



LOCAL FOOTBALL FACILITY PLAN FAQs

1. Where can people find their LFFPs?

All the LFFPs are accessible via links on www.OxfordshireFA.com. They can also be accessed directly at www.FootballFoundation.org.uk via a dedicated page where people can enter their postcode or local area to find their LFFP.

2. How were they created?

We've been working for the past two years with The FA, Football Foundation, Sport England, our local authorities, Oxford United, grassroots clubs and communities to create Plans for every area. Local stakeholders have provided crucial knowledge on current football provision and the demand for future facility developments.

We've spoken to local clubs, local authorities and a range of other stakeholders to identify an excellent pipeline of projects. Each Plan is a short, well-defined document that captures current football facilities and identifies investment priorities where the needs are greatest.

3. Is my organisation guaranteed to secure FF investment for priority projects?

Whilst a LFFP identifies priority projects for potential investment, it does not guarantee the success of future funding applications. Each project must still follow an application process to show how it will deliver strong football and social outcomes, financial sustainability as well as raising partnership funding from as many sources as possible.

4. My organisation isn't listed in the LFFP but other organisations in my area are. (1) Why is my organisation not listed? (2) Should I not have been consulted?

Given the number of organisations across the county, the LFFP has had to focus on identifying priority projects that have the potential to deliver strong football and social outcomes, financial sustainability as well as raising partnership funding from as many sources as possible.

The LFFP is a live and working document and so it will be regularly updated/refreshed to ensure it accurately reflects the needs of its respective area. As a result, there will be future consultation with organisations and therefore additional and/or new projects can be considered.

5. Our club has more teams than stated in the LFFP. Why is that?

The LFFPs were based on affiliation data at the time the plan was being worked up. Therefore, team numbers may well have changed. However, the Plan will be refreshed at the appropriate time and it won't have impacted the findings of the LFFP.

6. Is it possible for facilities not included in the LFFP to get Football Foundation funding?

The Football Foundation offers a range of grants from £600 towards new goalposts, or tens of thousands of pounds towards a pavilion refurbishment – right up to hundreds of thousands of pounds for a new 3G pitch. Any organisation can still apply for these smaller grants towards goalposts or refurbishing changing rooms.

Going forward 90% of the Foundation's funding will be directed through LFFP priority projects. However, we would consider facility projects for funding if they're not captured on the LFFP, but they would need to demonstrate a strong strategic need within the local area and would need to deliver strong football and social outcomes, financial sustainability as well as demonstrating value for money.

7. How much partnership funding is expected from applicants, and how are amounts agreed?

That will depend on the size and nature of the project, plus the outcomes that can be secured through investing in it. Wherever we invest, we match our money with funding from applicants and partner organisations.

8. How will LFFPs be delivered?

Through the Football Foundation, the Premier League, The FA and government have committed funds to support delivery of the plans. Now we want to work with local authorities, schools, colleges and community organisations whose facilities have been identified as priority projects to turn them into reality.

When each project is in a position to proceed, the Football Foundation will determine a suitable time-frame to submit a grant application and pre-application support will be provided by Oxfordshire FA and the Football Foundation.

9. How much funding does FF have to invest?

Together, the Premier League, The FA and Government has developed a National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) to guide us over the long term in investing a further £1 billion to create better pitches and unlock the power of football to help transform more lives.

In addition to our collective funding, it's estimated the cost of building all the facilities needed by communities across England will require an additional £2 billion. To help unlock this investment, we need to work with local authorities and partners.

10. Why is there a £2 billion shortfall / Where is the money to pay for these LFFPs going to come from?

In addition to our collective funding, it's estimated the cost of building all the facilities needed by communities across England will require an additional £2 billion. To help unlock this investment, we need to work with partners, such as local authorities.

11. It will presumably take many years to fund these facilities. How will they be prioritised?

Yes, the scale of developing all of the facilities outlined in all 318 LFFPs across the country means this will take many years. We anticipate in excess of ten years. As the Foundation has a finite amount of funding to invest per year, we will look to prioritise the facilities we fund in terms of outcomes that would be achieved, value-for-money, viability of project (e.g. planning permission achieved) and other factors.

However, this is very much a long-term plan and we are determined to get to every facility and turn these Plans into reality.

12. If a potential scheme is multi-sport, how do we co-ordinate applications to the FF and Sport England? Does applying to FF preclude applications to SE for the same site?

The project brief and outcomes will dictate whether or not it is possible to apply to both the Football Foundation and Sport England at the same time and for the same site. Like the Football Foundation, Sport England have a number of funding streams and so applicants should discuss this in more detail with Oxfordshire FA.

We recognise that an applicant will often apply for funding from multiple sources, all of whom may have different application and decision-making timescales. With the support of Oxfordshire FA alongside our FF Engagement Manager and Technical Project Manager, we will agree a project timeline that enables applicants to submit any other funding applications in time to secure their partnership funding.

13. How long would you estimate it would take for a single development, once identified as appropriate, to go through application phase and to build completion?

The time it takes from inception through to project delivery varies dependent upon the project brief. Some projects can be delivered in a matter of weeks, others take months and, in some cases, years. Through the support of the FF's Engagement Manager, Technical Project Manager and Oxfordshire FA, applicants receive guidance and support to ensure their project is completed within realistic timescales to ensure the project is deliverable.

14. Are Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland included in the LFFPs?

No, the LFFPs cover local authority regions across England only, as that's where the FF operates. The Welsh Assembly and Welsh FA are worth contacting to see if they have plans to replicate the LFFP process.

LOCAL AUTHORITY-SPECIFIC FAQs

15. Are all local authorities required to have Local Football Facility Plans? At which tier of local government (e.g. County Council or District Council?) do these plans apply?

LFFPs have been done at the District/City Council level, and we have created an LFFP in partnership with all of them to create 4 Plans covering the whole of the Oxfordshire FA area. We have also worked closely with Berks & Bucks FA to produce a plan for the Vale of White Horse.

16. Does the LFFP or any other scheme bring any legal requirement on Local Authorities to provide facilities?

The LFFPs do not bring any legal requirement to provide facilities. But they provide a blueprint for what facilities local authorities and their local stakeholders have identified is needed to cater for our national game in their area.

So there is increasing momentum and enthusiasm that we're experiencing from LAs and others towards delivering them.

17. How can LAs find funding when budgets are under such pressure / Why should LAs commit funds to football facilities at this challenging time?

We understand the pressure local authorities are under right now in making difficult financial decisions about how to tackle COVID-19 and still deliver their longer-term strategies. Investing in community football facilities can help by delivering valuable health, social and economic outcomes.

Many local authorities are looking to integrate physical activity into more proactive public health policies. Local health and wellbeing strategies across England consistently highlight physical inactivity as a major challenge. Investing in local football facilities and increasing participation is an effective way to tackle this.

LA's can often contribute this partnership funding towards LFFP projects through capital funds, loans or Section 106 monies. The FF has also produced a 'Finding the Funds' toolkit which offers further guidance to local authorities and any type of applicant, which we can provide if requested.

18. We're currently refreshing our Playing Pitch Strategy. 1) Will we be able to implement the LFFP whilst our PPS is currently being refreshed? And 2) would it be good practice to align any new PPS with the LFFP?

We would encourage local authorities to align their PPS and LFFP wherever possible. We recognise that not every LA has a PPS or can currently find the funds to refresh their PPS. Depending on the type of project, the absence of a PPS won't prohibit a local authority from implementing their LFFP but for larger projects whereby planning is required and there is a potential loss of playing field, the absence of a PPS may be prohibitive.

Oxfordshire FA work collaboratively with the FF, other NGBs and Sport England's Planning Team to develop and deliver PPS's and so can offer support to local authorities.

19. What is the lifespan of an LFFP? Playing Pitch Strategies have a lifecycle. Is this the same with the LFFP, these two documents need to be linked and reviewed together, is this right?

The LFFP is a ten-year plan for your local authority. We recognise however that your plans may change. New and better projects may emerge over time, other projects will be successfully delivered and there may be a small number that stakeholders decide are no longer a priority.

The FA, Football Foundation and Oxfordshire FA are committed to ensuring the LFFPs are kept current and so plans will be updated regularly to ensure they represent the current needs of their communities.

20. How do the LFFPs interact with the Playing Pitch Strategy and planning policy? E.g. where there's a proposed reduction in open space to enable such investment that will deliver significant benefits but Sport England's default policy would be to object based on loss of playing pitches. How do we overcome this if a model can demonstrate a positive growth in participation?

Whilst the LFFPs identify priority projects in each local authority, it is the Playing Pitch Strategy that provides the robust evidence base across all

sports. The LFFP and Playing Pitch Strategy will complement one another in a football sense, however the Playing Pitch Strategy should remain the policy document to support any planning applications associated with priority projects.

The Football Foundation Engagement Managers work closely with Sport England's Planning Team and so can support in any specific planning related queries and where necessary, facilitate discussions with the Sport England Planning Team.

21. Can you package up a number of LFFP proposed development works together?

We welcome organisations (this will be primarily LAs) taking a strategic look at the sites outlined in their LFFP, and considering how they may be brought forward through the FF application process. Some councils have already done this and it is an efficient approach.

However, we would reiterate, there is a finite amount of investment the FF has each year, so

how many facilities the FF can commit to supporting will be directed by funding available at the time and numerous factors, such as a scheme's projected football and social outcomes and value-for-money.

This is also obviously dictated by the LA's ability to deliver a portfolio of projects which can be influenced by funding and resources to do this.

22. The LFFP projects seem to be fixed asset facilities that require structured or priced access, which could widen inequalities. What is the appetite post-covid for flex in the programme to support improvements to informal grass areas?

The Foundation exists to open up access to our national game as possible. So investment needs to be directed into developing proper football pitches so that people have places to play. However, there are certainly many instances where we've helped a LA or club develop pitches located on informal grass areas.

CONTACT US

23. Who can we speak with about questions or getting involved in our LFFP?

People should get in-touch with Oxfordshire FA in the first instance by contacting Andy Earnshaw, Business & Facility Development Manager –

Andrew.Earnshaw@OxfordshireFA.com