	1	1	1	1:00 PM	1	1	1	1
1:15 PM	1	1	1	1					

<sup>3</sup> 3G full size pitch - example of usage based on kick off times allowed by junior leagues in the local authority. NB in this example one youth 11v11 match will take place on each 3G after the mini or 9v9 match because the junior league allows kick offs up until 2pm

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### ***The need for grass football pitches***

Supply and demand information indicates that in the future, the majority of youth (11v11 and 9v9) and mini soccer (5v5 and 7v7) teams will be accommodated on the Parklife hub sites and the six existing 3G pitches. In total, the three Parklife hub sites will provide 44 x mini soccer (5v5) pitches, 22 x mini soccer (7v7) and 20 x 9v9 pitches across 10 3G FTPs.

Once the Parklife hubs are fully operational, a review of the Playing Pitch Plan will allow the extent of surplus grass pitch stock in the City for youth and mini soccer to be determined. Future grass pitch requirements will need to include an appropriate strategic reserve to allow for the rest and rotation of pitches from season to season.

On the basis of there being 384 teams currently playing at mini soccer and 9v9 formats in Sunderland, this crudely, equates to the need to retain six good quality mini soccer pitch and two youth 9v9 pitches to accommodate 65 mini soccer teams and 12 youth 9v9 teams (on the basis of a good quality mini pitch accommodating six matches per week i.e. 12 teams playing home and away and a good quality youth 9v9 pitch accommodating four matches per week i.e. eight teams playing home and away).

Further to this, most adult and youth 11v11 will remain playing on grass pitches in Sunderland and there is a need to retain enough good quality grass pitches to cater for such teams.

Given that there are only 15 grass youth 11v11 pitches currently provided in Sunderland (please note some adult pitches are also used for youth 11v11 matches), with seven of these provided by the Council and eight provided at education sites, it is recommended to retain all youth 11v11 pitches until Parklife has been operational for two years within the City and a review has taken place. The need for adult grass football pitches is further explored in the scenario below.

There will also be a need for some of the excess mini and 9v9 grass pitches to be reconfigured to accommodate other pitch sports, in particular rugby union in order to address shortfalls. For example, it is recommended that the football pitch at Hill View Playing Fields is reconfigured to a rugby pitch to address overplay associated with Sunderland RFC.

### ***The need for adult grass football pitches***

There are currently 88 grass adult pitches provided within Sunderland (regardless of ownership or management). Of these, 80 are in use during the 2017/18 season. In terms of quality, 24 are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard and five as poor quality.

Further to this, overplay on adult pitches is recorded at the following four sites amounting to 4.5 match sessions per week.

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
10	Castle View Academy	Adult	2	1
49	Oxclose Community Academy	Adult	2	1.5
55	Redhouse Academy	Adult	2	1
61	Sandhill Sports Centre (Sandhill View Academy)	Adult	2	1

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When broken down further, there are 39 SCC adult pitches currently being used. Of these, 13 are assessed as good quality, 21 as standard and five poor as poor quality.

Further to this, there is current overplay on SCC adult pitches amounting to one match session per week at Sandhill Sports Centre. However, this is due to 11v11 teams playing on the adult pitches and will therefore be addressed through Parklife.

### *Current demand*

On the basis that all adult teams (130 teams requiring a match slot and 76 of these playing at peak time, Sunday am) will remain playing on grass pitches in Sunderland, there is a total need for 38 good quality adult size pitches (which can accommodate three matches per week) to be retained overall to meet current football demand.

When broken down further, there are 54 adult teams playing on SCC grass pitches at peak time, Sunday am. This will require 27 good quality (which can accommodate three matches per week) adult size pitches to accommodate current demand for SCC grass pitches.

It is also appropriate to build in an allowance for strategic reserve to allow for the rest and rotation of pitches from season to season. This level has been set at 20% and equates to the need for a further six (rounded up from 5.4) adult pitches to be retained.

### *Future demand (factoring in Parklife)*

In terms of accommodating future demand, although Durham County FA is not anticipating a growth in adult men's football in the next three years at least and coupled with a national decline in participation at adult level, only minimal future demand is accounted for in Sunderland, equating to four men's adult teams from anticipated population growth (up to 2033 in line with the Local Plan) and six women's teams as expressed by clubs.

On the basis that all current and future adult teams (140 teams requiring a match slot and 80<sup>4</sup> of these playing at peak time, Sunday am) will remain playing on grass pitches in Sunderland, there is a need for 40 good quality adult size pitches (which can accommodate three matches per week) to be retained overall to meet current and future football demand.

Assuming that the growth will require access to SCC pitches at peak time, this will mean that 58 adult teams will play on SCC grass pitches on Sunday am. **This will require 29 good quality (which can accommodate three matches per week) SCC adult size pitches to accommodate current and future demand.**

It is also appropriate to build in an allowance for strategic reserve to allow for the rest and rotation of pitches from season to season. This level has been set at 20% and equates to the need for a further six adult pitches to be retained.

### **Summary**

In summary, there already appears to be a sufficient number of SCC adult pitches to accommodate current and future demand (39). However, it should be noted that only 13 SSC pitches are assessed as good quality and therefore there is a need to increase the

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<sup>4</sup> Please note that women's teams play Sunday pm rather than Sunday am (peak time)

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quality of existing pitches in order to be able to accommodate demand (which can predominately be achieved through maintenance).

Further to this, there are some existing football sites which are not considered to be of value to football moving forward, for a variety of reasons such as poor quality pitches, accessibility/location, poor quality or no changing rooms. Therefore, there is a need to consider the reconfiguration of existing sites which may not currently provide adult pitches but once Parklife is operational will not be required for mini/youth football. There is also a need to consider bringing back into use lapsed/disused sites.

The action plan explores these possibilities and identifies potentially surplus football sites which are not required for the purposes of football in the future and where savings can be made linked to the development of the hub sites. Given the complexities there is a need to annually review current sites to ensure enough capacity is retained to meet current and future demand for adult football.

### **Football recommendations**

- ◀ Work with The Football Association (FA) and Football Foundation (FF) and Sport England to increase the number of 3G pitches in the City, through the Parklife programme.
- ◀ Work to fully establish where reconfiguration of grass pitch sites can help to accommodate adult pitches.
- ◀ Work with The Football Association (FA) and Football Foundation (FF) to increase the quality of SCC grass adult pitches.
- ◀ Review current sites annually to ensure enough capacity is retained to meet current and future demand for adult and youth 11v11 football.
- ◀ Work with providers of existing 3G pitches to fully maximise competitive use of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Work to link a number of identified FA Charter Standard clubs onto each of the three hubs as a key partner and promote available slots online.
- ◀ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate dual gender changing facilities (in line with relevant NGB standards) linked to NGB accredited clubs, or CSCC and where long term leases are in place.
- ◀ Update supply and demand analysis within two years of Parklife being operational to fully determine the requirement to retain grass pitches.
- ◀ Determine the most economical advantageous grass pitches to maintain and invest in moving forward, subject to available funding.

### **Cricket pitches**

#### ***Assessment summary***

- ◀ There are 11 grass wicket cricket squares in Sunderland. Since the previous study, the square at Leyburn Grove is now unused as Houghton CC which used to play there has now folded.
- ◀ There are four standalone non-turf pitches (NTPs) all located at school sites, however, there is no current or future demand identified for the use of NTPs in Sunderland
- ◀ The only club which requires further site security is East Rainton CC where the lease for the site from the Council has expired.
- ◀ In the longer term there may be some clubs/sites which could be considered for asset transfer.
- ◀ The 2013 audit of cricket pitches in Sunderland found the majority to be of a good quality (eight pitches). Two pitches were assessed as average quality and one,

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Leyburn Grove has been amended to poor quality reflecting that it is not currently being maintained.

- ✦ Pavilions and changing rooms remain in need of improvement at East Rainton, Silksworth, Washington and Ryhope cricket clubs.
- ✦ There are now 10 cricket clubs playing in Sunderland. Although there has been a reduction in the number of senior teams being fielded (by two) there has been an overall increase in the number of junior teams fielded by eight since 2013 season.
- ✦ Most clubs field both senior and junior teams, however, there remains no specific women or girls' teams in Sunderland, although girls do play cricket in mixed junior teams.
- ✦ Although there has been an overall increase in the number of junior teams playing in Sunderland, some clubs still struggle to retain/sustain juniors into adult teams.
- ✦ Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is some cricket demand (currently informal) in Sunderland from the Asian community in the Chester Road area. Further investigation work is required to fully establish this level of demand.
- ✦ Future demand expressed through TGRs and club growth aspirations equates to three senior women's teams and six junior teams.
- ✦ An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturdays and for junior cricket is mid-week.
- ✦ There is no spare capacity on grass pitches in Sunderland to accommodate further peak time senior demand, however, three sites show peak time capacity on Sunday and mid-week.
- ✦ There are six sites in Sunderland considered to be overplayed by a total of 81 match equivalent sessions per season. All overplayed pitches are considered to be good quality and therefore some level of overplay, particularly due to junior play, is able to be accommodated.
- ✦ Analysis suggests there is insufficient capacity at present to cater for current demand in Sunderland.
- ✦ Although there is minimal future demand expressed for senior teams, three clubs do express demand to establish a women's team. Given that this is also a priority for Durham County Cricket Board there is a need to ensure that some level of future demand can be accommodated.

### Scenarios

- ✦ **Alleviating overplay** – all overplayed pitches are considered to be good quality and therefore some level of overplay, particularly due to junior play is able to be accommodated. As a guide, those sites which display overplay of less than 10 matches per season are likely to be able to be sustainable. Hetton Lyons CC has a substantial amount of junior play and is overplayed by just five matches per season.
- ✦ This leaves 76 match sessions of overplay across five sites. As the overplay is predominately due to junior play and on the basis that the average number of matches played by juniors per season in Sunderland is 7, this roughly equates to 10 teams.
- ✦ Addressing this is best achieved through a combination of increasing quality and where possible transfer of some junior play to capacity elsewhere. This could include midweek capacity available at other club grounds which have no or less junior teams i.e. East Rainton CC.
- ✦ **Accommodating future demand** - the only existing current option to accommodate some future senior demand is at Silksworth CC, where the square is assessed as good quality, however, there is only capacity for one additional team on a Sunday.
- ✦ Further to this East Rainton CC and Wearmouth Colliery have spare capacity on a Sunday for further play but as both pitches are assessed as standard quality, improvements are recommended before additional play is accommodated.



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### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Address overplay through a combination of measures including; ensuring high maintenance levels, where possible increasing the number of wickets on pitches and utilising spare capacity.
- ◀ Work with the English Cricket Board (ECB) to ensure pitches and ancillary facilities are of an acceptable quality and improvements made where necessary.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs have access to appropriate off field practice facilities.
- ◀ Support development of a women and girls' teams and ensure that any new facilities developed support opportunities for senior women's and junior girl's competitive cricket.
- ◀ Continue to support all clubs in accessing funding, increasing volunteering, expanding club membership and improving coaching levels.
- ◀ Aligned to this Plan, seek to address access issues to indoor cricket nets which may be inhibiting participation and adding pressure to the use of outdoor grass wickets.

### **Rugby union pitches**

#### **Assessment summary**

- ◀ In total, 12 grass rugby union pitches in Sunderland across ten sites are available for community use. There are an additional two senior pitches at education sites that are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ In total, there are 38 teams, which is an increase from 23 teams in the previous PPP. The biggest area of growth is seen in mini rugby which has seen an increase of eight teams.
- ◀ All three community clubs report plans to increase numbers of teams, all would be accommodated on sites currently in use by the respective clubs.
- ◀ Rugby training in Sunderland is generally accommodated on existing competitive grass rugby union pitches by community clubs. As a result, this contributed to a number of sites being overplayed beyond their carrying capacity which is the biggest issue. However, Houghton RFC does access the 3G (formerly WR compliant) pitch at Houghton Kepier School for some of its training.
- ◀ One 3G pitch provided as part of the Parklife programme at Northern Area will be World Rugby Compliant.
- ◀ Ashbrooke Sports Club is significantly overplayed due to the large number of competitive matches and training being accommodated by both Sunderland RFC and the University of Sunderland. However, the amount of overplay has reduced by two match equivalent sessions since the previous PPP.
- ◀ Both rugby pitches have actual spare capacity at Northern Area Playing Field. This site is the home venue of Washington RFC and could accommodate the Club's growth, however, a lack of floodlighting and formal access to changing facilities will continue to limit availability for training demand.
- ◀ There is an overall shortfall of pitches in Sunderland to accommodate 23 match equivalent sessions. This is exacerbated further, to 26 match equivalent sessions, when future demand from TGRs and club aspirations are considered.

### **Scenarios**

- ◀ **Improving pitch quality** – improving the maintenance at Ashbrooke Sports Club and Houghton RFC home sites from (M1 to M2) alone will not be sufficient to fully address the levels of overplay expressed at each site. Therefore, it is a priority to also consider additional access to pitches for each.



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- ▶ **Access to additional pitches** – for Sunderland RFC, the ideal solution is to gain secure access to Hill View Playing Fields. The site currently accommodates one rugby pitch and one football pitch but has the potential provide three rugby pitches and a training area. In order to accommodate overplay from Ashbrooke the football pitch would need to be reconfigured (and the three teams using the site transferred elsewhere) and all three pitches increased to good quality. The training area would also require floodlighting in order to reduce training on the match pitches. Further to this, the site is owned by SCC education department and the future of the site is considered unsecure.
- ▶ Given the various issues with find a solution through Hill View, there is also a need to consider alternative solutions (including for example, secured access to school sites and further discussions around the future of the Club's site at Ryhope Road (which is currently only being used by the University American football team) which may release capital to reinvest in the development of an alternative new site. There are currently no preferably located lapsed/disused sites which could be brought back into use.
- ▶ For Houghton RFC, in order to address overplay at the main home ground and Durham Road, there is a need to secure more access to Houghton Kepier School 3G pitch for training and improve the maintenance from M1 to M3 on both pitches at Durham Road. Further to this, there is a need to secure a long term lease of Durham Road.

### ***Rugby recommendations***

- ▶ Work with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to increase the maintenance of rugby pitches in order to increase capacity and address some overplay.
- ▶ Ensure clubs have access to training areas which are either dedicated floodlit grassed areas or WR 3G pitch in order to reduce use of match pitches for training (and therefore reducing overplay).
- ▶ Address security of tenure issues and work with focus clubs to apply for funding to improve quality/capacity i.e. Sunderland RFC at Hill View Playing Fields and Houghton Kepier RFC at Durham Road.
- ▶ Ensure that all sites have appropriate access to changing accommodation in order to maximise use to accommodate demand.
- ▶ Ensure that Washington RFC has continued access to rugby provision and secured access to the World Rugby 3G pitch and associated changing facilities at Northern Area as part of Parklife developments.

### **Hockey pitches**

#### ***Assessment summary***

- ▶ There are two full sized sand based AGPs in Sunderland and in addition there are four half size and one three quarter size sand based pitches.
- ▶ In total, two community clubs play competitive fixtures in Sunderland, fielding a total of ten senior teams, including one senior women's team.
- ▶ Sandhill View AGP is assessed as standard quality and has improved slightly since the previous PPP and Raich Carter is assessed as poor quality and remains in need of resurfacing in the near future.
- ▶ There is sufficient availability of pitches within Sunderland to accommodate current and future demand for both training and fixtures. However, this is mitigated by the fact that Raich Carter is assessed as poor quality.



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## PLAYING PITCH PLAN

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### Scenarios

- ▶ **Accommodating current match demand** - The PPS guidance considers a floodlit pitch as able to accommodate a maximum of four match sessions on a Saturday with teams playing on a home and away basis. As such, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight “home” teams. Based on there being eight senior teams playing competitive fixtures on a Saturday (peak time), there is a requirement for at least one hockey suitable AGPs to accommodate all current demand.
- ▶ **Accommodating future match demand** - Increased demand from new participants will lead to a requirement for increased capacity on available AGPs at peak time, but also midweek and on Sundays to deliver other formats of hockey activity. At present, it is not necessarily clear as to what format this may take or when it is likely to take place, however, in order to accommodate likely future demand there is a need to retain two hockey suitable AGPs to accommodate all current and future demand.
- ▶ **Transfer of football training demand** – provision of new 3G pitches will further reduce (overtime) as football training demand fully transfers onto 3G pitches.
- ▶ **Improving pitch quality** - the focus in Sunderland is on increasing participation, particularly amongst juniors so that in the future this will feed through to the creation of new senior teams. In order to encourage an increase in participation the quality of hockey suitable AGPs needs to improve, particularly at Raich Carter. It should be noted that both the Raich Carter Sports Centre is now managed by Everyone Active and Sandhill Academy is a PFI school.

### Hockey recommendations

- ▶ Work with the operators of the Raich Carter Sports Centre and the Sandhill Centre, and where possible, maintain/improve facilities for hockey.
- ▶ Where feasible and where there is no impact on hockey, sand AGPs could be extended and converted to 3G surfaces.
- ▶ Future access to spare capacity created on sand AGPs should be fully utilised for hockey use to accommodate and facilitate participation growth including access for clubs.
- ▶ Work with England Hockey to develop school hockey and ensure exit routes into clubs are provided.
- ▶ Continue to support all clubs in accessing funding, increasing volunteering, expanding club membership and improving coaching levels.

### Bowling greens

#### Assessment summary

- ▶ There are 23 flat bowling greens in Sunderland provided across 18 sites. Of these, 16 greens are provided by the City Council across 12 sites.
- ▶ Nine greens (39%) are rated as good quality, with the remaining 14 greens (61%) deemed standard quality. There are no poor quality bowling greens in Sunderland.
- ▶ Analysis of club membership shows that demand has generally increased or remained constant from 2015.
- ▶ Current demand for bowling greens is being met by provision in Sunderland.
- ▶ It is evident that there is some spare capacity across greens in Sunderland to accommodate more play. However, further site by site capacity analysis is required to fully determine the extent of this.

# SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH PLAN

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### **Scenarios**

- ✦ **Utilising spare capacity-** A green with 60 members is considered to be at capacity (By Bowls England). Consideration should also be given to the sustainability of greens which operate with a playing membership of less than 20. Within Sunderland all clubs fall below this average level per green and should be encouraged to work towards increasing membership in order to ensure the sustainability of the greens they use.
- ✦ There is significant spare capacity at Barnes Park (Barnes West End), Houghton DL BC and Usworth Park. Each of these sites has multiple greens, with only Barnes Park (Barnes West End) serving numerous clubs; as a result, despite the high amount of spare capacity the practical operation of the three greens at this site may be adversely impacted if a green was to be removed due to all three clubs competing at the same time within the same league structure.
- ✦ Two bowling greens at Usworth Park are being used by 38 bowlers, suggesting that one green is significantly underused. Similarly, the 47 members of Houghton DL BC are served by two greens at the Club's home venue, meaning that there is capacity for an additional 73 members and that one green is being underused.
- ✦ Due to low membership numbers consideration should be given to the sustainability of greens at Wearmouth Colliery and Thompson Park. The one green at Grindon Mill Bowling Club should also be monitored as the number of members representing Grindon Mill BC is only slightly above Bowls England's recommendation.

### **Bowls recommendations**

- ✦ Work with Bowls England to ensure pitches are of an acceptable quality and improvements made where necessary
- ✦ Carry out further site by site capacity analysis to fully determine the extent of rationalising the number of Council operated bowling greens.
- ✦ Establish leases with clubs playing on Council greens to fully manage and maintain their own 'home' greens and pavilions.
- ✦ Maximise the availability of bowling greens for pay and play in order to raise the profile of the game, increase levels of membership and revenue of sites.
- ✦ Work with clubs to encourage greater junior participation.
- ✦ Work with private providers to maximise use and provide a consistent approach to hire charges.
- ✦ Where possible and in line with Council priorities, continue to support all clubs in accessing funding, increasing volunteering, expanding club membership and improving coaching levels.

### **Tennis courts**

#### **Assessment summary**

- ✦ There is a total of 95 tennis courts provided in Sunderland across a range of sites including private sports clubs, parks and schools, 18 of these are indoor courts located at two venues.
- ✦ 69% are categorised as being available for community use (either used competitively or available for recreational use). However, 39% of these are located at education sites and in the majority of cases schools report that they are available but unused.
- ✦ New Silksworth Tennis Club, Sunderland Tennis Centre and David Lloyd Sunderland are the three tennis clubs which operate within Sunderland fielding competitive teams. North East Visually Impaired Tennis Club also operates within Sunderland, as well as other venues throughout the North East; however, competitive fixtures are ad-hoc.

## SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH PLAN

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- ◀ Three of the four tennis clubs in Sunderland responded to consultation with only New Silksworth TC not responding.
- ◀ Membership at New Silksworth TC has decreased annually in the past three years.
- ◀ There are a large number of tennis courts in Sunderland which can accommodate current demand and anticipated future demand. However, the poorer 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.
- ◀ It is likely that future demand for access to tennis courts in Sunderland will increase as a result of initiatives to increase participation.
- ◀ The LTA considers Barnes Park (Barnes West End) and Roker Park to be a key site for recreational tennis delivery within Sunderland. Investment in either of these sites is dependent on the levels of use locally.

### **Scenarios**

- ◀ **Increasing opportunities for informal tennis** - As all non club courts are deemed to have spare capacity for a growth in demand, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites that are assessed as poor or standard quality.
- ◀ The LTA has recently set up an initiative to change the way in which people access council courts. Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of a control system following payment of an hourly court hire or annual subscription. It is working in partnership with ClubSpark and CIA Fire and Security to provide this, allowing courts to be booked and paid for online. A unique access code is then generated that the user enters at the court gate on a keypad to access the courts. This is a major improvement to the customer journey and provides clear revenue to reinvest into the courts.
- ◀ It also allows official use of courts to be tracked, thus providing data on how often courts are being accessed and by who to build a customer database. Nevertheless, some investment may be required to bring courts up to standard and install the access technology before the initiative can be rolled out.
- ◀ **Accommodating demand** - LTA guidelines advise that non-floodlit courts are able to accommodate 40 members per court, rising to 60 members if the court is floodlit. If there is also an indoor court on the club site this is considered to have a capacity of 200 members. The capacity courts can accommodate also represents the number of members considered to be required in order that courts are sustainable.
- ◀ Plans to increase tennis participation through both LTA programmes and club membership numbers will lead to an increase in the amount of demand experienced at club sites. Utilisation of a park sites should be examined as a way of relieving overplay and encouraging greater recreational tennis.
- ◀ There is sufficient supply within Sunderland to accommodate the current and future levels of demand; however, some courts require qualitative issues to be addressed in order to retain and encourage participation throughout the City.

### **Tennis recommendations**

- ◀ Work with The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to ensure courts are of an acceptable quality and improvements made where necessary in order to increase capacity, including floodlighting and court surface improvements.
- ◀ Consider Barnes Park (Barnes West End) and Roker Park for investment dependent upon local usage levels.

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- ◀ Ensure existing links between the City Council and Sunderland Tennis Centre continue, in order to achieve signposting and marketing from the parks work.
- ◀ Continue to support all clubs in accessing funding, increasing volunteering, expanding club membership and improving coaching levels.

### FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVEMENT

The framework for improvement has been developed from the key issues cutting across all playing pitch sports and categorised under each of the 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 outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs

#### Recommendations:

- a. Protect outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.

#### Recommendation a – Protect outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so.

Given the current shortfalls identified in grass pitches in Sunderland, playing field sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements. Sport England and the FA will not be in a position to agree release of surplus pitches for development purposes until two years after the completion of the Parklife programme and a refresh of the Playing Pitch Plan.

Paragraph 74 of the Framework 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.

- ◀ **Disused** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. These sites fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.

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## Lapsed sites

Site name	Area	Pitch type	Comments
Albany Park, Spout Lane	Washington	1 x Adult Football	Previous Northern League pitch used by Washington AFC which has now relocated to Nissan Sports Complex. Identified in SHLAA as developable for housing in 6-10 years.
Belford House	East	1 x Adult Football 1 x Cricket Pitch (shared outfield)	Single pitch site with no current usage. No play on the site since circa 2002. UDP identifies site as greenspace. Adjoining site part developed for housing.
Chilton Moor Cricket Club	Coalfield	1 x cricket pitch	Outline planning application for residential development comprising of 45 dwellings. A financial contribution agreed in relation to mitigating for the pitch. LPA ref. 15/00691/OUT
Claremont Drive, Shiney Row	Coalfield	Informal pitch	No formal play on the site for 20 years and is currently used as informal pitch with 9v9 goals. UDP identifies site as greenspace, as does Greenspace Audit.
Easington Flatts	Coalfield	1 x Adult	No play for over 5 years on this single pitch site.
Easington Lane Primary School Playing Fields	Coalfield	1 x Adult Football	Not used in the last 5 years and since the school closed. Allocated in SHLAA as deliverable for housing in next 1-5 years.
Former South Hylton Cricket Club	West	Cricket	Closed 25 years ago. Ownership of site unknown.
Former Usworth School	Washington	4 x Adult Football	No play on the site since the school closed in 2007. UDP identifies site as School Playing Fields. Greenspace Audit shows site as School Playing Fields and as sports pitches. SHLAA identifies site to be brought forward for housing in the next five years.
Foxhole Wood (rear of Farrington 'comp')	West	1 x Senior Rugby	No demand for the pitch and no play circa 10 years. Junior goals have been installed to encourage casual play. There are no ancillary facilities on site. UDP identifies site as a "proposed park". Shown as greenspace on Greenspace Audit and forms part of a green corridor.
Grindon Lane, Barnes Park Extension	West	Bowling Green	The bowls club folded some 20 years ago and the site is managed as open green space. UDP identifies site as greenspace. Greenspace Audit identifies site as park of Barnes Park Extension and forms part of a green corridor.

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Site name	Area	Pitch type	Comments
Grove Coles	West	1 x Adult Football 1 x Adult Cricket	Private site. No play on the site for over 10 years. Potential housing/industrial development on the site Alteration No.2 (2007) has superseded the UDP and has allocated the site for housing, local centre and business (Policy SA6A.1) This plan is adopted by the Council. As the site currently provides natural greenspace it is currently identified as greenspace in Greenspace Audit. Recommended for release in consultation with Sport England.
Hawthorn Street, Grasswell	Coalfield	1 x Adult Football	Single pitch site that has not been used in 8 years. There are no ancillary facilities on site. UDP identifies site as greenspace. Shown as greenspace on Greenspace Audit and forms part of a green corridor.
Herrington CW	Coalfield	Bowling Green	No play on the green for circa 15 years. UDP identifies site as a formal park, as does Greenspace Audit.
Lower Southmoor opposite 'The Grange' pub, Hendon	East	1 x Junior Football	No formal use of the site for 10 years, but junior goals have been installed to encourage casual play. There are no ancillary facilities on site. UDP identifies site as greenspace, as does Greenspace Audit.
Plesseys Sports Field	Washington	Bowling Green	Has not been used as a bowls green for circa 30years. Also contains Site is in Green Belt and is identified as greenspace in the Greenspace Audit. The site lies within the proposed International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) to the north of Nissan and is subject to the IAMP Area Action Plan.
Ryhope CW	East	Bowling green	Not used in the last 5 years.
Seaburn Camp, Whitburn Road  North – University owned  South - City Council owned	North	6 x Adult Football	No play on the pitches for circa 10 years. The site suffers from an uneven topography. There are no ancillary facilities on site. Identified in UDP as greenspace, as does Greenspace Audit. SHLAA identifies both sites as future potential for houses.
Thorndale Road	West	Bowling Green	The bowls club folded some 13 years ago and the site is managed as open green space. UDP identifies site as park. Greenspace Audit shows site as formal parkland.



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Site name	Area	Pitch type	Comments
Tunstall Hills	West	3 x Adult Football	No play on the site for over 10 years. Teams complained mainly about the exposed and uneven pitches and poor facilities. UDP identifies site as greenspace. Site forms part of a Local Nature Reserve and SSSI and green corridor. To be protected in full from development.
West Park, Herrington	West	1 x Youth Football	No formal use of the site for circa 20 years, but junior goals have been installed to encourage casual play. There are no ancillary facilities on site. In Green Belt. Identified as greenspace in UDP and Greenspace Audit. Proposed for housing release.

### Disused sites

Site name	Area	Pitch type	Comments
Community North Sports Complex (Downhill South pitches)	North	2 x Adult	Last used 2016. In the previous PPP pitches were poor quality and as such underused. The Club using moved to a 3G pitch. Site considered as a potential boundary extension for adjacent school.
Dame Margaret	Washington	1x 11v11	Disused site. Opposite Glebe Park. Shown in SHLAA as developable in 11-15 years.
Fulwell Quarry (aka Bowl)	North	1 x Adult, 1 x 9v9	Last used 2017 but not allocated for the 2017/18 season due to limited demand. Forms part of Fulwell Quarry masterplan – potential country park.
Fulwell Mill	North	1 x Adult	Last used 2015. Forms part of Fulwell Quarry masterplan – potential country park.
Marley Potts	North	2 x Adult	Last used 2015. Junior goals have been installed to encourage casual play.
North Moor	West	1 x Adult	Last used 2014. Forms part of the wider Silksworth Sports Complex site. No changing facilities. UDP – existing open space. Greenspace Audit identifies sites as outdoor sports facilities. Identified in SHLAA as a housing allocation developable in 6-10 yrs.



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Site name	Area	Pitch type	Comments
Plesseys Sports Field	Washington	2 x Adult Football	Last used 2015. Lack of demand due to poor quality and no changing rooms. Site is in Green Belt and is identified as greenspace in the Greenspace Audit. The site lies within the proposed International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) to the north of Nissan and is subject to the IAMP Area Action Plan.
Ryhope Recreation	East	4 x Adult 1 x 9v9	Last used 2015. Old landfill site. Utilities issue. UDP identifies land as existing open space and Greenspace Audit identifies sites as outdoor sports fields and as a green corridor.
G pitch at Castle South Hylton	West	2 x Adult	Last used 2014. No changing and access issues to the site. UDP shows site as new or improved greenspace. Greenspace Audit identifies site for outdoor sports fields.
Tay Road (Barnes Park Extension).	West	2 x Adult	Last used 2014. Poor quality. There are no ancillary facilities. Greenspace Audit identifies site as park of Barnes Park Extension and forms part of a green corridor. Site is shown in SHLAA as developable in 11-15 years.
The Limes, Ashbrooke	East	Various	Sunderland High School now closed. Two sites. One containing AGP and playing field and one with tennis courts. There is some evidence the grass football pitch is being used by one team in 2017/18 season.
Thorndale Road	West	1 x Adult	Last used 2015. Poor quality. Forms part of Thorndale Park.
Usworth Park	Washington	1 x Adult	Forms part of the wider park site.

Appendix 4 lists all lapsed and disused sites across the City. Also for the purpose of assessing the impact of Parklife on current Council allocated sites, the table shows the likelihood of sites being used for football and other sports from the season 2018/19 to 2020/21.

Following development of the Parklife Hub sites it is highly likely that some football sites will become surplus to requirements and subject to various consents (Planning, Sport England etc) to be disposed of, thereby releasing capital receipts for the Council and covering the cost of the initial capital investment. Sport England and the FA will not be in a position to agree release of surplus pitches for development purposes until two years after the completion of the Parklife programme and a refresh of the Playing Pitch Plan.

It is recommended that the following priority order of options is adopted with regards to addressing disused/lapsed sites:

- 1) Firstly, explore the feasibility of bringing the site back into use. A feasibility study may show either:
  - a) The site has the demand to be brought back into sustainable use where funding is available and use is secured by the Council, and relevant NGBs/Community Groups; or
  - b) The site is not in a sustainable location and in which case no amount of money will make it desirable.
- 2) The site could become public open space to meet a need identified in the Green Space Audit; or
- 3) Redevelop the site for an alternative use, but use the capital receipt to invest in existing sites in the locality.

**New housing development** - where proposed housing development is located within access of high-quality outdoor sports facilities, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvements to existing provision in that area in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development.

The PPS should be used to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand for and capacity of existing sites, and whether improvement to increase capacity or new provision is required. This can be achieved through utilisation of Sport England's Playing Pitch Demand Calculator (to be provided separately). In the first instance, it is likely that during the life span of the PPS that the improvement of existing sites will adequately meet the new demand from housing developments.

In relation to Sport England's Playing Pitch Demand Calculator, KKP, has developed a toolkit to assist in its use and implementation when it comes to securing developer contributions. This will be made available to the Council upon completion of this document.

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

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

#### *Policy Exception E1:*

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

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

#### *Policy Exception E4:*

## SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH PLAN

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'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.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of some existing outdoor sport sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger, better quality sites (Parklife model).

**Schools** – It is acknowledged that due to housing growth and increasing population, schools will be required to expand, potentially onto playing pitch land. Where this is the case, it is imperative that the schools in question are left with sufficient playing pitch land to deliver curricular and extra-curricular needs. Should that not be the case, then expansion should be prohibited unless a suitable off-site solution to the schools playing pitch needs can be found.

If the schools curricular and extra-curricular needs can continue to be met despite the expansion, mitigation for the loss of the playing pitch land is still required, given the shortfalls identified. This should therefore be covered via developer contributions, with a mitigation package agreed upon by all stakeholders, including Sport England, on a site-by-site and development-by-development basis. As an example, a new playing pitch site may be required to off-set the loss, or existing sites could be improved and/or extended, with this document used as a guide to identify suitable sites. Although such mitigation will not benefit the expanding school, it will benefit the wider community and the increased population that caused the need for the school to expand.

Please note that all schools with playing pitches should be included within this strategy. Where schools are not included, it may be that they have playing field land but no dedicated pitches marked out, and therefore do not fall within the scope of the PPS. That being said, Sport England planning policies would still apply to such schools if they expanded onto the playing field land.

Local authorities wanting to dispose of school playing field land need consent under Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, but consent is now also required for disposal of any land used by a school or academy under Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010.

## SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH PLAN

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It should be noted that consent under Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act does not necessarily mean subsequent planning approval will be granted. Therefore, any application for planning permission must meet the requirements of the relevant policy, in this case paragraph 74 of the Framework, Local Plan Policy and Sport England Policy. Indeed, applicants are advised to engage Sport England before submitting applications. Robust implementation of the statutory obligation will ensure protection of school playing fields for use by pupils (and sometimes the community as a whole) to ensure receipt is ploughed back into sports education.

### **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 Sunderland for competitive play, predominately for football. In all cases use of pitches has not been classified as unsecure, 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).

NGBs can often help to negotiate and engage with schools 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/use-our-school/>

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.

All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>5</sup>. Clubs should also be encouraged 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 Sunderland 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.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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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.

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

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

Note: In relation to the above, it should be noted that some Councils have additional lease requirements to account for local policy requirements.

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.

### 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.

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://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/asset-transfer/>

### **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. However, it is acknowledged that this approach is becoming increasingly problematic given Academy status and the independent governance nature of some schools. Nonetheless, 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 Sunderland pricing policies at facilities can be barrier to access at some of the education sites but physical access and resistance from schools to open up provision is also an issue.

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

Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use.

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/use-our-school/>

Although there are a growing number of academies (and also independent schools) in Sunderland, 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.

### **Aim 2**

To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

### **Recommendation:**

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

### **Recommendation d – Improve quality**

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

#### *The FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)*

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

As subsidy is removed for pitch maintenance the PIP is an essential toolkit in supporting self-management/maintenance of sites, particularly on adult sites that have historically been maintained by the Council.

### **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 Sunderland, for example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements i.e. changing rooms or a specific pitch.



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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.

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 old 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 old 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 grass pitch should take:

Sport	Pitch type	Number of match equivalent sessions per week		
		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



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Sport	Pitch type	Number of match equivalent sessions per week		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Rugby union <sup>6</sup>	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		
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	Four matches per day	N/A	N/A

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members.

For bowls, a green with 60 members is considered to be at capacity (by Bowls England). Consideration should also be given to the sustainability of greens which operate with a playing membership of less than 20.

Please note that due to Sunderland Parklife and the movement of all youth and mini play onto 3G pitches in Sunderland, that addressing overplay only applies to adult pitches.

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, 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 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

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.

At local authority sites in Sunderland, maintenance of grass pitches is deemed to be basic and for football and rugby covers grass cutting and seeding only, resulting in many pitches being assessed as poor quality. Where local authority pitches are recommended for improvement within the action plan, carrying out additional regular work such as aerating, sand dressing, fertilising and/or weed killing will all improve quality. An improvement in post season remedial work is also recommended.

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, whilst the LCB Groundsman's Association offers maintenance tips to local clubs as well as an onsite assessment service with subsequent report advising recommended maintenance actions.

### ***Improving changing provision***

There is also a need to address changing provision at some sites in Sunderland, including some local authority sites. However, in relation to football (given Parklife developments), it is recommended that a holistic view is taken in regard to improvements and provision on site (as required).

### **Recommendation e – 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 the Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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

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

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

### **Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions**

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

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

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

This uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. This is then converted into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs.

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

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

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

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- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

As a reminder, the full objectively assessed dwelling need over the Sunderland Plan Period 2015-2033 (18 years) is for at least 13,824 dwellings. On this basis, the Housing Requirement for Sunderland is the Objectively Assessed Need for an average of 768 dwellings each year over the plan period.

### 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. Please note that due to Parklife, shortfalls currently identified in grass football pitch provision do not need to be addressed until the full impact of Parklife is understood.

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 Sunderland 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 pitches may be required to meet the levels of demand identified for football and rugby 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.

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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

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Three sites will be developed to provide ten 3G pitches and associated built facilities that will cater for more than 80% of Sunderland's mini soccer and 9v9 football on 3G pitches.  Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults as well as flexible 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11 opportunities for all age groups.	Retain existing grass pitches for adult and youth 11v11 football and some reconfiguration of existing sites.  Small stock of mini and youth 9v9 grass pitches still be required for training, casual and match play.  Qualitative improvements.
	The FA's strategy for Women's and Girls' football: 2017 – 2020 was released in March 2017. One of the major goals of the new the new strategy will be to double participation.	Demand for adult grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase.
Cricket	Demand is likely to remain static for grass wickets for adult participation. The ECB targets participation increases at junior level through the All Stars Cricket Programme which may have a subsequent future impact on requirement for grass and non-turf cricket provision.	Isolated pockets of demand for access to additional facilities where there is current overplay.  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.
Rugby union	Locally, the RFU wants to ensure access to pitches in Sunderland that satisfies existing demand and predicted growth. It is also an aim to protect and improve pitch quality, as well as ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock, support facility development where appropriate and increase the number of floodlit pitches where necessary.
Hockey	Potential increase of participation particularly junior teams.	Sinking funds in place to improve quality and ensure continued use of provision for current and future hockey demand.
Tennis	Membership of clubs is expected to increase, whilst casual play is expected to remain static.	Increases in participation can be accommodated through existing court provision.  An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as the access control system.
Bowls	No expected net increase in memberships although an increasing elderly population	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.

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Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
	could change this.	

### *Active Aging*

Within its Towards an Active Nation Strategy<sup>7</sup>, Sport England identifies a priority to reduce inactivity amongst particular populations, one demographic being older adults. The Strategy evidences that 42% per cent of people aged 55 and over are inactive compared to 26% of the adult population<sup>8</sup>. As such, this research shows that as people get older, they are far more likely to be inactive and do less than 30 minutes of physical activity each week. Through its Active Aging Fund opened in December 2016, Sport England is investing ten million pounds in projects and schemes to get older people more active and increase opportunity in order to reduce levels of inactivity. The investment also includes attaining learning outcomes throughout, in order to better understand how older adults can be supported in physical activity and how behavioural and lifestyle changes can be made more likely to be sustained.

### **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.

Some existing sites (or adjacent land) 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.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/media/10629/sport-england-towards-an-active-nation.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/media/11410/active-ageing-prospectus.pdf>



### 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 e below explains the hierarchy of priorities on the list. It is imperative that action plans for priority projects should be developed through the implementation of the strategy.

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

Please note that the action plan is not a comprehensive list of all sites which contain outdoor sports facilities in that, only primary schools which are currently identified as being used for community use are included. However, for continuity purposes those education sites included within the previous PPP (2014) which were previously used for community use are marked with an asterisk\*.

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

To allow for facility developments to be prioritised and programmed within a phased approach a tiered model to for the improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities is useful.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a City-wide context i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport by sport basis or across the City as a whole. Recommended tiered site criteria:

Hub sites	Key sites	Local sites	Reserve sites
Strategically located. Priority sites for NGB.	Strategically located within the Analysis Area.	Serves the local community. Likely to include education sites.	Serves the local community.
Accommodates three or more good quality grass pitches. Including provision of at least one AGP/3G pitch. May offer potential for development as a Parklife football hub.	Accommodates two or more good quality grass pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.	Likely to be single-pitch site.
Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.



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Hub sites	Key sites	Local sites	Reserve sites
Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in-house maintenance contract.	Basic level of maintenance i.e. grass cutting.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	No requirement for access changing to accommodation.

**Hub sites** are of Sunderland 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 high impact on addressing the issues identified in the assessment. In the context of football, they are also Parklife sites delivering 3G pitches.

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of 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)

**Key sites** 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.

It is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both Hub sites and Key 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 generally one and two pitch sites and may be Council owned hired to clubs for a season or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. However, they are also likely to be private club sites serving one particular sport.

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. NGBs would expect the facility to be transferred in an adequate condition that the club can maintain. In the longer term, the Club should be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the facilities.

**Reserve sites** could be used as overspill for neighbouring sites and/or for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They are most likely to be single-pitch sites with no ancillary facilities or school sites where there is no current demand for community use.

### 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.
- ✦ Availability of funding for hub site development.
- ✦ Impact on all sports that use a site regardless of the sport that is the subject of enhancements.

### 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 Hub Sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority level as they have Citywide 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 sites 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 sites 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 generally have 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.

# SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH PLAN

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### Costs

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

- ◀ Low (L)- less than £50k
- ◀ Medium (M) - £50k-£250k
- ◀ High (H) - £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 are recommended within the following three categories:

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

### Aim

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

# SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH PLAN

## Coalfield

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
14	Durham Road	SCC	Rugby union	Two poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitches, hired by Houghton RFC. The pitches are overplayed by a combined 1.25 match equivalent sessions. Neither pitch has floodlights nor does the site not have changing facilities.	<p>Improve pitch quality by improving the current maintenance programme and secure additional access to Houghton Kepier School 3G pitch for training in order to address shortfalls and build future capacity.</p> <p>In the longer term, consider installing a formal drainage system.</p> <p>Consider a long term lease or asset transfer for Houghton RFC, provided that the Club can appropriately maintain pitch quality (and meet criteria set out in the PPP).</p>	RFU SCC	Key	High	M	M	Enhance & Protect
16	East Rainton Cricket Club	Sports Club	Cricket	One standard quality cricket square consisting of 11 natural grass wickets. The site has spare capacity midweek and on a Sunday for accommodate more teams. The Club's lease of the site from SCC requires renewal to provide longer term security.	<p>Seek to improve pitch quality and maximise use by accommodating future demand.</p> <p>Explore options for a renewal of the lease to provide the Club with long term security of tenure.</p> <p>In the longer term, seek to improve the ancillary facilities on site, including the pavilion, basic utilities and surrounding protective fencing.</p>	DCCB SCC	Local	Medium	M	S	Enhance & Protect
17	Eppleton Colliery Welfare Ground (Hetton Centre)	SCC	Football	One good quality, adult pitch that has actual spare capacity during the peak period. The pitch is floodlit. Previously used by Sunderland Ladies for match play which is now outside of the Local Authority playing at Mariners Park within South Tyneside LA.	Investigate whether improvements to the site would mean Sunderland Ladies can come back to Sunderland to play matches.	FA SCC	Local	Medium	M	S	Protect
18	Eppleton Cricket Club	Sports Club	Cricket	One good quality cricket square consisting of 14 grass wickets. The pitch is played to capacity. The changing facilities on site were upgraded since the last PPP.	Sustain current pitch and ancillary quality through continued maintenance.	DCCB	Local	Low	L	S	Protect
94	Eppleton Academy Primary School*	Education	Football	There is one youth 9v9 pitch which is now unused for community use.	Continue to maintain for school use.	School	Local	Low	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
27	Herrington Colliery Welfare Park	SCC	Bowls	One good quality bowling green which is the designated home venue of New Herrington BC. The Club consists of 24 members meaning that the green has spare capacity for additional demand.	Sustain green quality by continuing with the current maintenance schedule.	SCC BE	Local	Medium	L	S	Enhance
					Monitor club membership to ensure long term sustainability of the green.						
			Football	Two adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are standard quality and available for community use, neither pitch is floodlit. The youth 11v11 pitch has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity available during the peak period, whilst the adult pitch has none.	Seek to improve pitch quality by improving the current maintenance regime.	FA SCC					
				Retain the pitches for adult demand once Parklife sites are established.							
28	Herrington Workingmens Club (private)	Sports Club	Bowls	One standard quality bowling green. Herrington Workingmens BC consists of 24 members with the site having capacity for additional demand.	Seek to improve green quality by improving the maintenance programme.	BE	Local	Low	L	S	Enhance
					Monitor club membership to ensure long term sustainability of the green.						
29	Hetton School	Education	Football	Five standard quality football pitches available for community use consisting of three adult, one youth 9v9 and a mini 5v5. The site is the home venue of Hetton Juniors and Eppleton Cricket Club football teams but there is no formal agreement in place. The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions, whilst the adult and mini pitches have potential spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality by increasing the current maintenance programme.	FA School	Local	Medium	M	M	Enhance
					Ensure CUA is established with user clubs (which was approved as part of planning approval for the redevelopment of the school).						
			Hockey	A standard quality, half size, sand dressed AGP. The pitch is available for community use and floodlit but it does not currently support any community hockey demand.	Consider whether school and community demand would be better served if the pitch was resurfaced as a 3G pitch.	EH FA School					
			Tennis	Six poor quality tarmac courts that are neither floodlit nor available for community use. The courts do receive some school use.	Seek to improve courts quality, either through resurfacing or improved maintenance.	LTA School					
					Explore whether demand exists to make the courts available for community use.						
			30	Hetton Lyons Country Park	SCC	Football					
Consider reconfiguring pitch layout on the site to potentially establish an additional adult pitch on site in place of the youth 9v9 pitch.											
Upgrade changing facilities.											
31	Hetton Lyons Cricket Club	Sports Club	Cricket	One good quality cricket square consisting of 17 grass wickets. The	Sustain current square quality by continuing with the current	DCCB	Local	Low	L	S	Protect & Provide

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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
				pitch remains overplayed with increasing junior participation. Training facilities on site have been upgraded since the last PPP.	<div>maintenance schedule.</div> <div>Explore the possibility of establishing either additional grass wickets or an NTP on site to accommodate increasing junior demand within the Club.</div> <div>Improve outdoor training facilities.</div>						
33	Hetton Workmens BC	Sports Club	Bowls	One standard quality bowling green that has spare capacity for an additional 34 bowlers. The site is the home venue of Hetton Workmens BC which has 26 members.	<div>Seek to improve green quality by improving the maintenance programme.</div> <div>Monitor club membership to ensure long term sustainability of the green.</div>	BE	Local	Low	L	S	Enhance & Protect
35	Houghton DL BC	Sports Club	Bowls	Two standard quality bowling greens accommodating demand from Houghton DL BC, which has 47 members. Consideration should be given to the sustainability of two greens on site.	<div>Seek to improve green quality by improving the maintenance programme.</div> <div>Consider the sustainability of two greens on the site given current membership numbers.</div>	BE	Local	Low	L	S	Enhance & Protect
36	Houghton Kepier School  Please note that the School is due for a rebuild under Priority Schools. Planning approval no. 17/01957/FU4. Demolition of existing school buildings and redevelopment of the site to provide a replacement school building and sports facilities, with car parking, hard/soft landscaping and access arrangements. The proposal involves six replacement and resurfaced hard courts.	Education	<div>Football &amp; rugby union (3G pitch)</div> <div>Football</div> <div>Rugby union</div>	<div>A full size World Rugby and FA compliant long-pile 3G pitch. The pitch is good quality and is utilised for training by both rugby union and football clubs. Houghton RFC accesses 3% of peak period capacity, whilst 35% of the capacity is utilised by various football teams. The pitch was installed in 2006 and therefore is beyond its recommended lifespan. The surface is scheduled to be resurfaced and retested at the conclusion of the 2017/18 winter season. It is understood that a sinking fund is in place to fund this and it will continue to accommodate rugby.</div> <div>Three adult pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch which are all good quality. The adult pitches are played to capacity, whilst the youth pitch has one match equivalent session of potential capacity. The site is accessed by both youth and adult teams but no formal community use agreements are in place.</div> <div>One good quality (M2/D1) senior rugby union pitch which is used for curriculum and extra-curricular activity.</div>	<div>Seek to improve pitch quality through future resurfacing. Ensure that once resurfacing has taken place retesting and relicensing for WR compliance is undertaken.</div> <div>Increase training access for Houghton RFC to alleviate overplay at club sites.</div> <div>Maximise use at weekends for competitive football matches taking on board Parklife programming principals.</div> <div>Monitor pitch quality, ensuring that when resurfacing is required that a sinking fund is in place for this work.</div> <div>Continue with the current maintenance programme to sustain current pitch quality.</div> <div>Establish formal user agreements, particularly for adult teams.</div> <div>Seek to improve the pitch quality through increased maintenance and a formal drainage system.</div>	<div>RFU FA School</div> <div>FA School</div> <div>RFU School</div>	Key	High	M	S	Enhance & Protect



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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
				The pitch is available for community use but is currently unused; and has two match equivalent sessions of spare capacity.	Explore potential for community use for Houghton RFC to help address overplay at Durham Road.						
			Tennis	Four poor quality tarmac tennis courts that are available for community but not floodlit. The courts do receive some school demand.	The school rebuild proposal involves six replacement and resurfaced hard courts.						
37	Houghton RFC	Sports Club	Rugby union	One senior rugby union pitch rated as standard quality (M1/D1). The pitch is floodlit and accommodates both training and match demand from Houghton RFC. The pitch is overplayed by 10.25 match equivalent sessions, mainly due to training demand. The Club is interested in improving the changing accommodation to Sport England standards to allow further development of junior, women's and girls' sections.	Seek to improve pitch quality through increase maintenance and the installation of a formal drainage system. Explore the options for installing floodlighting on a potential training area on site to reduce the amount of overplay on the match pitch. Seek to improve the ancillary facilities, particularly the changing rooms to enable the Club to continue to develop junior, women's and girls' sections.	RFU SE SCC	Key	Medium	M	M	Enhance & Provide
38	Houghton Sports Centre	SCC	Football (3G pitch)	A half size medium-pile 3G pitch which is poor quality. The pitch is floodlit and available for community use.	Seek to improve pitch quality either through increased maintenance or resurfacing.	FA SCC	Local	Low	M	M	Enhance & Provide
			Bowls	One standard quality bowling green accommodating demand from Houghton Town BC, consisting of 37 members. The bowling green has spare capacity.	Seek to further improve green quality by improving the current maintenance programme.	SCC					
41	Leyburn Grove	SCC	Cricket	Now poor quality, unused cricket square consisting of 18 grass wickets. Football pitches are marked on the outfield. The former home venue of Houghton CC (until the club folded in 2016).	Consider options of other local clubs utilising the site as a secondary venue where pitches are overplayed.	DCCB SCC	Key	Medium	L	S	Enhance & Protect
			Football	Four good quality adult pitches that have one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity during the peak period. One of the pitches is floodlit. The site is maintained by SCC and hired by a number of clubs on weekends for matches.	Continue with the current maintenance regime to sustain pitch quality. Retain the pitches for adult demand once Parklife sites are established.	SCC					
46	Newbottle (RFYL)	RFYL	Football	Ten good quality mini pitches (four 5v5 and six 7v7). The site is a home venue for the RFYL and accommodates demand from varying match formats	Reconfigure the site once Parklife sites are established, providing potentially a minimum four good quality 9v9 and/or 11v11 pitches to	FA RFYL SCC	Key	Medium	L	S	Protect & Provide



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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
				dependent on the months in the season. During data capture the 5v5 pitches were heavily overplayed whilst the 7v7 pitches has significant levels of actual spare capacity, however, this changes throughout the season as mentioned.	accommodate demand from youth and adult teams.						
50	Penshaw Park	SCC	Bowls	One good quality bowling green which accommodates demand from North Biddick BC as a home venue. The Club has 29 members, with the green having spare capacity for additional demand.	Sustain improved green quality by continuing the current maintenance programme.	SCC	Local	Low	L	S	Protect
51	Philadelphia Cricket Club	Sports Club	Cricket	One good quality cricket square consisting of ten grass wickets. The pitch is overplayed by 20 match equivalent sessions per season despite the Club losing one junior team this season.  The Club has received funding from both SE and ECB to improve the ancillary facilities, drainage and outfield.	Improve quality where possible to help address overplay and investigate use of a second ground such as Leyburn Grove.	DCCB	Local	High	M	S	Protect & Provide
62	Shiney Row (Success Road)	SCC	Football	A youth 9v9 pitch which is overplayed by one match equivalent session; and two adult pitches with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity available during the peak period. All pitches are standard quality.	Seek to improve pitch quality through increased maintenance.  Retain the pitches for adult demand once Parklife sites are established and reconfigure pitches.	FA SCC	Local	Medium	L	S	Enhance & Protect

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## Sunderland East

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
3	Ashbrooke Sports Club	Sports Club	Bowls	One bowling green of good quality. The green accommodates demand from Sunderland BC which has 34 members. There is spare capacity on the green.	Sustain green quality by continuing the current maintenance programme.	BE	Key	High	H	M	Enhance & Protect
			Cricket	One cricket square consisting of ten natural grass wickets of good quality. The pitch is the home venue of Sunderland CC. Despite having a good reputation for maintenance, the pitch remains overplayed by 13 match equivalent sessions per season and is impacted by two rugby union pitches overmarked on the outfield.	Sustain the pitch quality though continued maintenance.	DCCB School					
					Consider the installation of an NTP on site to accommodate some demand from junior teams.						
					Explore the options of utilising alternative local venues, such as Thornhill School, to eliminate overplay at the site.						
			Rugby union	One senior standard quality (M1/D2) pitch which is floodlit and overplayed by 5.5 match equivalent sessions. A training pitch (junior size) that is standard quality (M1/D1), not floodlit and overplayed by five match equivalent sessions. Both pitches are accessed by Sunderland RFC and University of Sunderland rugby team for both match and training demand. Changing facilities on site require modernisation and refurbishment.	Improve pitch quality through an increased maintenance programme.	RFU					
					Continue to utilise non-pitch areas for some training demand.						
					Identify funding options to refurbish the changing facilities to ensure that the Club can continue to develop mini, junior and female demand.						
Tennis	Three poor quality artificial grass tennis courts that are floodlit. Reportedly minimal use by tennis members of the Sports Club.	Dependent upon outcomes of other local proposals, consider resurfacing the area for WR 3G to accommodate some training demand from grass rugby union pitches on site.	LTA RFU SCC								
26	Hendon Young people's Project (leased)	Community Organisation	Football	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch which has two match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period as it is currently unused.	Potential site for accommodating adult demand once Parklife sites are established.	FA Community Organisation	Reserve	Low	L	S	Enhance & Protect

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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
34	Hill View Playing Fields	SCC/ Education	Rugby union and football	One senior size, standard quality (M1/D1) pitch which is hired by Sunderland RFC for match demand. The pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Changing facilities on site are not used by the Club. One good quality adult pitch with no peak time capacity and used by three local football teams.	Explore the option of providing Sunderland RFC with a long-term lease agreement for the site in order to address overplay on club sites. The site has the potential provide three rugby pitches and a training area. In order to accommodate overplay from Sunderland RFC the football pitch would need to be reconfigured (and the three teams using the site transferred elsewhere) and all three pitches increased to good quality. The training area would also require floodlighting in order to reduce training on the match pitches.	RFU SCC FA	Key	High	M-H	S	Enhance, Provide & Protect
54	Raich Carter Centre	Everyone Active	Hockey	A full size, sand dressed AGP which is floodlit but poor quality. The site is the home venue of Game HC that has one senior women's team only. The pitch is beyond its recommended lifespan and requires resurfacing. Although there is capacity at the site for demand the cost is a reportedly a prohibiting factor.	Improve quality by resurfacing the pitch. AGP is required to accommodate potential future hockey demand. However, there is question about the future sustainability of the sand based AGP once Parklife is established.	Everyone Active EH FA SCC	Key	High	M-H	S	Protect & Enhance
58	Ryhope Park	SCC	Cricket	A good quality pitch with ten natural grass wickets. The site is the home venue of Ryhope CC (hired from SCC) accommodating all match and training demand. The pitch is overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions per season due to the size of the junior section and the fact that a mobile net is used on the wickets for training demand.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme.	DCCB SCC	Key	Medium	L	M	Enhance, Protect & Provide
					Consider installing an NTP on site to accommodate some junior demand, reducing current levels of overplay.						
					Consider a long term lease or asset transfer for Ryhope CC, provided that the Club can appropriately maintain pitch quality (and meet criteria set out in the PPP).						
			Football	One standard quality adult pitch which has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of peak time capacity. The site is the home venue of Sunderland Ryhope Foresters FC and Ryhope Colliery Welfare FC. The pitch is floodlit and meets minimum ground requirements for Step 5 of the football pyramid.	Seek to further improve quality by improving the current maintenance programme.	FA SCC					
					Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements s for the football pyramid.						
					Retain the pitch for adult demand once Parklife sites have been established and explore options for the site to accommodate more adult pitches.						
59	Meadow Park (Leased) Sunderland Ryhope RCA	Sports Club	Football	A good quality adult pitch that is floodlit and has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The site is the home of Sunderland Ryhope RCA and meets minimum ground requirements for Step 5 of the football pyramid.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance.	FA SCC	Local	Low	L	S	Protect
					Ensure that the lease agreement remains valid ensuring long term security of tenure for the resident Club.						
					Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements for the football pyramid.						

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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
68	Southmoor Academy	Education	Football	Two adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of standard quality. The adult pitches are at capacity whilst the youth 9v9 pitch has one match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity. No formal community use agreements are in place.	Improve pitch quality through an increased maintenance regime. Establish formal user agreements, particularly for adult teams.	FA School	Local	Low	L	M	Enhance & Protect
			MUGA	A standard quality, small sided multi use games area, sand dressed. The pitch is available for community use but a lack of floodlighting means that this is not feasible to accommodate training demand.	Proposals submitted to install a floodlit "4G" pitch. Further work is required to understand the local demand for such a facility given wider Parklife plans.	FA SCC School					
			Rugby union	One senior sized rugby union pitch which is standard quality (M1/D1) and subject to both school and club demand. Sunderland RFC provided the posts for the pitch and access the site for some training demand. The pitch has minimal spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality through an increased maintenance programme. If required (dependent upon other solutions), establish formal user agreement for Sunderland RFC.	RFU School					
			Tennis	Four poor quality tarmac courts that are neither floodlit nor available for community use. The site is subject to school demand.	Part of the tennis courts likely to be affected if proposals go ahead for a 4G pitch on the site. However, this may create an opportunity to increase the quality of the remaining courts.	School LTA					
69	St Aidan's RC Secondary School*	Education	Football	One standard quality adult pitch which is not available for community use but used by the School.	Seek to improve pitch quality through an increased maintenance regime. Explore whether demand exists locally to make the pitch available for community use, ensuring that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for school demand.	FA School	Local	Low	L	L	Enhance & Protect
			Rugby union	A poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch which is unavailable for community use but used by the School. Has previously been used by Sunderland RFC	As required improve pitch quality through an increased maintenance programme. If required, consider options for establishing secured community use for Sunderland RFC.	RFU School					
70	St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy*	Education	Football	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches which are not available for community use but used by the School.	As required improve pitch quality through an increased maintenance regime.	School	Local	Low	L	L	Enhance
			Tennis	One poor quality tarmac court that is neither floodlit nor available for community use. The site is subject to school demand.	As required improve court quality through either improved maintenance or resurfacing.	School					

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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
74	The Venerable Bede C of E (Aided) Secondary School*	Education	Football	Two adult and one mini 7v7 pitch. All pitches are standard quality and subject to school demand. None of the pitches are available for community use.	Seek to improve the current maintenance regime to improve pitch quality.	FA School	Local	Low	L	M	Enhance & Provide
					Explore whether local demand exists for community use. Ensure that community use of the pitches does not adversely affect quality for school demand.						
			Rugby union	A poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch which is unavailable for community use but used by the school.	As required, seek to improve the pitch quality through increased maintenance.	School					
			Tennis	Four standard quality tarmac courts that are neither floodlit nor available for community use. The site is subject to school demand.	Improve court quality through either improved maintenance or resurfacing.	LTA School					
					Explore whether demand exists for community use.						
80	David Lloyd Sunderland	Private	Tennis	13 artificial tennis courts that are both floodlit and available for community use; eight of the courts are indoors and accommodate the majority of club demand. The Club has 976 tennis members.	Continue to maintain the courts to a good quality.	LTA	Local	Low	L	S	Protect
					Keep the courts available for community use.						
77	Thornhill School	Education	Cricket	One standard quality NTP which is available for community use but not used. The pitch is used by the school.	As required, improve pitch quality through increased maintenance.	School	Local	Low	L	S	Enhance & Protect
			Football	Two standard quality adult pitches which receive both school and community demand. The pitches are used by three adult teams on Saturday mornings but no formal community use agreements are in place.	Seek to improve pitch quality through increased maintenance.	FA School					
					Establish formal user agreements, particularly for adult teams.						
			Rugby union	A poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch which is at capacity for use. The pitch is utilised by both the School and Sunderland RFC for match demand.	Seek to improve the pitch quality through increased maintenance.	RFU School					
					If required, formalise community use for Sunderland RFC.						
Tennis	Three standard quality tarmac courts that are neither floodlit nor available for community use. The site is subject to school demand.	As required, improve court quality either through increased maintenance or resurfacing.	LTA School								
95	Grangetown Primary School*	Education	Football	One football pitch which is currently unavailable for community use. School is submitting an application for funding for a MUGA.	Continue to maintain and protect for school use.	School	Local	Low	L	L	Protect

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**Sunderland North**

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
9	Billy Hardy Sports Complex	SCC	Bowls	One good quality bowling green; used by Hylton CW BC. The green has spare capacity.	Continue to sustain the current green quality by continuing with the maintenance regime.	SCC	Key	Medium	L	M	Protect & Provide
			Cricket	A good quality square consisting of 14 natural grass wickets. The site is the home venue of Hylton CC and is overplayed by 18 match equivalent sessions per season, in part due to the Club's large junior section. The site has had a new pavilion built in 2014 which meets the Club's requirements.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme.	DCCB SCC					
					Explore options for secondary venues to eliminate overplay and allow the Club to continue to grow.						
			Football	One good quality adult pitch and is available for community use. The pitch is hired by three adult teams for matches on both Saturday and Sunday mornings; and has no actual spare capacity available during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme.	FA SCC					
Retain the pitch for community use, particularly adult demand, once Parklife sites are operational.											
10	Castle View Academy	Education	Football (3G pitch)	One full size and one half size medium-pile 3G pitch. Both are available for community use, floodlit and standard quality. Each pitch is available for 34 hours of SE peak period and within recommended life spans.	Seek to improve the quality of both pitches through an increased maintenance regime.	FA School	Key	High	L	M	Enhance & Protect
					Continue to make the pitches available for community use, maximising use at weekends for competitive football matches taking on board Parklife programming principals.						
					Ensure that sinking funds are in place for both pitches for future refurbishment/resurfacing.						
			Football	Two standard quality adult pitches which are subject to both school and community demand. The pitches are overplayed by an accumulative one match equivalent session per week.	Seek to improve pitch quality through an increased maintenance regime, this will eliminate current overplay.	FA School					
					Establish formal user agreements, particularly for adult teams.						
			Tennis	Four standard quality tennis courts with an artificial grass surface. The courts are available for community use and floodlit.	Seek to improve court quality through an increased maintenance regime and continue to make the courts available for community use.	School					



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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
12	Community North Sports Complex (Downhill North pitches)	SCC	Football	Six adult pitches and four mini 7v7 pitches; all of standard quality. The pitches are owned and managed by SCC and have an accumulative seven match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak periods. Two additional adult pitches (Shipwrights) are located to the south of the site.	The site will become a Parklife hub site with three full size 3G pitches, two adult grass pitches and a youth 9v9 grass pitch. The site will also have a health and fitness offer.	FA SCC	Hub	High	H	L	Enhance & Provide
44	Monkwearmouth Academy Sports Centre	Education	Football	Four adult, one mini 5v5 and a youth 9v9 pitch. All pitches are standard quality and not floodlit. All pitches are used by the community and the school.  The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions, whilst the adult and mini pitches have spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality through an increased maintenance regime.  Reconfiguring the pitches to adult pitches once FA Parklife sites are operational.	FA School	Local	Low	L	M	Enhance & protect
55	Redhouse Academy	Education	Football	Two adult pitches and a youth 9v9 pitch which are all standard quality. Pitches are used by the community and the school. Adult pitches are overplayed by one match equivalent session and the youth 9v9 pitch being at capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality by through an increased maintenance regime.  Establish formal user agreements, particularly for adult teams.	FA School	Local	Low	L	M	Enhance & protect
			Hockey (AGP)	A standard quality, half size, sand dressed AGP. The pitch is available for community use and floodlit but it does not currently support any community hockey demand.	Ensure that a sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment/resurfacing.	School					
			Tennis	Four standard quality tennis courts overmarked on the small sized sand dressed AGP. The courts are available for community use and floodlit.	Continue to make the pitch/courts available for community use.	School					



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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
56	Roker Park	SCC	Bowls	The home venue of both Roker Park BC and Roker Marine BC. The site has two council owned bowling greens, both of good quality. Demand at the site amounts to 61 users meaning that the site has capacity for additional demand.	Examine the sustainability of two bowling greens on the site given the level of demand.	BE SCC	Local	Medium	M	S	Enhance & Protect
			Tennis	Two poor quality macadam tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use. The courts are owned and managed by SCC. The site is identified as a potential key site in Sunderland for the LTA.	Priority site for LTA and continued delivery of initiatives, provided that demand for tennis is in this area. Ensure quality is sustained or improved as required. Consider site for floodlighting in the future to increase winter capacity.	LTA SCC	Key				
57	Rolls Royce	SCC	Football	One good quality adult pitch which is not floodlit but is available for community use. The pitch is hired by three adult teams on Sunday mornings. There is no actual spare capacity on this site.	The long term future of the site to be considered in the context of the wider Parklife developments.	FA SCC	Local	Low	L	M	Protect
75	Thompson Park	SCC	Bowls	One good quality, council owned bowling green which accommodates demand from Thompson Park BC, 19 members. The green has spare capacity for additional demand.	Sustain the improved quality of the bowling greens through ongoing maintenance. Monitor club membership to ensure long term sustainability of the green.	SCC	Key	Medium	L	M	Protect
			Football	Three good quality adult pitches which are available for community use but not floodlit. The site has 3.5 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity, however, none of this is during the peak period.	Retain the pitches for adult football demand once Parklife sites are operational. Ancillary facilities are in need of upgrading.	FA SCC					
87	Wearmouth Sports Field	SCC	Football	One standard quality adult pitch which is not floodlit. The site is hired by four adult teams on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The pitch is at capacity with no spare capacity available during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality by through an increased maintenance regime.	FA SCC	Local	Low	L	S	Enhance & Protect
					Retain the pitch for adult football demand once Parklife sites are operational.						

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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
89	Wearmouth Colliery	SCC	Bowls	One council owned, standard quality bowling green. The site is the home venue of Wearmouth BC which has 20 members. The green has spare capacity for additional demand.	Seek to improve the green quality by increasing the current maintenance programme.	SCC	Local	Medium	L	M	Enhance
					Monitor club membership to ensure long term sustainability of the green.						
			Cricket	Standard quality square consisting of 11 natural grass wickets. The site is hired by Wearmouth CC and has 13 match sessions per season of spare capacity midweek and Sunday. The Club has ongoing struggles to sustain junior participation.	Seek to improve pitch quality through an increased maintenance programme and maximise use. Potential site to accommodate future demand.	DCCB SCC					
					In the longer term, potential site for a long term lease or asset transfer, provided that the Club can appropriately maintain pitch quality (and meet criteria set out in the PPP).						
92	Fulwell Infant School	Education	Football	One youth 11v11 pitch of standard quality. The pitch is subject to both curricular and community demand, with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity. No formal community use agreements in place.	As required, improve quality. Likely to become unused once Parklife is operational.	School	Local	Low	L	M	Enhance

# SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH PLAN

## Sunderland West

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
1	Academy 360	Education	Football	One standard quality adult pitch with some spare capacity. Used by the school and clubs. However, no formal use agreements in place.	Seek to improve pitch quality by through an increased maintenance regime. Establish formal user agreements, particularly for adult teams.	School	Local	Low	L	S	Enhance, Protect & Provide
			Hockey (AGP)	A standard quality, half size, sand dressed AGP. The pitch is available for community use but a lack of floodlighting means that this is not feasible to accommodate training demand.	Explore whether resurfacing the pitch as a 3G surface would increase community use and if installing floodlighting is feasible.	EH FA School					
			Tennis	Four standard quality tarmac tennis courts which are neither floodlit nor available for community use. The courts are subject to curricular demand.	As required, improve court quality.	School					
5	Barnes Park (Barnes West End)	SCC	Bowls	Three council owned bowling greens, two of which are standard quality and one is good. The site is utilised by Barnes Park BC, Barnes West End BC and Pemberton BC, which have an accumulative demand of 82 bowlers. Demand from the three clubs could be accommodated on two bowling greens, however, the overplaying match times may cause conflict if one green was removed.	Examine whether having three greens on site is sustainable in the longer term given the level of demand on site could be accommodated on two greens. Further investigation is required to deduce whether the three clubs accessing the site could be accommodated on two greens due to potential fixture clashes. Improve quality as required based on outcome of the above.	BE SCC	Key	Medium	M	S	Enhance & Protect
			Tennis	Two standard quality macadam courts not floodlit. The site is identified as a potential key site in Sunderland for the LTA.	Priority site for LTA and continued delivery of initiatives, provided that demand for tennis is in this area. Ensure quality is sustained or improved as required. Consider site for floodlighting in the future to increase winter capacity.	LTA SCC					
11	City of Sunderland College	Education/ Private	Football (3G pitches)	Goals Soccer Centre with eight 5v5, one 7v7 and one 9v9 medium-pile 3G pitches, all of standard quality. The site is used by a small sided league; training demand; and college demand throughout the week.	Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future refurbishment and resurfacing.	College	Local	Low	M	M	Enhance & Protect
			Football	Two standard quality adult pitches that are not available for community use. The pitches are used by the College and the various football development programmes run on site as part of formal partnerships.	As required, improve quality and explore options for further community use.	FA College					

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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
19	Farringdon Community Academy	Education	Football (3G pitches)	A full sized, medium-pile 3G pitch which is floodlit and good quality. The pitch was installed in 2011 and within its recommended lifespan. FA certified.	Ensure that a sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment/resurfacing.	FA School	Key	Medium	L	M	Enhance & Protect
				The pitch is available for 34 hours of community use during the peak period, however, usage is unknown.	Maximise use at weekends for competitive football matches taking on board Parklife programming principals.						
			Football	An adult, a mini 7v7 and a youth 9v9 pitch; all of good quality. All pitches are used by the school and clubs and have spare capacity. However, no formal use agreements are in place.	Establish formal user agreements, particularly for adult teams.	FA School					
				Consider reconfiguring the pitches to enable an adult pitch to be marked in place of the mini and youth pitches once Parklife sites are operational.							
			Tennis	Three good quality macadam tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use. The courts are subject to curricular demand.	Sustain court quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	School					
				Continue to make the courts available for community use.							
20	Ford Quarry	SCC	Football	Two adult pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches, all are standard quality and used.  The adult pitches are at capacity whilst the youth 9v9 pitches have 1.5 match equivalent sessions of peak period capacity.	Parklife hub site which will provide three full size 3G pitches.	FA SCC	Hub	High	H	M	Provide
24	Grindon Hall Christian School*	Education	Football	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use as its played to capacity by the school.	As required, improve pitch quality through an increased maintenance regime.	School	Local	Low	L	S	Enhance
25	Grindon Mill Bowling Club	Sports Club	Bowls	One standard quality bowling green that is the home venue of Grindon Mill BC. The green has capacity for additional demand.	Seek to improve the green quality by increasing the current maintenance programme.	BE	Local	Low	L	S	Enhance
					Monitor club membership to ensure long term sustainability of the green.						
39	Hylton Road	SCC	Football	Three standard quality adult pitches which have two match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity available during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality through an increased maintenance programme.	FA SCC	Key	Medium	L	S	Enhance & Protect
				The pitches are used by two adult and five youth teams on Saturday and Sunday mornings.	Retain the pitches for adult demand once Parklife sites are established and explore options for further pitches to be marked.						
97	Hylton Castle Primary School*	Education	Football	One youth 9v9 pitch which is now unused for community use.	Continue to maintain for school use.	School	Local	Low	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
40	King George V Playing Fields	SCC	Bowls	Standard quality bowling green that has spare capacity for additional demand. The site is the home venue of both Pennywell and South Hylton bowling clubs, with a combined membership of 49 bowlers. The site is subject to frequent vandalism.	Seek to improve the green quality by increasing the current maintenance programme and reducing vandalism, potentially through the erection of a fence around the green.	SCC	Key	Medium	L	S	Enhance & Protect
			Football	Three standard quality adult pitches which have 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality through an increased maintenance regime.	FA SCC					
					The long term future of the site to be considered in the context of the wider Parklife developments and the adjacent Ford Quarry hub.						
52	Plains Farm Primary Academy Inspires	Education	Football (3G pitch)	A half size medium-pile 3G pitch which is floodlit but is not available for community use. The pitch is poor quality.	Seek to improve pitch quality linked to establishing community use.	School	Local	Low	L	L	Enhance
			Football	Two youth 9v9, two youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and a mini 5v5 pitch; all of standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week, whilst the other pitch types have spare capacity. Well used by clubs but no formal use agreements in place.	Consider reconfiguring the pitches once Parklife sites are established to provide adult pitches on site.	FA School					
61	Sandhill Sports Centre (Sandhill View Academy)	Education	Cricket	One standard quality NTP which is available for community use but not used. The pitch is subject to school demand only.	As required, improve pitch quality through increased maintenance.	School	Key	Medium	M	S	Enhance & Provide
			Football	Two adult, one mini 7v7 and a youth 9v9 pitch; all of standard quality. School and club use and as a result the adult and youth pitches are overplayed. The mini 7v7 pitch does not have any spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality through increased maintenance.	FA School					
					Consider reconfiguring the pitches once Parklife sites are established, remarking the mini and youth pitches with an adult pitch.						
					Establish formal user agreements, particularly for adult teams.						
			Hockey (AGP)	A full size, standard quality AGP, which is sand dressed, floodlit and of standard quality. Community users include Sunderland Broom HC and the University of Sunderland hockey teams utilising the site for both match and training demand. The pitch was re-laid in 2012 with previous issues regarding maintenance having been corrected.	Protect for hockey use and establish formal user agreements.	EH School					
					Ensure that a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.						
Tennis	Four standard quality tarmac tennis courts that are neither floodlit nor available for community use. The courts are subject to school demand.	As required, improve court quality.	School								

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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
63	Silksworth Cricket Club	Sports Club	Cricket	The home venue of Silksworth CC. The site has one square of ten, good quality, natural grass wickets. The pitch has spare capacity for 16 match sessions per season midweek or Sunday. The pavilion requires refurbishment and modernisation; and does not currently meet minimum league requirements.	Potential site to accommodate future demand. Seek to improve the ancillary facilities further, at least to meet minimum league requirements, the standard of which they do not currently meet.	DCCB	Local	Medium	M	M	Enhance & Protect
64	Silksworth Recreation Park	SCC	Bowls	A standard quality bowling green which is the home venue of Silksworth Recreation Park BC. The green has capacity for additional demand, with the Club currently having 39 members.	Seek to improve the green quality by increasing the current maintenance programme.	SCC	Local	Low	L	M	Enhance & Protect
			Football	One good quality adult pitch which is floodlit. The site is the home venue of Silksworth Colliery Welfare FC and meets ground requirements for Step 7 of the football pyramid. There is no actual spare capacity available on the site.	Retain the pitches for adult demand once Parklife sites are established and explore potential for additional pitches to be marked out. Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements for the football pyramid, particular consideration should be given to floodlighting.	FA SCC					
65	Silksworth Sports Complex	Everyone Active	Football (3G pitch)	Two full size, medium-pile 3G pitches which are both floodlit. The pitches were relaid 2016 and are considered good quality. The pitches are available for 34 hours of peak time of which 85% is used for football demand. The remaining 15% is available for capacity, the majority of which is on Sunday afternoons.	Seek to maximise use at weekends for competitive football matches taking on board Parklife programming principals.	Everyone Active FA SCC	Hub	High	L	S	Protect
			Football	Three good quality adult football pitches that are not floodlit but are available for community use. The site has 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity available during the peak period. The pitches are hired by four adult teams and a youth 11v11 team.	Retain the pitches for community use, particularly adult demand once Parklife sites are established.	Everyone Active FA SCC					
			Tennis	18 tennis courts that are all of good quality. Six courts are artificial grass; four macadam; and eight acrylic. All courts are floodlit and available for community use. Three of the outdoor courts are leased by New Silksworth TC from Everyone Active which provides the Club's 40 members consistent access to courts.	Sustain court quality through continued maintenance. Retain the lease agreement with New Silksworth TC to provide long term security of tenure.	Everyone Active LTA					



**SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL**  
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**Washington**

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
8	Biddick Academy	Education	Football (3G pitch)	One standard quality, full size 3G pitch, medium-pile pitch that was refurbished in 2011. FA certified. The pitch is floodlit. Usage is unknown.	Ensure that a sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment/resurfacing. Maximise use at weekends for competitive football matches taking on board Parklife programming principals.	FA School	Key	Medium	L	M	Enhance, Provide & Protect
			Rugby union	A good quality (M2/D1) senior pitch which is available for community use but currently unused. The pitch is only subject to curriculum and extra-curricular activity and has two match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity. The site was previously hired by Washington RFC for match demand; however, the Club has since relocated to Northern Area Playing Field.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme. Potential longer term future option for use by Washington RFC which may also help to establish school club links to increase junior participation.	RFU School					
			Tennis	Six poor quality macadam courts that are both floodlit and available for community use. The courts are also subject to educational demand.	As required, improve court and continue to make the courts available for community use.	LTA School					
23	Glebe Park	SCC	Bowls	A standard quality bowling green which accommodates demand from Washington Glebe BC, 41 members. The green has spare capacity for additional demand.	Seek to improve the green quality by increasing the current maintenance programme.	SCC	Local	Low	L	S	Enhance & Protect
			Football	One good quality pitch. The pitch is hired by four adult teams and one youth 11v11 team. There is no actual spare capacity available on the site.	Retain the pitch for adult demand once Parklife sites have been established.	SCC					
47	Nissan Sports and Social Club	Private	Football	Two adult pitches and a youth 9v9 pitch, all of good quality. No spare capacity in the peak period.	Ensure users have security of tenure.	FA	Local	Low	L	S	Protect
48	Northern Area Playing Field (Washington)	SCC	Football	Three poor quality adult pitches and one 9v9 pitch. The pitches are played to capacity.	Parklife hub site which will have four full size 3G pitches, one of which will be World Rugby compliant. There will also be one adult grass pitch and ancillary facilities. All current demand on the grass pitches should be relocated to appropriate local venues.	FA RFU SCC	Hub	High	H	M	Protect, Enhance & Provide
			Rugby union	Two poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitches which have 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity accumulatively. The site is hired by Washington RFC as its home venue with the pitches subject to the Club's match demand.	Ensure Washington RFC is accommodated and has appropriate secured access and access to changing facilities.						



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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
91	Washington AFC Northern Area	Sports Club	Football	One good adult pitch; three standard adult pitches and three standard quality mini 7v7 pitches. The good quality pitch has a surrounding barrier but is not floodlit. The Club access changing facilities at the site and are responsible for the maintenance of both ancillaries and pitches as part of a lease agreement with SCC.	Seek to improve the quality of the pitches.	FA SCC	Key	Medium	L	S	Enhance & Protect
49	Oxclose Community Academy	Education	Football	Two adult pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches; all of standard quality. Pitches are subject to both community and school use leading to the adult pitches being overplayed by 1.5 match sessions per week.	Seek to improve pitch quality through increase maintenance in order to address overplay. Establish formal user agreements, particularly for adult teams.	FA School	Local	Medium	M	L	Enhance & Protect
			Hockey (AGP)	A standard quality, half size, sand dressed AGP. The pitch is available for community use but a lack of floodlighting means that this is not feasible to accommodate training demand.	Explore whether resurfacing the pitch as a 3G surface would increase community use and if installing floodlighting is feasible.	EH FA School					
			Tennis	Four macadam courts that are standard quality but not floodlit. The courts are subject to school demand and available for community use.	As required, improve court and continue to make the courts available for community use.	LTA School					
67	Southern Area Playing Fields	SCC	Football	Two youth 9v9 and five youth 11v11 pitches; all poor quality. Home venue for 17 teams, 12 of which are youth team, including some from Washington United Juniors and Championship Sports. The youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions whilst the youth pitches are at capacity.	Site is allocated for residential development in draft Local Plan. In the short term, key site for adult football and pitches should be improved as required. The long term future of the site is to be considered in the context of Parklife local Hub provision at Northern Area.	FA SCC	Key	Medium	L	S-L	Enhance
79	Usworth Park	SCC	Bowls	A good quality bowling green which accommodates demand from Usworth BC, 38 members. The green has spare capacity for additional demand. The site is subject to frequent vandalism.	Investigate options to reduce vandalism of the site, potentially through the erection of a fence around the green.	SCC	Local	Low	L	L	Enhance
			Tennis	Two poor quality, tarmac tennis courts that are not floodlit but are available for community use. There are another two additional courts on site but these are disused, without nets.	Consider whether demand exists locally to bring the disused courts back in to use.	SCC LTA					

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Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Cost	Timescale	Aim
82	Harraton Sports Ground	SCC	Cricket	A good quality square of 15 natural grass wickets. The site is the home venue of Washington CC and is overplayed by 15 match equivalent sessions per season. Ancillary facilities on site require improvement, with the Club aspiring for an asset transfer from SCC.	Seek to modernise and improve the ancillary facilities to meet league requirements. Consider installation of an NTP to help address overplay. In the longer term, potential site for a long term lease or asset transfer, provided that the Club can appropriately maintain pitch quality (and meet criteria set out in the PPP).	DCCB SCC	Local	Medium	M	M	Protect, Enhance & Provide
85	Washington Millennium Centre	SCC	Hockey (AGP)	A standard quality, half size, sand dressed AGP. The pitch is available for community use and floodlit but is not currently used for any hockey demand.	Seek to improve pitch quality either through increased maintenance or resurfacing to a 3G surface.	EH FA SCC	Local	Low	M	L	Enhance
86	Washington Academy	Education	Cricket	One standard quality NTP which is not available for community use. The pitch is subject to school demand only.	As required, improve pitch quality through increased maintenance.	School	Local	Low	L	M	Enhance & Protect
			Football	Two adult pitches, one mini 7v7 and two youth 9v9 pitches; all standard quality. Used for curricular and community demand. No formal use agreements in place.	Seek to improve pitch quality through increased maintenance. Establish formal user agreements, particularly for adult teams.	FA School					
90	St Robert of Newminster	Education	Football	Two adult, one mini 7v7 and four youth 11v11 pitches; all of standard quality. The pitches are subject to both curricular and community demand.	Seek to improve pitch quality through increased maintenance. Establish formal user agreements, particularly for adult teams.	FA School	Local	Low	L	S	Enhance & Protect
			Rugby union	A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch which is available for community use but is currently only subject to school demand. The pitch has one match equivalent session of potential spare capacity.	As required, improve pitch quality through increased maintenance.	School					
96	George Washington Primary School*	Education	Football	The site accommodates one youth (9v9) football pitch that is now unused for community use.	Continue to maintain for school use.	School	Local	Low	L	L	Protect

### **DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE**

#### ***Delivery***

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Sunderland in the years up to 2033. 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 Sunderland 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 the 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.

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.

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.

## SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH PLAN

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

Ideally the PPS 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).

Alongside the regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships may be to hold annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings could 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.

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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 sites in the future.

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


# SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH PLAN

### 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?		

### APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

#### National context

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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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) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan**

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

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

- ✦ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
  - *Clubs and leagues*
  - *Kids*
  - *Communities*
  - *Casual*
- ✦ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
  - *Pathway*
  - *Support*
  - *Elite Teams*
  - *England Teams*

- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
  - *Fan focus*
  - *New audiences*
  - *Global stage*
  - *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
  - *Integrity*
  - *Community programmes*
  - *Our environments*
  - *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game's revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
  - *People*
  - *Revenue and reach*
  - *Insight*
  - *Operations*

### ***The Rugby Football Union 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:

- ◀ 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 Strategy***

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

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

#### **1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ◀ Becoming more relevant to coaches

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

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

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

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

### ***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.

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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. For example, Awards for All which is for small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000.
Sport England The current funding streams will change throughout 2016/17 so refer to the website for the latest information: <a href="http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/">http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/</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/funding-schemes/">http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</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 <a href="http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113">http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113</a>	The Grant Match Scheme in particular provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers). Other loan schemes are also available.
The England and Wales Cricket Trust <a href="https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding">https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding</a>	Interest Free Loan Scheme provides finance to clubs for capital projects and the Small Grant Scheme is also open to applications from affiliated cricket clubs.
EU Life Fund <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.
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 the areas of focus: Young people and hockey, Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

### Protecting Playing Fields

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

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

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

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

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

Sport England's Community Asset Fund<sup>9</sup> programme will be delivered via funding rounds and replaced its previous Inspired Facilities Fund. The Community Asset Fund opened in late January 2017 with an annual budget of £15 million, anticipating funding applications to range anywhere from £1000 to £150,000.

A key difference of the new programme is that it not only aims to support improvement of facilities within traditional sports clubs and recreational or sporting environments, but seeks explore new ways to invest in communities where improvement of facilities can offer wider benefit for not just sporting groups but other physical activities and local organisations which use or could use the site. The change in approach reflects the Towards an Active Nation Strategy and a contribution to delivering the five outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.

The four main aims of the Community Asset Fund programme are:

- ✦ Improve and protect existing sports facilities that support the needs of local communities
- ✦ Invest in new and different places that meet the needs of local communities, which include our target audiences
- ✦ Ensure our capital investment reaches organisations who have not accessed our funding before
- ✦ Create a more resilient, sustainable, less grant dependent sport sector

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/media/11425/community-asset-fund-guide-january-2017.pdf>



### Strategic Facilities Fund

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

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

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

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

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

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

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

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

### **Funder's requirements**

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

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

### **Indicative costs**

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

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

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

### APPENDIX THREE: 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.

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## APPENDIX FOUR: SITE LIST

For the purpose of assessing the impact of Parklife on current Council allocated sites, the table below shows the likelihood of sites being used for football and other sports from the season 2018/19 to 2020/21.

Sites (alphabetical order)	Lapsed Site	Disused Site	Likelihood to be used as a Football, Rugby or other sport allocated site		
			2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Albany Park, Spout Lane	✓				
Belford House	✓				
Billy Hardy Sports Complex			✓	✓	✓
Chilton Moor Cricket Club	✓				
Claremont Drive, Shiney Row	✓				
Community North Sports Complex (Downhill North pitches)			x	✓	✓
Community North Sports Complex (Downhill South pitches)		✓			
Dame Margaret		✓			
Durham Road			✓	✓	✓
Easington Flatts	✓				
Easington Lane Primary School Playing Fields	✓				
Ford Quarry			x	✓	✓
Former South Hylton Cricket Club	✓				
Former Usworth School	✓				
Foxhole Wood (rear of Farrington 'comp')	✓				
Fulwell Quarry (aka Bowl)		✓			
Fulwell Mill		✓			
Glebe Park			✓	✓	✓
Grindon Lane, Barnes Park Extension	✓				
Grove Coles	✓				

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Sites (alphabetical order)	Lapsed Site	Disused Site	Likelihood to be used as a Football, Rugby or other sport allocated site		
			2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Hawthorn Street, Grasswell	✓				
Herrington CW Park			✓	✓	✓
Herrington CW	✓				
Hetton Lyons Park			✓	✓	✓
Hylton Road			✓	✓	✓
King George V Playing Fields			✓	x	x
Leyburn Grove			✓	✓	✓
Marley Potts		✓			
Meadow Park (Leased) Sunderland RCA			✓	✓	✓
North Moor		✓			
Northern Area Playing Field (Washington)			x	✓	✓
Plesseys Sports Field Bowls	✓				
Plesseys Sports Field		✓			
Rolls Royce			x	x	x
Ryhope CW Bowls	✓				
Ryhope CW Park			✓	✓	✓
Ryhope Recreation		✓			
Seaburn Camp, Whitburn Road	✓				
Shiney Row (Success Road)			✓	✓	✓
Silksworth Park			✓	✓	✓
Silksworth Sports Complex			✓	✓	✓
South Hylton		✓			
Southern Area Playing Fields			✓	x	x
Tay Road		✓			
The Limes, Ashbrooke		✓			
Thompson Park			✓	✓	✓
Thorndale Road Bowls	✓				

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Sites (alphabetical order)	Lapsed Site	Disused Site	Likelihood to be used as a Football, Rugby or other sport allocated site		
			2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Thorndale Road		✓			
Tunstall Hills	✓				
Usworth Park		✓			
Washington AFC Northern Area (lease)			✓	✓	✓
West Park, Herrington	✓				