



1) What is the Football Hub Programme?

- National community football programme
- Supported by the FA, The Government and the Premier League (the funding partners)
- Solution to the long term future for grass roots football.
- Introduction of football hubs into areas with a strong population density (minimum 200,000 residents)
- A football hub will consist of
 - Multiple Full Size 3G Football Pitches
 - Football pavilion with changing, catering and social facilities
 - In some cases grass pitches
 - In some cases health and fitness offer (Gym)
 - Enhanced car parking

2) What does this mean for Sunderland?

There will be a total of 3 football hub sites located at the locations list below. Each hub will be operated by **Pulse Soccer**.

Community North Sports Complex (Downhill), SR5 4BB

- 3 Full Size Floodlit 3G Pitches
- 2 Full Size Grass Pitches
- 1 Junior Size Grass Pitch
- 1 Pavilion (re-configuration and extension to existing building)
- 1 Health and Fitness Offer (Gym and Studio)
- 372 Vehicle Parking Bays

Ford Quarry, SR4 0RW

- 3 Full Size Floodlit 3G Pitches
- 1 Pavilion (re-configuration and extension to existing building)
- Future proofed to host Step 5 football (Northern League – subject to additional funding).
- 256 Vehicle Parking Bays

Northern Area Playing Fields, NE37 3HR

- 4 Full Size Floodlit 3G Pitches (1 of which will be Rugby compliant)
- 1 Full Size Grass Pitch
- 1 Pavilion (re-configuration and extension to existing building)
- 321 Vehicle Parking Bays

3) Does this mean that all football in the city will now be played on 3G pitches?

- No. In addition a number of grass pitches will remain across the city
- 4 grass pitches will be within the hub site model
- Remaining SCC pitches will remain under the control of the council

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- It is anticipated that the grass playing pitch stock will reduce

4) When will work commence and when will sites become operational?

- Construction mobilisation began on all sites on the 21st January 2019.
- All 3 sites are proposed to become operational for the 2019/20 Football Season.

5) Will the proposals lead to any surplus grass playing pitches across the City?

- The impact of the football hubs will mean there may be a number of surplus grass football pitches in Sunderland.
- The council is liaising with Sport England and other national governing bodies to ensure that the current Playing Pitch Strategy ensures adequate facilities for each sport.
- The city council will be assessing the impact of the hub sites over a 2 year period and a refreshed playing pitch plan will be completed in late 2021 with recommendations.
- Any pitches not falling within the city's wider football delivery model may be available to be leased to clubs from 2022 onwards.

6) Are there any health concerns to playing on rubber crumb 3G pitches?

- Further information can be found by clicking [here](#).

7) Who are the partner clubs and leagues?

- **Downhill**
 - The Russell Foster Youth League
 - The Sunderland Sunday League
 - Improtech Soccer FC
 - Foundation of Light FC
 - Velocity FC
- **Ford Quarry**
 - The Russell Foster Youth League
 - The Sunderland Sunday League
 - Humbledon and Plains Farm FC
 - Ryhope CW FC
 - Sunderland City FC
 - Sunderland West End FC
- **Washington**
 - The Russell Foster Youth League
 - The Sunderland Sunday League

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- NSG Athletic
- Washington AFC
- Washington Athletic
- Washington Juniors
- Washington Rugby Club

In addition, Durham County FA, The Foundation of Light and Sunderland College will become key users across the hubs portfolio.

If you wish to discuss further please contact Simon Wardle 0191 561 4598 or email simon.wardle@sunderland.gov.uk