



City of York Playing Pitch Strategy 2014

Just
30



Contents

Section 1: Introduction	3
The Need for the Study	3
Key issues to be addressed	4
Section 2: Methodology	5
Demographic Analysis, Identifying Local Need.....	5
Auditing Local Provision	7
Strategic Framework.....	8
Section 3: Strategic Context.....	9
Local Demographics.....	9
Sports Participation Rates.....	11
Market Segmentation.....	12
Literature Review	15
Section 4: Audit	19
Pitch Supply	19
Demand for pitches.....	21
Pitch Quality	22
Pitch Use	24
Facility Development Plans.....	25
Section 5: Analysis	26
Football.....	26
Cricket.....	29
Rugby League.....	30
Rugby Union.....	32
Hockey	33
Bowls.....	33
Netball	34
Tennis.....	35
Green Infrastructure Analysis.....	36
Section 6: Conclusions & Recommendations.....	44
Summary of the key issues.....	44
General	44
Football.....	45
Cricket, Rugby League, Rugby Union	46
Hockey, Bowls, Netball, Tennis.....	47
Section 7: Outdoor Sports Facilities	
Action Plan for York	48

Section 1: Introduction

This document has been produced and published by Active York. The majority of the field surveys and stakeholder consultation has been carried out by the City of York Council (CYC) on behalf of Active York. This strategy forms an integral part of the Active York Sport and Active Leisure Strategy. This document is designed to be read in conjunction with Active York's Built Sports Facilities Strategy as many of the facility issues are shared.

This document is designed to sit with the Council's Local Plan to guide planning decisions and considers provision of the following facilities.

- Mini, 9v9, junior and senior football pitches
- Junior and senior rugby union pitches
- Junior and senior rugby league pitches
- Cricket pitches
- Other outdoor playing facilities bowls, tennis and artificial grass pitches

Reference is made to the provision of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) for matches and training. The detailed analysis of supply and demand for these facilities, particularly for hockey activities is addressed more fully in the city's Built Sports Facilities Strategy. The range of facilities covered has been determined following consultation with the Active York board, local partners, sports national governing bodies and community representatives.

The Need for the Study

Active York's Vision is: "To ensure the sustainability of the sport and active leisure infrastructure in the city, including high quality facilities and strong clubs". To do this it is essential that there is a shared ownership and understanding of the current level and quality of outdoor facility provision and the future needs and ambitions for facilities. This strategy has been developed to draw all of the city's pitch issues together, and to set out the work needed to ensure the city continues to have high quality sustainable sites.

A playing pitch strategy for York will provide many benefits including:

- Demonstrating a commitment to meeting local need. The assessment methodology has included considerable consultation with local sports clubs schools and stakeholders.
- Providing a strategic approach to playing pitch provision with a clear direction and set of priorities for pitch development and associated sports.
- Helping to deliver government policies for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement and healthy living.
- Highlighting the value of leisure related services during times of increasing financial restriction and scrutiny of non statutory public services.

- Providing robust evidence to support funding applications to agencies including Football Foundation, Sport England and local funding bodies.
- Providing planning related guidance e.g. pitch requirements arising from new housing developments, identification of sites for protection from unwanted development, and change of use from/to recreation provision. It is one of the best tools for the protection of pitches threatened by development.
- Link closely with work being undertaken on open spaces to provide a holistic approach to open space improvement and protection.
- Improving the city's asset management by providing detailed audit information and facility user's views.
- It is designed to be used as a supporting document for the city's Local Plan and as an aid to facility development.
- Responding to the "National Planning Policy Framework" (NPPF, 2012) requirement for local planning policies to be based on robust and up-to-date assessments for the needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.

This report presents the key findings of on going sports development work, site audits, statistical analysis and community consultation.

Highlighting both areas of concern and opportunities and presents an action plan for the delivery and retention of high quality sport and recreation facilities across the city.

The action plan identifies the key pitch and facility projects to be addressed over the coming 5 years, however the document is designed to be a living plan which responds to changes in demographics, funding and planning policy.

Key issues to be addressed

This document will address the current and projected supply and demand for playing pitches within the City of York Council boundary. It will identify areas of under and over provision of pitches, future needs and issues affecting pitch quality. This strategy also makes a series of recommendations on how to address the issues and concerns raised by the analysis.

Analysis of the data gathered for this document highlights a number of key issues which need to be addressed to maintain and enhance the quality and quantity of sports pitches and ancillary facilities in the city. A 5 year action plan is contained in Section 7 which sets out each of the key projects, the lead organisation for delivering these projects and the main indicators of the projects' success.

Section 2: Methodology

The project has been overseen by a steering group of stakeholders including, representatives of the Active York board, CYC Sport & Active Leisure officers, in consultation with CYC Parks and Open Spaces officers, local league officials and facility providers. The steering group met regularly throughout the development of the document. The group oversaw the process of gathering information, lead all decision making, prioritisation of actions and recommendations for the future. The document reflects the decisions of the steering group which were informed by the views of the main Active York board, Sports NGBs, community clubs, schools and facility owners.

We have gathered data from site visits and pitch audits, club, school and national governing body consultation, the city's sports stakeholders including CYC, and NYS, to ensure a detailed and robust evidence base. The strategy is designed as a rounded and realistic document which is intended to support Active York's strategic aims.

Due to the relatively confined boundaries of the York Authority area analysis has been carried out on a city wide basis. Some specific actions and priorities have been identified for geographic areas of the city or individual communities. All pitches and teams located/based within the city boundary have been included in the analysis. However it has to be recognised that some clubs and teams play in leagues outside the city boundary and therefore some of the grounds in the city are providing for

imported users. This is particularly true for Hockey and Bowls which have leagues covering the region.

The study has been carried out following the methodology set out in Sport England's "Towards a level playing field: A Guide to the production of playing pitch strategies" published by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) in 2002.

Demographic Analysis

In order to understand how the population profile of the city affects current, and future demand for sports facilities in the city we have carried out demographic and socio-economic analysis. The highlights of this research are discussed in more detail in Section 3. Future demand has been calculated using the 2010 population projections for 2030. This corresponds with the period covered by the city's local plan. The document is designed to be updated regularly to reflect population changes during the local plan period.

Identifying Local Need

In order to be able to effectively review and plan local provision it is clear that we need to know and understand the city's provision and the local need. This has been done in a number of ways, as set out below;

Strategic Review

We have undertaken a research exercise in order to review relevant background policy documents that provide an indication of local needs and the context for this strategy. The key findings from this work are set out in Section 3 of this report.

Community Consultation

During summer 2013 this document was subject to broad community and statutory planning consultation, as part of the local plan consultation period. The views gathered through this process are reflected in this document.

Club and School Surveys

A club questionnaire was posted and emailed to approximately 80 clubs and 60 schools who use the city's built facilities (including public leisure facilities, school sites, private sector facilities and community club sites). Copies of the questionnaires are attached at Appendices A and B. The questionnaire has identified the sports clubs views on both quality and quantity of provision and any site issues.

A broad range of views were gathered from all of the sports involved and across the city. Many of the clubs who responded to the questionnaire were interested in developing their own facility improvement projects. Responses were received from 21 clubs, giving a response rate of approximately 25%. Many of the clubs play at more than 1 site and commented on the

strengths and weaknesses of each in addition to grounds that they compete at. This has provided consultation information on half of the community club sites in the city. These consultation responses are reflected throughout this document.

Responses were received from 23 schools many of whom responded that they were satisfied with the facilities that they have available at their school and did not feel that they needed to have any further involvement with the development of this strategy. Schools also gave feedback on the level of interest in increasing the level of community use on school sites. The majority of the school responses were from primary schools which have limited community use. All secondary school sites have community use of pitches and indoor facilities.

In addition as part of a club support event we held an open club drop in session for clubs to share their views on the supply and demand, quality and cost of facilities in the city.

National Governing Body Consultation
The National Governing Bodies (NGBs) responsible for the range of pitch sports covered by this document were contacted to ask for their views on the quality and quantity of provision in the city and their plans for facility development in the area.

Responses varied depending on the level of engagement that the governing body has within the city. Those clubs who have major facility issues and who are developing facility improvement projects have been supported in these ambitions by their governing bodies. The Football Association (FA), The Rugby Football League and the Bowls Alliance were all keen to ensure that the needs of their sports are represented in this strategy. Comments directly from NGBs and the relationship between the York position and NGBs facility plans are reflected later in this document under the relevant sport section.

Active York Partnership

Active York is the city's strategic sport and active leisure partnership. Its board comprises of representatives of the health sector, further and higher education, community clubs, the voluntary sector and the city's professional sports clubs. This document is part of a suite of documents that form the delivery plan for Active York's strategic aims. Members of the executive board have been involved in the steering group. An Active York city workshop was used to gauge club's facility issues. The final document and action plan will be owned and driven by Active York.

Auditing Local Provision

A comprehensive audit has been carried out to identify all relevant pitches and ancillary facilities across the city. This process followed the methodology set out in Sport England's "Towards a level playing field. A guide to the production of playing pitch strategies" published by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation in 2002.

This included undertaking a review of all recreational sites with Council officers from planning and the parks and open spaces team to ensure that there was consistency of site classification based on primary usage. All sites that included a formal sports pitch or outdoor court were included in the playing pitch audit. This includes sites provided by the council, parish councils, schools, colleges, universities, voluntary sector clubs and private organisations. The list of sports sites was then confirmed and updated through consultation with local NGB officers and colleagues. The list of formal sports sites included all sites with formal pitches regardless of ownership or type of user. A list of all of the playing pitch sites and the number and types of pitches is included in Appendix A.

A similar review of facility numbers was carried out for tennis courts, bowling greens and synthetic turf pitches. The provision of synthetic turf pitches is addressed briefly in this document but is analysed in more detail in Active York's Built Sports Facilities Strategy.

Casual and amenity open space with single goals, non standard pitches, or informal sports facilities have not been included in this study but are recognised as having extensive recreational value. The supply, demand and quality of these facilities is addressed in City of York Council's 2013 emerging open spaces review.

Quantity

Each of the sites was then visited by representatives of the steering group. The number, type, size, and quality of each pitch, was recorded on a pitch inspection sheet. A sample of this sheet is included at Appendix B. Many pitch sites have more than 1 pitch and have a mix of pitch types. Quality audits were also carried out on all changing facilities which serve those playing pitches.

Supply and Demand Analysis

In addition to the supply data gathered we have calculated the current and future demand for each type of pitch. This information was gathered through consultation with NGBs, local leagues, community clubs and CYC officers.

The Sport England playing pitch module (PPM) was used to assess the relationship between supply and demand for pitches and to identify areas of under or over provision.

Population projections were also applied to the PPM which created figures for future pitch demand. This too was compared to the supply of pitches and used to identify sports which are likely to have an under or over supply of pitches by 2030.

The PPM model is a statistic analysis, which makes assumptions based on national participation rates, standard pitch wear and accessibility of pitches. For more information about the PPM please refer to: www.sportengland.org.uk. Local information has then been used to add context and detail to the outputs of the PPM.

Quality

All pitches were inspected during the playing season, with inspections carried out either in November/December 2012 or in May/June 2013. The pitch quality including evenness of playing surfaces, grass cover and presence of litter were recorded at each site. Through analysis of the site visit data, desk research and consultation, we have assessed the quality of existing facilities and have identified where quality needs to be improved. Actions to address these quality issues are identified in the recommendations in Section 6 and the action plan at Section 7 of this document.

Strategic Framework

This strategy is based on the research, analysis and consultation findings and sets out the key issues, surpluses and shortfalls, future priorities and opportunities for new or improved outdoor sports provision.

This strategy takes a city wide approach and demonstrates a shared partnership response to the production of the document and to the delivery of the action plan.

Section 3: Strategic Context

The strategic context builds a picture of York in terms of population, demographic profile, local and regional context and how playing pitches and outdoor courts fit within achieving local aims and objectives.

Local Demographics

The area covered by this strategy is the City of York Local Authority Boundary,

which covers an area of approximately 300km². The area is primarily urban with suburban communities. However there are small rural populations for whom access to leisure opportunities can be difficult without access to a car. Demographic analysis of the York area highlights the following issues which will affect participation in sport and the demand for access to sports facilities.

Indicator	City of York	Relevance to sports facility provision
(All data taken from 2011 Census)		
Total population – taken from 2011 census data.	198,051. This is an increase of 9.4% since 2001. This is a faster growth than regionally or nationally. Population projections indicate an anticipated growth to 221,700 by 2030	Appropriate provision will be needed to address the demand generated by the continuing population increase.
Ethnic origin	The BME population has now increased to 9.8%. Many of these residents are overseas students, but there has also been an increase in the BME resident population. 1.2% of this population are of Chinese origin.	Pitch providers must be aware of the shifting population and ensure that they are able to cater for the needs of BME users.
Population aged 20-24yrs.	10% of York’s population is aged 20-24. This is significantly higher than the regional or national figure. In response York also has a high proportion of residents living in shared housing, mainly student accommodation.	The pitch provision must reflect the needs of this sector of the population. The city must work with the higher education sector, to address the needs of students both within the educational establishments and across the city.

Indicator	City of York	Relevance to sports facility provision
Population aged 85 and over	The number of residents aged 85 and over has increased by 30% since 2001	This does not directly affect pitch providers as this sector of the population is unlikely to play pitch sports. However the shifting health priorities towards supporting this sector of the population will have an impact on the amount of money available to support pitch sports. There is also likely to be an increased pressure on the use of land, as older people move into the city from more rural areas in order to be closer to services.
Disability	6.6% of the population reported that they have a lot of limitation in day to day activity. This is much lower than regional or national figures but it is still 13,018 people. 23% of households reported that they had at least 1 person with a long term health problem or disability.	Facility providers must consider how to address the needs of this population and their carers. This must include the range of activities the accessibility and location of facilities and the cost and support services offered to those accessing activities.
Car ownership	A high proportion of households only have 1 car or van available 46.7% ranking York highest regionally and 10th nationally. This reflects the high rate of walking, cycling and public transport use in the city.	This has implications for the planning of facilities and sports provision. Pitches may need to be focussed around public transport routes and close to other community facilities to be able to attract a broad range of users.
Employment	There are a lower proportion of households where no one is in employment, with dependant children in York 2.4% than regionally 4.4% and nationally 4.2%. This figure has fallen since 2001.	Facility providers must consider how to cater for lower income households. This relates to both timing and cost of activities.

There are a number of large scale housing developments planned for York over the next 2-5 years. These will affect the population of the city and more specifically the population profile of their local areas. Council officers are working with developers to ensure that the need for community sports provision and open space is addressed within these projects. These sites include Derwentthorpe, Germany Beck, the former British Sugar site and the former Terry's factory site. Additional strategic housing sites are identified in the city's local plan. It is essential that the recreational needs of the residents of these developments are addressed as part of the spatial planning of these sites. Major localised population growth will also have an impact on existing facilities. E.g. an extension to the Clifton Moor area of the city, to the North of the ring road is likely to have an impact on demand for places at Rawcliffe Juniors and Poppleton Juniors football clubs which are both already operating at capacity.

York's population projections for the next 17 years anticipate a significant growth in the population aged 70 and over. This will have a significant impact on the economy, health and leisure service providers and infrastructure in the city.

Sports Participation Rates

The Active People survey conducted annually since 2005/6 by Ipsos MORI on behalf of Sport England, is the largest ever survey of sport and active recreation to be undertaken in Europe. It is a telephone survey of adults in England (aged 16 plus) and is unique in providing reliable statistics on participation in sport and active recreation for all 354 local authorities in England at a local level.

The data identifies how participation varies from place to place at a local authority level and between different groups in the population. The key findings for York are detailed below.

Indicator	York	Implications
Participation in sport & active recreation at least 3 times per week at moderate intensity for at least 30 minutes	2005/6 24.9% of adult population. This figure has fluctuated in recent years. The latest Active People results for 2011/13 for York is 27.1%	This is significantly higher than the regional figure of 23.3%. Indicating a slightly higher demand for facilities.
Proportion of the adult population doing zero sessions of moderate intensity sport & active recreation per week.	43.6% of the adult population.	Nationally this figure has remained above 47% since 2005.

Indicator	York	Implications
At least 1 hour a week volunteering to support sport.	9% This compares to a national figure of approximately 7%.	This reflects York's strong community sporting infrastructure, but also the reliance there is on a volunteer workforce to run sport activity and facilities in the city.
At least 1 session of Sport or active recreation per week.	York 39.6% of adults. National figure 36%. Yorkshire & Humber figure 36.3%.	This highlights the slightly higher participation rates in York.
Participation in 3 sports sessions per week for those with a limiting disability	9.3% This is consistent with the national figure.	Facility planners and providers must consider how they can provide facilities that best meet the needs of this community.
Participation in 3 sports sessions per week for those aged 55+	16.8% This is significantly higher than the national figure	Outdoor facility planners must consider how the mix of facilities available can best meet the needs of this sector of the community.
Participation in 3 sports sessions per week for those in socio economic groups 5,6,7&8	17.6% This is significantly higher than the national figure.	Facility planners and providers should consider how to narrow this participation gap when planning new facilities and sports programmes.

This headline information above shows that York has a higher than average participation rate in sport in the general population and for those aged 55+. However there are clearly some areas where the participation gap must be addressed. Particularly for those with a long term limiting disability, those in lower socio-economic groups and, despite the higher than average participation rate for this group in York, those aged 55+. Even if we assume no increase in sports participation the increase in population between 2011 figures and 2030 estimates would give an increase

of 7,547 in the active population which would mean an additional 4,257 people taking part in sport in the city at least once per week. The facilities will need to be provided to cater for the needs of these future participants.

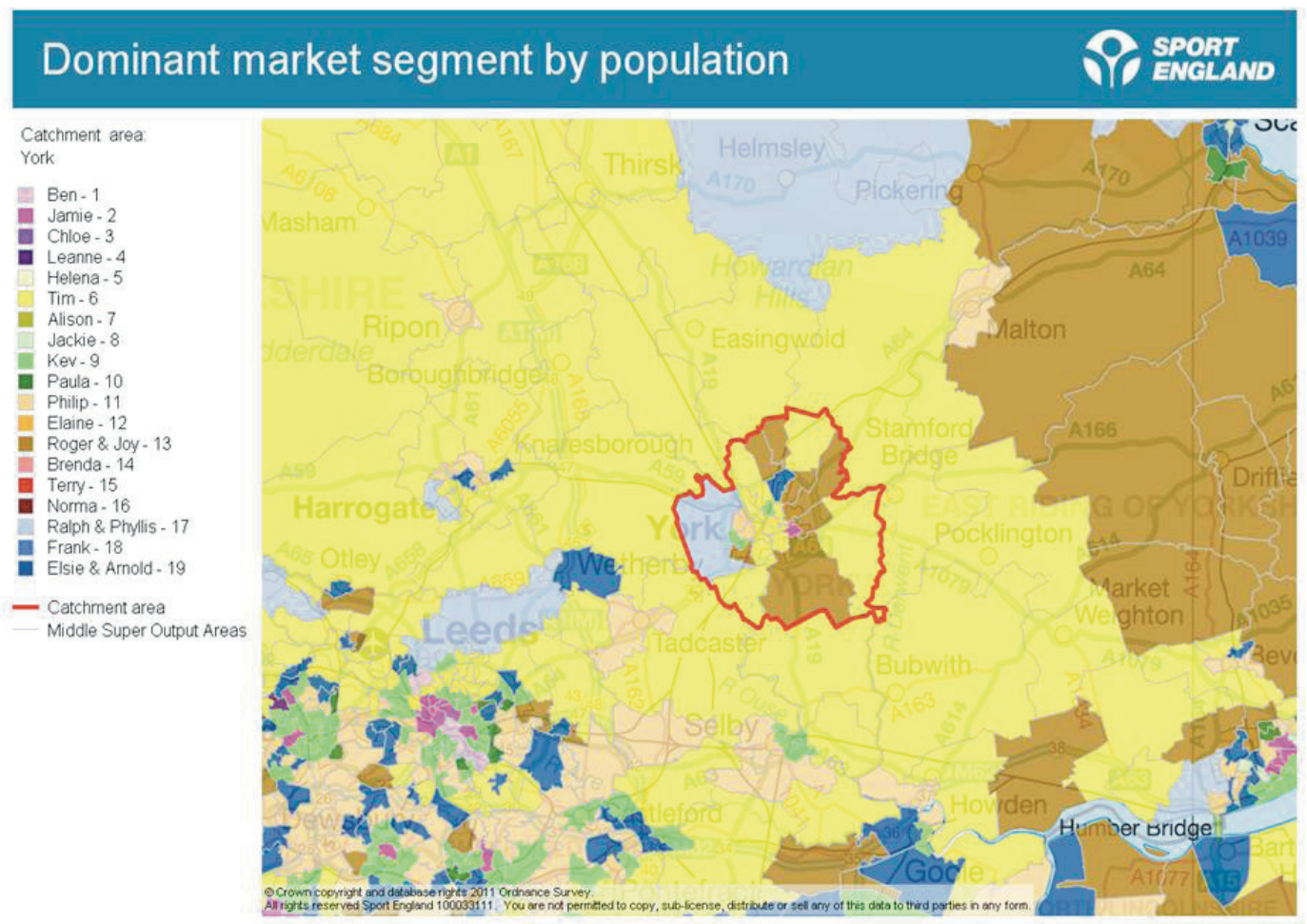
Market Segmentation

Sport England has developed nineteen sporting segments to help us understand the nation's attitudes and motivations – why they play sport and why they don't. This is particularly

important to understand in order to ensure that the facilities in York cater for the needs and expectations of local residents. The research builds on the results of Sport England's Active People Survey, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's Taking Part survey and the Mosaic tool from Experian. It informs Sport England's Strategy and Business Plan and helps ensure that money is invested into areas that will have the greatest impact.

Residents are classified according to their key characteristics and analysis of the dominant market segments provides an indication as to the type of facilities that may be required if certain groups are to become more active.

The market segmentation map below shows that 'Roger and Joy' is the most dominant market segment in York. This group are less likely than others to participate in team based pitch sports but are more likely to use recreational open space for walking, cycling and may be members of a golf club.



The key characteristics of some of the dominant population groups in York are illustrated in the Table below.

Name	Age	Characteristics
Roger and Joy (segment 13)	56-65 Early retirement	<p>Roger and Joy are slightly less active than the average adult population but are the most active of the over 55s.</p> <p>Those who do participate, are most likely to, swim, cycle, play golf or do some form of keep fit. A higher proportion than others in this age group are members of a club (often a golf club or a fitness gym).</p> <p>The main motivation for participation is enjoyment and keeping fit.</p> <p>The main barrier to increased activity is Health/injury or disability.</p>
Tim (segment 6)	26-35	<p>A very active type enjoying high intensity activities.</p> <p>Enjoys technical sports such as skiing and water sports as well as team games and individual activities.</p> <p>Motivators to participate include to, improve performance, keep fit and make friends.</p> <p>Busy lives are a barrier to participating more.</p>
Kev (segment 9)	36-45	<p>Average participation in sport.</p> <p>Top sports for this group include keep fit/gym Football, cycling and swimming.</p> <p>The main reasons for participation are just because they enjoy it and keeping fit.</p> <p>The main barrier to increasing participation is work commitments.</p>
Elsie & Arnold (segment 19)	66+	<p>Lowest participation group, with health problems and disability being major inhibitors to activity.</p> <p>Those who do participate tend towards low intensity activities such as walking, bowls or dancing (traditional ballroom)</p> <p>Safe environments would encourage this group to walk more often</p> <p>Organised low impact and low intensity events would be welcomed.</p>

Literature Review

We have identified and reviewed a wide range of policies, strategies, key actions and activities, from a range of cross cutting services and organisations at a local, county, regional and national

level that will have an influence on sports and physical activity provision in York – a summary of the key documents reviewed is set out below.

Document reviewed	Key points	Links to sports facilities strategy
Sport England's Strategy 2011/12 to 2014/15	<p>Elements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People, places, play programme that directs funding into increasing participation and supporting the facilities infrastructure to encourage and support this increase. Including the protecting playing fields programme. • Ensuring that NGBs are funded appropriately until 2017 to deliver on key objectives and the NGBs are delivering the priorities for the future of their sports. • Improving market intelligence and business effectiveness. 	<p>There is opportunity for existing and future facilities to engage in these programmes to generate support (financial and in kind) from Sport England and partner organisations.</p> <p>This opens up greater opportunities to work with NGBs to help them deliver their priorities in York.</p> <p>Facility providers will need to fully understand their current and potential markets, to understand their users and the reasons for non usage. They will also need to carry out effective business planning.</p>
Healthy Lives, Brighter futures (2009)	<p>Labour government policy on improving the health of children and young people. This document recognises the health improvements that have taken place but highlights the need to continue this improvement. Public sector settings provide healthy environments and encourage children to make healthy choices. It also stresses the need to make information available for parents and children.</p>	<p>This policy outlines the need for facility providers to cater for families and children, to offer opportunities for children and young people to make their own choices, try new activities and develop long term patterns of participation. Junior sports clubs are ideally placed to offer these opportunities.</p>

Document reviewed	Key points	Links to sports facilities strategy
National NHS Change for Life Campaign.	This campaign is designed to target families to improve their eating habits and increase their levels of physical activity. Families are encouraged to register with the campaign and receive guidance and suggestions for activity.	Facility providers can register with the campaign so that they come up on local facility searches. They will have to consider how they can cater for family activities and how they can help promote healthy choices.
North Yorkshire Sport. Business Plan 2012-2015.	One of the key priorities in this document is to "Build a strong sustainable, adequately resourced sporting infrastructure across North Yorkshire". The document also sets out how NYS will work with sports governing bodies to help them deliver their priorities across the county.	York's facility providers can work with sports governing bodies and North Yorkshire Sport to address the county's demand for facilities.
City of York Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012	This document sets out the health needs and inequalities in the city. It sets out the need to particularly focus on the health needs of the ageing population and to tackle health problems and obesity in children and young people. It also makes a series of recommendations. The most relevant in this context being "We recommend that there is continued support for initiatives aimed at increasing levels of physical activity across the whole population and that priority is given to vulnerable groups and those who are least active.	This document will direct the health spending in the city. Facility planners and providers have the opportunity to work with the city's clinical commissioning group and Health and Well Being board to address some of the city's health inequalities. This can be done through the provision of specialist services for certain communities.

Document reviewed	Key points	Links to sports facilities strategy
Active York Strategy	This document sets out the partnership's vision "For York to be a city that offers the widest range of sport and active leisure opportunities for more people, to be more active, more often". It has 5 key aims to help achieve this broader vision including: To ensure the sustainability of the sport and active leisure infrastructure in the city, including high quality facilities and strong clubs.	The Active York strategy is the parent document for this sports facilities strategy. Active York's strategy and the partnership its self will be the key delivery route for the actions within this document. They will offer support for funding applications, advice on sports development, partnership working on delivery projects and guidance with the facility planning and design processes.
City of York Children and Young People's plan. "Dream Again" 2013-2016	This document sets out the city's key findings and actions on how to ensure that York is a good place for children to grow up. The document covers the quality of parks, play areas, sport and things to do. It supports the recommendation that all children and young people do at least 60 minutes physical activity per day.	There is an opportunity for facility providers and planners to deliver some of the objectives within the Children & Young People's Plan, to provide opportunities for young people to be more active and to engage young people in the planning and design of projects.
City of York Football Facilities development plan 2010-2015	This document has been written by a steering group of local football league officials, CYC officers, the local FA and educational establishments. It sets out the issues being faced by football clubs and teams and the plans for facility improvements. Many of the projects in the original action plan have been completed.	The analysis in this document has been included in this pitch strategy and the outstanding actions from the football facilities development plan, where appropriate have been included in the action plan at Section 7. Football facility providers have the opportunity to engage with the Football facilities steering group and have their projects reflected in their priorities. Their list of priorities then form the work plan for the City's football facilities project officer.

Document reviewed	Key points	Links to sports facilities strategy
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	The National Planning Policy Framework sets out government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The document states that the planning system ought to . . .be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives. It also ought to. . . take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well being for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.	There are opportunities for creative development of community sports facilities to address the needs set out in this strategy.

Now that we understand the context in which sports pitches and outdoor facilities are being provided, it is important to understand ‘where we are now’ in terms of the sports’ facility infrastructure. The following sections set out the adequacy of existing Sports’ pitches across the city, some of the opportunities that are available to address the issues identified and implications for the planning process.

Section 4: Audit

Pitch Supply

The table to the right shows the number of each type of playing pitch that has been included in the PPM analysis and the number of a range of other outdoor sports facilities in the city.

The figures above represent the number of each type of dedicated facility. In many cases mini football pitches are being marked out across full sized pitches with cones, or different coloured line markings. The lack of 9v9 pitches became relevant during the 2013/14 playing season when Under 11s started to play 9-a-side matches, pitches had to be marked out with cones and temporary markings.

A review of ownership of the grass pitches that have been identified has shown that 43% of the pitches are on school sites, 32% on sites that are owned by (or subject to a long term lease to) a community sports club, 13% are on Further or Higher Education sites, 10% are owned and operated by the Council with the remaining 2% on private sites. There is community access to all secondary school sites in the city. On some sites, e.g. Burnholme Community College, Manor CoE School and Joseph Rowntree School this is through a formal community use agreement, secured as part of planning permission. On other sites community access is informal but seen as an important element of the school's community programme e.g. Archbishop Holgate's school. On primary school sites there are community use agreements in place for

Pitch Type	Number in the city
Dedicated Mini Football pitches	55
9v9 Football pitches	No existing dedicated pitches. 2 being developed on the Knavesmire and others planned for Haxby Rd
Junior Football pitches	44
Senior Football pitches	107
Junior Rugby League pitches	9
Senior Rugby League pitches	22
Junior Rugby Union pitches	1
Senior Rugby Union pitches	20
Cricket pitches	45
Tennis Courts	98 some on MUGA surfaces shared with other sports.
Bowling greens	19
Synthetic Turf pitches	9 (on 9 sites, with a further two pitches under construction on a new site, 2 sites also have 5-a-side pens).
MUGAs	10 (dedicated sports surfaces rather than hard play areas).

access to MUGA facilities at Osbaldwick (Osbaldwick Lane site) Primary and Robert Wilkinson Primary. Some other primary schools offer community access on an informal basis including Wigginton Primary.

Pitch use is seasonal, with many pitches only being marked out when they are being used. The pitch numbers listed above are those that were marked out at the time of site visits and audits in November/December 2012, and May/June 2013, and those additional ones that we have been made aware of through the steering group, colleagues and partners. These figures have also been checked against Sport England's Active Places data base and records held by City of York Council education and planning teams on areas and usage of green spaces.

There are a number of other facilities across the city that have kick about football facilities, with some form of goal posts but not that are not regulation sizes, marked, or with any organised use. These have been excluded from this study, but have been audited as amenity open space in the city's Green Infrastructure study 2014.

There are also a number of hard court facilities, mainly on school sites that have marked netball courts or basketball courts. These have very little or no community access, no floodlighting, and are often unfenced or are of poor quality, these have also been excluded from the analysis here.

No analysis has been carried out of the provision or use of facilities for lacrosse, baseball, softball or rounders. However it is important to note that these sports are played at the universities and that their pitch provision takes these sports into account. Any change in pitch provision on these sites or any initiatives to develop these sports will have an impact on the supply and demand balance of these facilities.

Demand for pitches

Using data from local leagues, community sports clubs, schools, National Governing Bodies and CYC colleagues the following information on the number of teams playing in the city has been calculated.

Demand for pitches

Using data from local leagues, community sports clubs, National Governing Bodies and CYC colleagues the following the information on the number of teams playing in the city has been calculated.

The number of school teams has been estimated based on the PPM methodology recommendation and consultation with schools. Some schools will have additional teams if they play in additional competitions but the figures above are based on best estimates.

The Bowls figures have been given in number of clubs rather than teams as players within each club can play in different leagues and competitions on different days of the week. In mixed sex and single sex competitions and teams with different player numbers.

This table does not take account of the changes in youth football team sizes that is being implemented during the 2013/14 and 2014/15 seasons. The table reflects the number of mini (7v7) teams and juniors (11v11) but from 2013/14 under 11's will play 9v9 matches. From 2014/15 under 12s will also play in 9-a-side matches. Under 11s currently play mini football, 7-a-side and under 12s play junior soccer, 11-a-side. Assuming no change in participation rates this change will also generate an increase in the number of youth teams.

Sports Teams	Number in the city
Mini football teams	223 (this includes the equivalent of 54 teams generated from school use and 56 teams generated from training)
U11 & U12 9-a-side teams	103 (this includes the equivalent of 23 teams generated from school use and 27 teams from training) 10 of these are girls teams 93 are boys.
Junior football teams	229 (this includes the equivalent of 15 teams generated from school use and 71 generated from training) There are 190 boys teams and 39 girls teams.
Senior football teams	151 (this includes 30 teams generated from training). 10 of these are women's teams.
Junior Rugby League teams	40 (this includes the equivalent of 15 teams generated from school use and 8 teams generated from training) plus 7 mini teams. There are no junior girl's teams. Though there are female tag and touch rugby players in the city.

Senior Rugby League teams	16 (this includes 5 teams generated from training). This includes 1 women's team
Junior Rugby Union teams	19 (this includes the equivalent of 6 teams generated from school use and 2 teams generated from training) plus 6 mini teams. There are no girl's teams.
Senior Rugby Union teams	16 (this includes 5 teams generated from training). This includes 1 women's team.
Junior cricket teams	61 (this includes the equivalent of 15 teams generated from school use). There is 1 girl's team.
Senior cricket teams	52. This includes 2 women's teams
Junior Hockey	27 plus school teams. These are a mix of boys and girls teams.
Senior Hockey	22. These are a mix of all ages, men's, women's and mixed teams.
Netball	62 teams in the local divisions plus school teams. These are all female teams. Mixed sex teams play in local primary school competition.
Bowls Clubs	24 playing in a range of leagues and competitions. These clubs all play in a range of men's, women's and mixed competitions.

Pitch Quality

Non-technical visual inspections of the city's pitches by council officers found 76% of pitches to be in good condition with all others rated as average. Grass coverage was good on both summer and winter season pitches. In general pitch drainage was good but it was obvious that many of the pitches are prone to standing water during periods of prolonged rain. Litter and other pitch damage were uncommon on community club pitches.

There were a number of pitches and sites which were marked lower in a number of areas. Many of the council football pitches were only marked as poor for grass length as the inspections were carried out in November and December, which is outside the Council's grass cutting season. Many of the school sites had signs of litter on the pitches. This is mainly due to the pitches mixed use as sports and playground space. In a number of cases the litter had been shredded by grass cutting machinery and spread across the pitches. Pitch quality on school sites varied considerably.

Maintenance on primary school sites is limited to infrequent cutting during the growing season. Many of these sites have no potential to carry increased usage without investment into drainage and maintenance.

Pitch quality on secondary school sites is dependant on the arrangements for maintenance, the resources available and the level of use of the pitches. Pitch quality at Millthorpe school was high. The maintenance on this site is being carried out by Ovington cricket club who have an agreement for use of this

site. Most school pitches showed signs of wear in goal mouths and the ground was compacted in many places. It is clear that additional work would be needed to carry additional community use on these sites.

The provision of and cost of maintaining high quality ancillary facilities is an issue for many clubs and for the City of York Council. There are Council pitches available for hire on sites with no changing facilities, including Hempland Lane, the former Lowfield school site and Leeman Rd. Changing provision on the Knavesmire and Little Knavesmire is of poor quality. Hamilton Panthers and the City of York Council are working together to develop a new club house on the Little Knavesmire. This and other community club house projects are identified in the action plan at Section 7 of this document.

One striking positive from the research is that only 3 sites showed any signs of dog fouling on the pitches. This has followed a period in the city where signs have been erected asking people not to exercise dogs on playing fields and explaining the potential risks presented to young people using the pitches for sport. However a number of clubs (particularly Rufforth football club) reported having to check all pitches prior to matches and training, and having continued problems with regular dog walkers and dog fouling.

The modal response relating to pitch quality from clubs was that they are of average quality. It was perceived that facilities were of higher quality outside the urban area. With pitches in Poppleton and Dunnington being scored particularly highly.

Pitch and ancillary facility quality depends very much on league levels in which teams play. In general first team pitches are of a higher standard than others on multi pitch sites. These can include the provision of dug outs, spectator barriers, fencing and at Clifton Park and Heworth spectator stands and floodlighting (both for rugby). Clifton Park, Dunnington and Heworth all have high quality cricket pitches and ancillary facilities. Each of these sites have had recent, or ongoing investment into high quality club facilities.

The club, NGB and school questionnaires also highlighted the following issues.

- Because of the city's landscape many pitches/ sites have problems with flooding and drainage. Many pitches are located on or near the city's flood plain or in areas considered at risk of flooding. Despite pitch drainage projects being undertaken regularly, grass pitch flooding is still an annual problem for the city's clubs.
- Many sites have no, dated or poor changing facilities. Sites include Skelton Brecksfield, Rawcliffe Juniors pitches on Wigginton Rd and Hamilton Panthers ground on the little Knavesmire and Wigginton Grasshoppers..
- Many junior clubs have no or too few dedicated mini pitches and are playing across full size pitches and are therefore producing uneven patterns of wear.
- The cost of maintaining pitch quality is a concern raised by a number of cricket clubs. They stress that the majority of clubs are reliant on dedicated volunteers to maintain

their wickets and outfield. Those that have to buy these services in are struggling to meet the costs.

- Schools have commented on the fact that grounds maintenance costs are high. Many who offer no community use say that maintaining pitch quality for their pupils use is the primary reason for this.

The table at Appendix A shows pitch quality scores and consultation comments on pitch quality. The action plan contained at Section 7 reflects the plans to address many of these quality issues reflected above.

Pitch Use

Whilst it has not been possible to establish detailed usage levels of every pitch in the city, the consultation process has given us evidence of the variation of usage levels at different sites across the city.

This has shown that there are a number of sites, mainly single pitch sites, which have little recorded use, e.g. Hempland Lane pitch. Reasons given are often that the site has few or poor quality ancillary facilities, the inappropriate location of or access to the site, or that clubs are becoming bigger and often need to find a site for a number of teams to train and play on rather than just one team.

Under utilisation of pitches should not be considered as an opportunity to dispose of sites without first considering the potential value of such sites for pitch rotation, alternative sport and recreation uses, or most importantly the reasons for under use and whether

these can be addressed. It may be that these sites perform a useful open space function which will be considered in the emerging open spaces planning documents, or provide an opportunity for unrecorded or informal use.

By contrast, some sites are very well used, and this has implications for wear and tear and the requirement for the maintenance of sites, as well as for potential investment priorities and facility development, e.g. Fulford, Heslington Outgang and Ethel Ward playing fields in Haxby. This is an issue which needs to be considered in more detail and is reflected in the strategy's recommendations.

Many of the city's pitches are on education sites. There are many good examples of community clubs linking with and accessing these sites. Most of the city's secondary schools have community use agreements which cover the use of the grass pitches, but usage is minimal on some sites. There is very little community use on the grass pitches at Cannon Lee, Huntington, Joseph Rowntree and All Saints schools. There is however extensive use of the Artificial Grass Pitches at both Cannon Lee and Huntington schools. Community clubs make regular use of the grass pitches at Burnholme, Fulford and Archbishop Holgates schools.

Community use of the pitches at York College and Askham Bryan College is extensive. York College works closely with the city's football development programmes and leagues and ladies football programmes. Copmanthorpe football club who have limited pitch provision in the village make extensive use of grass and 3G pitch space at York College. University of York and

York St John University both offer community access to their grass and AGP pitches. The University of York has a usage agreement with Fulford Juniors Football Club and is used regularly by York Schools competition. York St John University are working on their facilities at Haxby Rd and are planning additional community access when this work is completed.

The football pitches in Bishopthorpe Haxby and Dunnington are very heavily used. The junior clubs are expanding and use all of the available community pitches and school pitches in their villages.

Facility Development Plans

The City's emerging local plan sets out a number of proposed sites for major residential developments. The Council's Sport and Active Leisure team have been in discussions with developers for some of these sites and are continuing to request provision for outdoor sport within each of these developments.

The requirement for sports field provision reflects a general need for all sites to meet a local standard of 1.78 hectares of sports field per 1,000 new residents but also takes into account local supply, demand and usage issues. It is important that this provision complements existing provision.

It should be developed in consultation with Active York and our community stakeholders and respond to the shortfalls of provision that are identified in this document. Where possible it is important that new facilities are developed in partnership with their future operators and resident

clubs rather than being delivered in isolation to the management and operational issues faced by clubs. Developments are being proposed in the areas around Haxby and Copmanthorpe, it is essential that the sports provision as part of these sites are created in partnership with the local sports clubs (particularly the football clubs) who have a significant shortage of pitch space.

New facilities are planned as part of the residential development at Germany Beck in Fulford. This will provide an extension to the parish playing field and may provide opportunities to make physical links with and improvements to Fulford School playing fields.

New land has been earmarked for additional playing pitches to the south of Poppleton, adjacent to the existing Poppleton Juniors pitches. Manor school are acquiring a lease on land to the North of their school site to develop additional outdoor educational and recreational space including a grass football pitch. Poppleton Tigers will have a usage agreement for this pitch.

Additional pitches are planned for the old Nestle playing fields on Haxby Rd by York St John University. The site was historically fully used for playing fields but over the last 10 years through declining use and a reduction in the maintenance programme some of the grass pitches have become uneven and prone to flooding. York St John University will be carrying out levelling and drainage work to bring the full area back into use for playing fields.

Section 5: Analysis

The following section contains an analysis of supply and demand for pitches by sports, and the related key findings. The assessment reveals whether the existing pitches with community access are in surplus, deficit or adequate to accommodate the number of teams in the city. It also reflects the findings of the same analysis carried out using population projections for 2030. The full report with all supply and demand analysis is contained at Appendix C.

Football

The study identified a total of 380 football teams or team equivalents (reflecting school sport and training) in the city. The number of teams generated by each club varies with many of the adult clubs being single team clubs while the majority of the junior clubs have teams in all age groups who use their pitches for matches and training.

The pitch analysis identified a total of 206 pitches. With, or with the potential to offer community access if support was available. Slightly over 50% of matches are played on Sunday mornings, the rest are primarily played at other times over the weekend.

	Teams	Pitches
Senior	151	107
Junior	229	44
9- a-side	103	0
Mini	223	55

Surplus/ deficiencies

Mini football

The number of mini pitches available to cater for the current demand is considered to be insufficient for the number of games being played. The PPM, factoring in the days of the week on which matches and training take place and the ratio of home to away games, indicates a deficiency of 93 mini pitches in the city. Many matches are played across full sized pitches and this currently caters for the shortfall in available pitches. This causes additional wear on senior pitches and extensive work for those arranging fixtures, maintaining venues and running matches. Local League and FA information indicates that this is the case across the region. Many junior clubs have no marked mini pitches as they share grounds with senior clubs e.g. Haxby town who play on Ethel Ward playing fields.

The city's mini leagues and clubs often host competitions on 3G AGP facilities (either playing across full size pitches or on individual small sided pens). These are well attended. There is a desire for greater access to these facilities for mini fixtures but most clubs find the cost of these facilities prohibitive.

Junior Football

The PPM, factoring in training and match days and the ratio of home to away matches, indicates a deficit of 11 junior pitches. This is obviously assuming that all pitches with public and community access are available at all times. This is however not always the case as school sites may become over

used and access may be restricted and some pitches may be out of operation for maintenance.

Many junior football clubs are operating at capacity and have catchment areas that cover much of the city. Some clubs such as Woodthorpe Wanderers and Hamilton Panthers have waiting lists for places in some age groups and are encouraging people to go to other clubs. There is clearly a latent demand for additional pitch space in the junior and mini age groups.

As the 9v9 version of the game develops over the next 2 years some of the existing junior and mini pitches may be reconfigured to meet the new dimensions. This will have an impact on the number of mini and junior pitches available.

Many junior clubs train on weekday evenings and given the limited availability of floodlit grass in the city much of this training is either indoors or on floodlit AGPs. The clubs are generally happy with these arrangements but many of them have stated that the cost of training facilities drains resources that they would otherwise prefer to invest in their own club facilities. The recently resurfaced small sided AGP at Hopgrove serves Heworth and Huntington football clubs for training and allows the club to make income from other users. Other clubs in the city would benefit from developing similar facilities.

Senior Football

The number of senior pitches currently exceeds demand by 54 pitches. This surplus of pitches will obviously be significantly smaller as senior pitches

are marked out to accommodate junior and mini matches. This figure assumes that all pitches are available at all times, and that none are being rested or are out of use for maintenance or as a result of excessive wear.

It would be appropriate to consider whether some of these arrangements can be made more permanent, or whether any appropriately located surplus senior pitches could be used to address the need for 9v9 pitches without there being an impact on existing mini and junior pitches.

Football Participation

Since 2009 York has employed a Football Facilities Development Officer jointly funded by the Football Foundation. This officer has worked with community football clubs and helped to deliver projects totalling £1.8M. These projects have included a new pavilion for Poppleton Tigers, changing room improvements for a number of clubs across the city, pitch drainage work on the little Knavesmire, Goal posts for a number of clubs and new pitches on Wigginton Rd and the Knavesmire

Football participation has remained constant in the city, but the patterns of participation have changed in recent years. Senior club participation has seen a decline, but there has been an increase in the small sided game with the development of 5-a-side leagues on a number of sites. Junior participation is increasing, with most junior clubs reporting that they are unable to take any additional new players in the 2013/14 season. This is shifting the demand for pitches and putting additional pressure on community club

volunteers. There are fewer players available to bear the burden of pitch maintenance and marking but more volunteers needed to support, coach and manage junior teams.

Football is still predominantly a male sport but with 39 junior and 10 senior female teams it is important that facilities are designed and developed to attract and cater for female players. This is particularly important to prevent the drop off in participation that is common for girls in teenage years.

The shift in playing patterns has also affected the demand for facilities. There has been an increased demand for artificial grass pitches (AGPs) for small sided matches and for training. The city has 9 full size AGPs and 2 sites with small sided pens. The supply and demand analysis of these facilities is covered in detail in the city's Built Sports Facilities Strategy but it is important to note here that they vary in quality, accessibility and surface type. In recent years there has been significant investment in 3G AGPs, the favoured football surface with 2 full sized pitches and two sites with small sided pens available in the city, and another pitch being developed for the 2014 season. The City is well catered for by the AGPs available, with 99.1% of demand being catered for. It is important to note however that all AGP usage is in the form of commercial hires for community sports clubs and is often considered to be a costly but necessary option for training in order to protect their grass pitches during the playing season, and allow for evening training. Some junior training takes place indoors.

The FA has set out facility plans which

aim to improve the experience for players, these include:

- **Building:** Provide new facilities and pitches in key locations to FA standards in order to sustain existing participation and support new participation. The FA will also seek to provide opportunities for volunteers to build skills in areas of facility development, management and maintenance.
- **Protecting:** Ensure that playing pitches and facilities are protected for the benefit of current and future participants.
- **Enhancing:** Invest in existing facilities and pitches, ensuring that participation in the game is sustained as well as expanded.

There is extensive participation in casual football particularly amongst students and young people. Much of this activity takes place in the city's parks and amenity open space. It is important to ensure that these casual facilities are maintained to a safe, high standard. Where goal posts are provided it is important that these comply with safety legislation.

Active York champion all forms of sport and physical activity, it is important that we continue to ensure that there are opportunities for casual football on public space, while respecting the needs of other users. Some informal use is made of pitches on community club sites for kick about games. In general this is encouraged by community clubs, who are keen to offer opportunities for everyone in their locality. However in some areas this can lead to increased pitch wear in patches. There may be opportunities on some site to

improve the informal football facilities to encourage greater participation without pitch damage.

Future issues

Using the projected York population for 2030 (221,700), the PPM has calculated the number of teams that this population will generate and indicates that the shortage of mini pitches will increase to 125 pitches. It also predicts a shortage of 15 junior pitches. It also indicates that there will be a deficit of 23 senior pitches. The need for local affordable housing development will continue to put pressure on open space and playing fields. Not only will the demand for pitches increase but the demand for the land that these pitches can be created on will also increase.

This supply and demand statistical analysis has not assessed the need for 9v9 pitches for junior football. However it is clear that there will need to be reconfiguration of pitches to accommodate this new pitch size. Development of these pitches, assuming they are on land that is not currently used as football pitches, will help address the shortage of pitches for those currently playing on mini and junior pitches. However the creation of these pitches will put pressure on club funds and on the volunteers who maintain and develop facilities.

Two new 9v9 pitches have been created on the Knavesmire with funding from City of York Council, the FA and Sport England. These will be available for use from September 2014. However there will be a growing need for additional pitch space for football in the city over the coming years for all age groups. The reallocation of senior pitches to mini, 9v9 or junior pitches in the short

term would only serve to increase the shortage of senior pitches in the future. Projects and actions needed to address this issue are identified in the recommendations and action plan for the strategy.

Many village junior clubs are growing and are in need of additional pitch space e.g. Dunnington and Bishopthorpe. There is a need for the clubs and local community to consider redesignating some senior pitches for junior use or creating new pitches on local land.

Cricket

The study has identified a total of 113 cricket teams in the city, including 3 female teams. Many of these are single team clubs, but some have teams at a number of age ranges and playing in a number of leagues throughout the week. There are traditional strong weekend leagues and in recent years the city has developed thriving evening leagues which have helped retain players who are unable to commit to full day weekend fixtures.

The city has 45 pitches that are, or have the potential to be available for community access. Many of the school pitches have few or no ancillary facilities to support senior cricket matches. These pitches are however suitable for junior matches and training.

The PPM indicates a current surplus of 20 cricket pitches, on a Saturday when senior matches are being played. Factoring in the number of pitches that are on school sites and not fully able to accommodate senior matches this

suggests that provision is adequate to meet demand.

During the club consultation process a number of clubs raised concerns over the future of their cricket pitches because of the cost and labour intensity of maintaining their wickets. Some clubs suggested ground share opportunities. Most clubs are reliant on the knowledge, time and skills of dedicated volunteers. Other clubs are paying for commercial grounds maintenance organisations to maintain their pitches at significant cost to the clubs.

New cricket net, training facilities have been developed at Acomb and Osbaldwick over recent years. These have raised standards for training but also allow for casual and adhoc cricket practice and play. A number of other sites have adequate training facilities, however the shortage, or poor quality of training facilities was highlighted by a number of clubs as a concern.

The Yorkshire Cricket Board has set out the following facility priorities:

- Improve the quality of practice facilities non turf and fine turf based.
- Improve the quality of match playing facilities and expand provision where needed.
- Provision of suitable machinery to meet the above priorities.
- Improve the provision of pavilions and changing facilities.
- Provision of new grounds, additional grounds and new clubs where needed.

The YCB priorities reflect the facility

issues being faced by players in the City of York area. Working together York's cricket development forum and the YCB should prioritise projects for facility improvements in the city. Many of the projects are identified in the action plan at Section 7 of this document.

Future issues

Using the projected York population for 2030 (221,700), and the number of cricket teams this would generate, the PPM indicates a surplus of only 9 pitches. To reach that situation more pitches will need to be brought into regular community club use. Work will be needed to raise the standard of the school pitches and sites to ensure that they meet senior league standards or new purpose built pitches will be needed to cater for the increased demand. There may be scope for community clubs to strengthen links with schools and develop second pitches on school sites, similar to the arrangements between Millthorpe school and Ovington cricket club.

Community representatives in Poppleton are beginning to explore the possibility of establishing a cricket club and creating a cricket pitch in the village. Land for this should be identified in the Local Plan.

Rugby League

The club and league audits have identified a total of 56 Rugby league teams including 1 ladies team, with an additional 7 mini teams. There are 4 rugby league clubs in the city who have generated the majority of these teams with the remainder coming from schools, colleges and universities.

The study has identified a total of 31 dedicated rugby league pitches. These are on a mix of community club, school, college and university sites.

The PPM assessment indicates that there is a surplus of 16 pitches to meet the demand for the senior game, but that there is a deficiency of 8 junior pitches. Junior matches are currently being played on areas of senior pitches marked by cones. There may be potential to mark out some of these pitches on a more permanent basis to make more practical use of the grass space available.

The three clubs are based in the North and the West of the city. All demand from the South and East of the city are travelling to sessions provided by these clubs, at a number of locations across the city.

Patterns of participation have changed over recent years. Senior club membership has dropped but there has been an increase in the more informal forms of the game, tag and touch rugby. These sessions are provided in York through partnership with Clubs, school sites and City of York Council.

Rugby League teams often make use of AGP facilities for training. This protects grass pitches from over use and allows evening training, but is costly for players and a drain on club resources. The move by most clubs to a summer season will reduce the need for floodlit training facilities but as a result care must be taken to prevent over use of grass pitches for matches and training.

The move to a predominantly summer playing season may also affect the

availability of pitches as some grounds have their pitches on cricket outfield or in the case of school fields, these are often marked for athletics during the summer term.

The Rugby Football League (RFL) has set out 4 key facility priorities:

- **Playing Surface:** Significant investment should be made for the improvement of playing and training surfaces. Attention should be given to ensuring that the playing and training surfaces are appropriate to the transfer to summer community Rugby League.
- **Clubhouse Improvements:** Significant investment should be made available to upgrade existing changing room and club house facilities, again particularly in the existing areas.
- **Security & Quality of facilities:** Priority should be given to ensuring security of tenure for Rugby League clubs
- **Wider access to places to play:** The RFL development teams can play an important role in opening up access to facilities for the game as played at primary and secondary schools, colleges and on an informal basis under the touch and tag derivatives.

City of York council with York City Knights (the city's professional rugby league club) regular tag and touch rugby sessions and competitions. These are very well attended by people of both sexes and across a wide age range. Players are a mix of those who have retired from the full game and those who are playing for fun and fitness but who have never played team rugby. There is scope for these forms of the game to be developed further and to

be form pathways into clubs.

Future issues

The PPM for 2030, using the number of teams the projected population would generate indicates that the shortage of junior pitches will grow to 11 and the surplus of senior pitches will reduce to 5. Where and how the new pitches can be created will have to be considered jointly with the RFL and community clubs. It may be possible to address the gap in provision in the South of the city as part of future residential developments in that area.

Recommendations for action are contained in section 6 and 7 of this document. We will work with the RFL to develop prioritised projects to address the pitch needs identified above.

Rugby Union

The study has identified a total of 35 Rugby Union teams including 1 ladies team (or team equivalent from schools and training) in the city. There is one large club, with teams at a number of age groups, the remaining teams are from schools, single team clubs and universities.

There are a total of 21 Rugby Union pitches across all sites which have, or have the potential to have community access. Many of these pitches are on education sites including private schools with some community access.

The PPM analysis indicates that there is a shortage of 7 junior rugby union pitches, and that there is a surplus of 12 senior pitches. Again junior matches are using areas of senior pitches marked with cones to play matches and train.

There may be opportunities to make these junior pitches more permanent and accommodate more pitches on the same grass area.

The Rugby Union have set out that with the Rugby world cup being hosted in England in 2015 there is opportunity to develop and grow the sport through the associated increase in public interest and publicity. They have set as a priority "Improving the quality of Experience". Within this they have set out three model venue types:

- Model Venue 1: This is usually a club, school, university or other provider playing lower level or recreational rugby.
- Model Venue 2: An established club venue with a wider programme of adult or junior for both male and female.
- Model Venue 3: A venue with potentially higher level competitive rugby that can provide for more sophisticated RFU development programmes.

The majority of the rugby union facilities in York would fit under the definition of Model Venue 1. York Rugby Club on Shipton Road would be defined as a Model Venue 2. The site has a fenced main pitch with stand, four additional senior pitches and junior pitches in addition to recently upgraded club and changing facilities. This site also has floodlit grass pitches which are used for training and matches.

Future issues

Using population projections the PPM analysis indicates that by 2030 the deficiency of junior pitches will have increased to 10 pitches and the surplus of senior pitches will have reduced to 6. This indicates that the total overall provision of pitches for rugby union is likely to be adequate but the pitch mix may need to be shifted to meet the needs of the junior game.

Hockey

The study has identified a total of 49 community and university teams with further school teams playing during the week. The majority of the teams are part of City of York Hockey Club. These teams are a mixture of male, female and mixed teams. There are also teams at all ages from juniors through to veterans.

All community hockey is now played on sand or water based artificial grass pitches. There are 7 sites with suitable pitches which offer community access. The sufficiency of supply to meet the current and future demand is addressed in more detail in Active York's Built sports facilities strategy 2013. This document identifies that 99.1% of the demand for AGPs in the city is satisfied.

Hockey development is restricted by the lack of a dedicated hockey facility with more than 1 pitch on the same site and a club base. The pitches are all located on education sites, either schools, colleges or universities.

Consultation responses from City of York Hockey Club have highlighted the high cost of pitch hire for all teams, the practical difficulties of travelling across

the city to use all available pitches and the lack of club cohesion that this causes. The club own a site in the green belt that used to have grass pitches. The site has since been partly leased to Heworth Cricket Club and is now the home of a high quality cricket pitch. The club is keen to develop a hockey development centre in partnership with an AGP owner to continue the growth of the game.

England Hockey have set out the value of Local Authority and education maintained and owned pitches for community club and school hockey development in their facilities strategy. England Hockey and the FA have worked closely to try to agree the appropriate mix of 3G and sand dressed AGPs in the city. The City has no water based AGPs, the provision of one is an ambition for City of York Hockey Club.

Bowls

The study has identified 24 clubs in the city. There are 19 greens which have community access. Over recent years the city has seen the closure of a number of greens, including both greens at Hull Rd Park, one green at Rowntree Park, both greens in Museum Gardens and the green at the Barbican. There has also been a corresponding decrease in the number of people playing bowls in the City, and nationally.

The Bowls Alliance are working with clubs and sports development staff in the city to develop programmes to retain and increase club membership, open up bowls to a new range of participants and find ways of raising the profile of the game.

There is a need to support this work by ensuring that the existing greens are afforded protection to accommodate this development work. The skills and costs involved in maintaining greens can be prohibitive for community clubs. City of York Council has recently increased the cost of hiring a bowling green for community clubs to £2k pa. Clubs are concerned about the increase in costs particularly with dwindling membership. These fees do not cover the costs of maintaining a green and there is a risk that any further cost rises will lead to more clubs folding.

Bowls England have commented that "Bowls England is solely responsible for outdoor flat green bowls and the loss of facilities is one of our biggest concerns at the moment. We are keen to see clubs that are not sustainable on their own merge with another to form something that is able to prosper in the longer term. We are also keen to encourage councils to maintain/support clubs wherever possible to ensure that the sport is available to the general public".

The pattern within York of some smaller clubs moving to join stronger clubs at Clarence Gardens and Scarcroft Green is consistent with the approach of the NGB. However it is important that we continue to support these clubs to ensure that they are able to accommodate all of these players and where possible have scope to increase participation.

The Bowls Alliance are working with clubs and sports development staff in the city to develop programmes to retain and increase club membership, open up bowls to a new range of participants and find ways of raising the profile of the game.

There is a need to support this work by ensuring that the existing greens are afforded protection to accommodate this development work.

Netball

There are 62 netball teams playing in local divisions and many more school, college and university teams playing midweek fixtures. All of these teams are female teams, but mixed sex netball is played in primary schools. There are however only 10 floodlit dedicated organised sports MUGAs for the outdoor game. There are marked netball courts at all but 4 of the city's schools. These vary in quality and accessibility, from fenced courts with extensive community access to an area of the hard playground with markings, which is used only by the school and their afterschool club.

England Netball are working with local clubs and sports development officers to encourage more women back into netball, to respond to this increase the city will need to ensure that the facilities are suitable to accommodate the new range of players. New floodlit all weather netball courts are planned by York St John University at their site on Haxby Rd.

The Back to Netball programme in York is run indoors in a sports hall all year round. The need for indoor sports

facilities to cater for netball is picked up in the City's Built Sports Facility Strategy 2013 which shows a total under supply of approximately 4 badminton courts (the standard measure of sports hall space), but with this shortfall spread evenly across the city.

Tennis

The study has found that there are 14 tennis clubs with a varying number of members in each. In addition there are university and college clubs and tennis being played in all secondary schools. The city has 98 courts which include those of poor quality, those in public parks and those on school sites, which may be shared with other sports, as well as those owned and operated by community clubs.

The best quality courts are those owned by private fitness clubs and those provided by the largest community clubs e.g. York and Dunnington tennis clubs. Courts range from hard tarmac courts in need to resurfacing through well surfaced, painted hard courts to carpeted all weather courts and grass courts.

Despite community access being available at most of the school sites, little community use is made of school courts due to the condition of many of them and the sufficiency of provision elsewhere in the city.

The Lawn tennis Association (LTA) has set out its facility ambitions:

- Access for everyone to well maintained, high quality tennis facilities which are either free or pay as you play.

- A Clubmark accredited place to play within a 10 minute drive time of every home.
- Indoor tennis courts within a 20 minute drive time of every home.

The tennis courts at Rowntree Park are part of the LTA's Beacon Park programme. These courts have open access but also offer club access and coaching sessions. There are a number of accredited community clubs around the city including York, Dunnington, Wigginton, Fulford and Poppleton. The city's only indoor courts are provided at David Lloyd fitness on Hull Rd.

Community access to these facilities is secured through a community use agreement which was secured at the time of planning. This is the home of the city's junior Performance Centre. New floodlit tennis courts are planned as part of the York St John University facilities development project on Haxby Rd. University of York has planning permission for an inflatable structure to cover two of its floodlit tennis courts to provide year round facilities.

Green Infrastructure Analysis

Analysis carried out as part of the 2014 Green infrastructure Study for York, completed by Amec identifies that the level of provision of Outdoor Sport (excluding golf courses) is 1.7 hectares per 1,000 in the population. The same study supports the findings of this pitch strategy and identifies a shortage of outdoor sports facilities in the city.

The Green Infrastructure study recommends that a provision standard, of 5% above the current level of provision, is set at 1.78 hectares per 1,000 in the population. That study also sets out how the growth in provision will be divided between the major strategic development sites and local development.

The table below assesses the provision of sports pitches in each ward against this standard, but also identifies local supply, demand and quality issues. This table shows that the city has an overall shortage of 32.07ha and that there is a very uneven spread of provision. Haxby & Wigginton, Heworth, Holgate, Dringhouses & Woodthorpe, Acomb and Guildhall wards each have an under provision of over 8ha. The shortage in provision in Acomb, Haxby & Wigginton and Heworth were all identified through the consultation process. Community clubs, sports providers and planners should prioritise addressing these shortfalls in provision.

In addition there are a number of wards that are considered to have an over supply of pitches. In Micklegate the analysis includes the open space on the knavesmire which has some use for pitches but also has a number of community and amenity uses. Both Heslington and Huntington & New Earswick show a statistical over supply of pitches. These wards are the homes of the sports grounds of the city's two universities. The majority of students will play their sport at their university's grounds regardless of where they live.

Outdoor sports pitches by ward Local Standard = 1.78ha/1000

Ward	Current population	Current provision ha	Current provision per 1,000 population	Total requirement ha	surplus/ deficiency ha	Local pitch issues.
Acomb Ward	8604	5.64	0.66	15.32	-9.68	Pitch provision is limited to Carr Junior school and Beckfield lane single pitch site. New provision will be needed as part of any residential development on the former British Sugar site. Opportunities should be sought to develop additional pitches in the ward.
Bishopthorpe ward	3906	3.71	0.95	6.95	-3.24	There is a shortage of pitch space in the ward. Bishopthorpe FC are using all of the school and community pitches and are in need of additional pitch space. Opportunities should be sought to develop additional pitches in the ward.
Clifton Ward	13548	21.43	1.58	24.11	-2.68	This ward is the home to the city's professional football ground and has extensive pitch provision with some community access at St Peter's private school. Housing density is very high in this ward and the health of the residents of the ward is significantly poorer than the city average. There is a need for more pitch space in the ward and specifically open access/ informal sports space.
Derwent Ward	3627	5.56	1.53	6.46	-0.9	The pitches here are of a good quality despite being heavily used. The football club are using all available pitches and are in need of additional space. Any additional housing development must provide additional pitch space rather than investment in the existing facilities.



Ward	Current population	current provision ha	Current provision per 1,000 population	Total requirement ha	surplus/deficiency ha	Local pitch issues.
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	11084	11.63	1.05	19.72	-8.09	This ward includes the pitches at York College, All Saints school pitches, Dringhouses sports club and primary school pitches. Dringhouses sports club pitches are well used and have no room for expansion. Dringhouses bowls club is a strong community club running their own green in this ward. Additional land for pitches is required in this ward. New housing developments must include outdoor sports facilities.
FisherGate Ward	9844	5.73	0.58	17.52	-11.79	The only pitch provision in this ward is single pitches on primary school sites or informal/ kick about areas. There is good informal sport, running and training access to Low Moor Stray, but formal team community sport is played outside the ward, in Fulford and Heslington Wards. Any major housing development in this ward must include formal pitch provision. Developer contributions from this ward should be spent on formal pitch provision within 20 minutes walk of the development.
Fulford Ward	2785	9.5	3.41	4.96	4.54	There are pitches at Fulford Secondary school and Fulford Parish field. These pitches are used extensively for football and cricket. The junior football club play most of their matches outside the ward, in Heslington. The School catchment covers neighbouring FisherGate ward which has very little pitch provision. The new development planned for Germany Beck will provide additional pitch space as an extension to the parish fields.

Guildhall Ward	9002	5.68	0.63	16.02	-10.34	The only formal pitches in the ward are at Bootham private school. These have some community access. In recent years the 3 bowling greens in the ward have all closed. There is a shortage of formal and informal pitch space. Formal sport is played outside the ward.
Haxby & Wigginton Ward	12038	9.26	0.77	21.43	-12.17	As the PPM has identified there is a significant shortage of pitch space in Haxby. The pitches in Haxby and Wigginton are heavily used. Those in Haxby are of poor quality. Ancillary facilities for Football are poor in Wigginton. Investment is needed to raise the standard of the existing facilities in the ward and to create new pitches to cater for current demand. Any new residential development must include sufficient playing pitch provision to cater for the new residents.
Heslington Ward	4792	20.95	4.37	8.53	12.42	This ward contains the University of York's pitches and community playing fields. The pitches at Heslington Outgang are used very heavily by community clubs including Fulford Juniors FC. The University pitches have potential to accommodate additional use, particularly outside the university terms.
Heworth Ward	13725	9.21	0.67	24.43	-15.22	Pitch provision in the ward is very limited there are only the pitches at Burnholme Community College and those provided on the public open space on Melrosegate. There are tennis courts at Heworth tennis club and Glen Gardens which are both managed by Heworth Tennis club. Heworth Golf course is also in this ward.



Ward	Current population	current provision ha	Current provision per 1,000 population	Total requirement ha	surplus/deficiency ha	Local pitch issues.
Heworth without Ward	3668	17.9	4.88	6.53	11.37	Heworth Rugby and cricket clubs have pitches in this ward. Hopgrove playing fields are also in this ward. The site is used for all ages of football and cricket. The cricket outfields are used for junior football. The Council has Hempland Lane pitch which has no ancillary facilities. The pitch is well used for informal recreation but is not currently used for formal games. Hempland primary school pitches are also in this ward. This ward is well provided for in terms of pitches. This reflects the shortage of pitch space in the city centre and the consequence that pitches have been developed on the outskirts and in the greenbelt. These pitches must be retained and supported. Opportunities should be taken to improve transport links to these facilities to ensure that those from the city centre are able to access them.
Holgate Ward	12832	11.26	0.88	22.84	-11.58	There is a shortage of pitch space in this ward. The pitches at the RI and at primary schools are the only ones in the ward. There is very little of all types of open space in the ward as residential and commercial development is dense in the area. Opportunities to provide sports facilities should be sought in all new developments, including the York Central site. It may be appropriate for this to be in the form of AGPs, hard sports courts, or as multi functional areas, as land is at a premium.

Hull Rd Ward	10677	12.19	1.14	19.01	-6.82	There are pitches at Archbishop Holgate's and Osbaldwick schools and at York St John University's Hull Rd site. These pitches all have community use agreements associated with them. There are hard courts in Hull Rd park. The pitches in this ward must be retained and invested in. There should be more promotion of the availability of these pitches for community use to ensure that the local community can play within their ward.
Huntington & New Earswick Ward	12108	34.58	2.96	21.55	13.03	New Earswick Sports Club, Huntington Sports Club, Joseph Rowntree School Huntington School and York St John University are the major pitch providers in this ward. Many of the pitches are provided in Green belt or on stray land.
Micklegate Ward	12516	35.95	2.87	22.28	13.67	The majority of the pitch space in this ward is on the little and main knavesmire. The little knavesmire pitches have been recently drained. New 9v9 pitches have been created on the knavesmire. There is little scope to improve the quality of the pitches here further as the land is public open space and widely used for recreation. The high quality pitches at the Mount school are also in this ward. Priority projects in this ward are the improvement of the ancillary facilities for football and cricket.
Osbaldwick Ward	3570	2.87	0.8	6.35	-3.48	The pitches in this ward are on primary school sites and the community sports club. The cricket pitch is well maintained. During wet periods the football pitches do not drain well. Work is needed to improve pitch drainage to increase the carrying capacity of the football pitches. Opportunities to increase pitch provision in the ward should be sought in any future residential developments in the area.

Ward	Current population	current provision ha	Current provision per 1,000 population	Total requirement ha	surplus/ deficiency ha	Local pitch issues.
Rural York West Ward	10518	20.62	1.96	18.72	1.9	This ward covers a large area and a number of village communities. Pitch provision in Poppleton is good for football but the community are keen to develop cricket and there is no pitch in the area. There is a shortage of football pitches in Copmanthorpe. The club are keen to acquire land for new pitches. This should be addressed through the range of housing developments that are being proposed in the village. This ward includes the pitches at Rufforth and Askham Bryan.
Skelton Rawcliffe & Clifton Without Ward	13306	33.71	2.53	23.68	10.03	The pitches in this ward include Clifton Park and Clifton Alliance grounds which are both very well maintained and well used. There are also school pitches in Skelton, Rawcliffe and Lakeside. The pitches at Rawcliffe Recreation ground have been recently drained and levelled. The pitches on Wigginton Rd leased by Rawcliffe Juniors have no changing or ancillary facilities. Creating facilities on this site is a priority for this ward.
Strensall Ward	8137	10.32	1.27	14.48	-4.16	The pitches here include MOD pitches with some community access, school pitches and community pitches that are over used and of poor quality. There is a need to ensure that future housing developments address the need for community sports facilities, as this community is isolated and has limited access to other facilities.

Westfield Ward	13611	26.35	1.94	24.23	2.12	The pitches in this ward are provided by Acomb and Acorn sports clubs as well as council pitches on Chesney field and the former Lowfields school site. New grass pitches are being created at Acorn for training and junior matches. Provision caters well for the local community.
Wheldrake Ward	4153	6.41	1.54	7.39	-0.98	Provision in this ward is at schools and community clubs in both Elvington and Wheldrake. The community club facilities are of a high standard. These communities are isolated and other facilities would be outside a suitable travel time for pitch space. Any increase in population should be accompanied by a corresponding increase in pitch facilities.
Total	198051	320.46	1.62	352.53	-32.07	

Where possible resources should be targeted at communities who have a shortfall in provision either to provide additional facilities or to ensure that existing neighbouring facilities are accessible by those in the under catered for wards. This table is intended as a guide only as many people travel outside their local ward to play sport and many facilities serve two or more wards

Section 6: Conclusions & Recommendations

Summary of the key issues

Based on the assessment undertaken, the following key issues and potential actions have been highlighted in relation to pitch provision in York.

General

- G1 There is a need to continually review the information we hold in order to reflect site developments and respond to changes in demand.
- G2 Planning policy must reflect the need to protect playing pitch provision except where surplus is indicated.
- G3 Ancillary facilities e.g. changing rooms may not be able to cope with the requirements of leagues and the changing needs of users, i.e. ladies teams.
- G4 Success will be dependent on the development of effective partnership working. No single organisation working alone will be able to make the changes needed to maintain a sustainable high quality facility stock.
- G5 Action should be taken to address the inconsistent approach to community access and quality of facilities on school sites. This should be designed to make processes simpler for schools and community groups.
- G6 There is a need to address the impact of litter, dog fouling, unauthorised access with vehicles and other pitch damage, to maintain pitch quality and avoid additional costs and work for community clubs.
- G7 There are opportunities to share good practice across sites including pitch maintenance, facility design and supporting volunteers learning.
- G8 Facility planners should avoid development of single pitch sites unless there is a stated demand for them.
- G9 Investment should initially be made into sustaining and enhancing the existing facilities in preference to developing new facilities, unless there is an organisation able to take on and manage the new facilities.
- G10 Ensure that the best possible recreational value is made of all of our sports sites. This may mean improving the ancillary facilities but it could include catering for new sports, providing for other recreational activities or providing play opportunities.

G11 Ensure that new sports facilities provided by developers are designed to a high standard and fully reflect an understanding of the issues affecting community sport, e.g. avoiding putting pitches in the centre of walking desire lines, or ensuring that sites are not all considered to be multi functional and then run the risk of dog fouling and pitch damage.

G12 To ensure quality provision, where appropriate the Council should seek community organisations to operate and develop sports sites, and transfer rights and responsibilities under the terms of a community asset transfer.

G13 There is very little floodlit grass provision in the city. The development of floodlit pitches or training areas that could be used by a range of sports and teams would have a big impact on the ability to meet training needs and would reduce the financial burden of having to use Artificial Grass Pitches for training.

Football

F1 There is a significant surplus of senior football pitches (64) across the city to cater for peak demand. Although a surplus is required to allow for resting, renovation, development and increase in demand, it could be argued that the significant surplus reflects inefficient use of resources (i.e. maintaining pitches that are not needed). Therefore there may be a need to rationalise the senior

football pitches to better reflect current and future demand for 5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11 youth football.

F2 There is a deficit of 62 mini pitches. Much of this deficit could be rectified through re-designation of the current surplus of senior provision.

F3 A substantial number of junior pitches are owned by educational establishments. The risks faced by schools from letting their pitches to community groups could be addressed by developing stronger links with community clubs, e.g. sharing grounds maintenance costs and having designated key holders.

F4 70% of the clubs who responded to the questionnaire predicted a rise in membership over the next few years, hoping to start new age groups, or girls teams. This increase needs to be accommodated. Although generally pitch supply would appear to be adequate there was a general view that the standard of ancillary facilities needs to be improved to cater for these anticipated growth areas.

F5 Some clubs expressed difficulties in accessing outdoor floodlit training facilities.

F6 Although most teams manage to find a suitable pitch for their activity (though not always their first choice and/ or in the community they prefer) there is a perception that supply is insufficient in certain areas of the city.

- F7 There have been many issues in recent years over drainage of pitches, matches being cancelled and prolonged periods of flooding. Most of the clubs who responded to the questionnaire stated that flooding is a problem on many sites across the city. There was recognition that work has been done on a number of sites recently to improve drainage including Rawcliffe Recreation Association and Little Knavesmire pitches, but that more is needed to raise the standard and durability of the city's pitch stock.
- F8 A city wide approach is needed to address the up coming need for the new dimension of pitches to meet the need for 9v9 football for under 11s and under12s.

Cricket

- C1 Any large increase in the number of cricket teams in the city would be difficult to accommodate on the existing stock of facilities at peak times. Despite there appearing to be a surplus of cricket pitches, the facilities on education sites are not suitable to meet the needs of senior matches. However raising the standard of these facilities may prove more sustainable than developing additional community facilities.
- C2 Consideration may need to be given to ground sharing where sites are becoming too costly for the smaller clubs to maintain, e.g. York RI

Rugby League

- RL1 The city has a shortage of dedicated junior pitches, which could be rectified through re-designation of the current surplus of senior provision. This does not reflect however the location of the demand or the need to develop cohesive clubs, preferably on one site or a number in close proximity.
- RL2 There is a need for city planners to afford protection to the existing pitches.
- RL3 Projects should be developed to retain and enhance the existing pitches and ancillary facilities.

Rugby Union

- RU1 The city has a shortage of dedicated junior pitches, which could be rectified through re-designation of the current surplus of senior provision. This does not reflect however the location of the demand or the need to develop cohesive clubs, preferably on one site or a number in close proximity.
- RU2 There is a need for city planners to afford protection to the existing pitches.
- RU3 Projects should be developed to retain and enhance the existing pitches and ancillary facilities.

Hockey

- H1 The need for hockey facilities can only be met through the provision of artificial grass pitches. This provision is addressed in detail in Active York's Built sports facilities strategy.

Bowls

- B1 There is a need for city planners to afford protection to the existing greens, to prevent the continued reduction in facilities across the city.
- B2 There are a number of greens with some community access, on private sites. Where these facilities are to be lost planning policy must ensure that this can only happen if there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the players elsewhere, and that sufficient financial support is provided to develop the new facilities to be able to cater for the additional players.

Netball

- N1 The city has many netball courts but few high standard sites with good surfaces, floodlights and fencing.
- N2 There is a need to increase the quality of some additional sites to meet the increasing demand for community accessible high quality venues
- N3 Work should be undertaken with England Netball to prioritise the most appropriate sites/ clubs for investment.

Tennis

- T1 There are a high number of tennis courts in the city, of varying quality. There is a need to retain and protect the high quality, well used sites.

Section 7: Outdoor Sports Facilities Action Plan for York

(Working document)

This 5 year action plan is intended to be a working document which will evolve over time. The plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. Reviewing and monitoring the progress of this document will be carried out by Active York. This strategy has a life span of 5 years at most but progress on the action plan will be reviewed on an annual basis. The review will include an update of progress on the projects set out below, a consultation exercise with community clubs and NGBs to establish whether there are any additional projects to add and a review of housing developments to establish whether there are any new communities with facility needs.

The action plan reflects the aims and ambitions of Active York, City of York Council and our community partners. All partners identified in the plan below are committed to delivering their projects and have been part of the project planning. However it is recognised that the success of a number of these actions is dependant on financing, being able to address funding shortfalls and in some cases generating spatial planning and community backing.

Ref	Proposed Action	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Key recommendations to be addressed	Success Measures
A1	Ensure all sports facilities are afforded protection through the planning system and the local plan.	CYC	CYC Sport & Active Leisure & Planning	2013	G1, G2, G5, G8, G11, G12, F2 F5, RL2, RU2, B1	Specific reference to the protection of sports facilities within the local plan
A2	Ensure that the local plan reflects the need to continue to secure developer contributions to improve the quality and quantity of existing sports facilities.	CYC	CYC Sport & Active Leisure & Planning	2013	G1, G2, G8, G9, G10, G11, G12, F2, F5, RL2, RU2, B1, N2, T1	Policy adopted as part of the local plan adoption.
A3	Create a standard planning condition to be attached to a planning permission to enable the effective use of community use agreements	CYC	CYC Sport & Active Leisure & Planning	2014	G1, G2, G5, G11, G12, RL1, RU2, F3,	Standard planning condition in place and where appropriate community use of new facilities secured in the long term

Ref	Proposed Action	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Key recommendations to be addressed	Success Measures
A4	Retain and enhance the community pitch provision on the Burnholme community College site.	CYC	CYC Sport & Active Leisure, CYC Adults, Children & Eductaion, Heworth Rugby Club, Applefields school, other community sports clubs	2014	G2, G3, G4, G8, G9, G10, F5, C1, RL1,RL3,	Council approval to retain playing pitches. \$106 money secured from Derwentthorpe development. Usage arrangements agreed with Applefields school. New facilities created, facilities improved. Increased use of site by the community.
A5	Improve the quality of changing and social facilities on the Little Knavesmire by developing a new pavilion building.	Hamilton Panthers	Knavesmire Harriers, CYC Sport & Active Leisure, Football Foundation, Sport England, Knavesmire Harriers	2014	G1, G3, G4, G9, G10, G11, G12, F4	Funding brought in for the project. Community support for the project. Pavilion building built and operational.
A6	Create new 9v9 football pitches on the Knavesmire to cater for the demand that the changes to FA team and game formats will create.	CYC	CYC Sport & Active Leisure, CYC Parks, FA, York Cubs JFC, St Clements, Sport England.	Due to be in use from Sept 2014	G1, G2, G4, G5, G7, F1, F2, F4, F6, F7, F8	Fenced pitches created. Pitches being used for 9v9 matches.

A7	Create purpose built changing facilities to serve Rawcliffe Junior's FC's pitches on Wigginton Road	Rawcliffe JFC	Rawcliffe JFC, CYC Sport & Active Leisure, FA	2015	G1, G3, G4, G9, G10, G11, G12, F4	Project developed, Funding sourced for the project, Club house facilities built and being used.
A8	Explore opportunity to create new pitch and changing facilities in Copmanthorpe to cater for the growing number of players.	Copmanthorpe FC	Copmanthorpe FC, FA, CYC Sport & Active Leisure	2013 onwards	G1, G3, G4, G9, G10, G11, G12, F2, F4, F7, F8	Suitable land identified, and project created, Funding sourced to develop facilities. Pitches and changing facilities developed and being used.
A9	Ensure that the full community benefit is being made of the community use agreements already in existence.	CYC	CYC Sport & Active Leisure, CYC school's, independent schools, community clubs, Universities and commercial leisure facilities	2014	G1, G2, G4, G5, G7, G11, G13, F1, F3, F8	Facilities and community clubs have a shared understanding of the entitlements under the terms of the community use agreements. All of the hours and facilities available through the agreements are used for sport and active leisure.
A10	Refurbish changing rooms on community pitches in Haxby to improve the facilities, cater for a broader range of players and meet league standards	Haxby town FC	Haxby town council, Haxby town FC, CYC Sport & Active Leisure, FA	2013	G1, G3, G4, G9, G10, G11, G12, G4	Funding acquired to deliver project. Changing rooms refurbished. Changing rooms being used by clubs.

Ref	Proposed Action	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Key recommendations to be addressed	Success Measures
A11	Development of additional changing rooms to cater for football pitches.	Wiginton Grasshoppers FC	Wiginton Grasshoppers, Wiginton sports Association, CYC Sport & Active Leisure, FA,	2015	G1, G3, G4, G9, G10, G11, G12, F4,	Project developed. Funding acquired for project. Changing facilities developed. Changing facilities being used by clubs.
A12	Explore the possibility of developing additional playing pitches in Wiginton to cater for existing and future demand.	Wiginton Grasshoppers FC	Wiginton Grasshoppers, FA, Wiginton Sports Association, Wiginton Parish Council, CYC Sport & Active Leisure, CYC planning.	2014 onwards	G1, G2, G4, G5, G7, F1, F2, F4, F6, F7, F8	Land identified for pitches Land acquired & allocated for pitches Funding acquired to develop land into pitches
A13	Development of 9v9 pitches to address the need for these pitches. To address the demand from Manor school and Poppleton junior FC	Manor School	Poppleton Junior FC, CYC Sport & Active Leisure, FA, other funders	2013 onwards	G4, G5, G11, F2, F3, F8	Approval from secretary of state for education granted to school to acquire land, land acquired by CYC and leased to school, costed project developed, funding sourced, project completed, pitches being used by club and school.

A14	Review existing pitch provision to explore opportunities to redesignate some senior pitches as junior, 9v9 and mini pitches	CYC	Football facilities steering group, FA, RFL, RU, CYC Sport & Active Leisure, community clubs	2013 onwards	F1, F8, G1, G4, G9, G10	Meet to agree process to review pitch designation, priorities projects, develop projects, source any necessary funding complete projects, increased junior participation.
A15	Improve pitch drainage on New Earswick sports club land to ensure their use throughout the playing season.	New Farswick SSC	CYC Sport & Active leisure, FA, RFL.	2014	RL1, F7, RL3, G9	Project planned and costed, all permissions for the work granted, drainage work completed, increased usage of pitches.
A16	Create new grass pitches at Acorn ARLFC to replace redgra training area and provide 9V9 football pitches.	Acorn ARLFC	Acorn ARLFC, CYC Sport & Active Leisure, Sport England, FA, RFL	2014	G1, G2, G4, G5, G7, G12, F1, F2, F4, F6, F7, F8, RL3,	Funding acquired to develop the project. Pitch work completed. Pitches being used by AALFC. New participants playing for the club.
A17	Explore the possibility of developing a central small sided venue for junior clubs to meet at and play.	CYC	CYC Sport & Active Leisure, NRCFA, FA, community clubs	2014 onwards	G1, G4, G9, G10, F1, F8	Review need/ demand. If needed, review possible sites. Agree and acquire site, develop costed project, source funding, deliver project.
A18	Improve pitch drainage and maintain the capacity of provision within a rural community (Elvington)	Lower Densett Sports Association	CYC Sport & Active Leisure, Sport England	2014	G2, G4, G9, G10, F7,C1	Project planned and costed, funding secured, project delivered, pitch drainage improved, increased participation, fewer matches cancelled.

Ref	Proposed Action	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Key recommendations to be addressed	Success Measures
A19	Ensure that the planning obligation associated with the new Community stadium to develop a ¾ size 3G pitch as part of the project is fulfilled	CYC	CYC, York City FC, York City Knights RLFC, FA	2014 -2015	G1, G2, G4, G9, G10, G12, G13, F1, F2, F5	Procurement for the 3G pitch to be included in the stadium procurement exercise.
A20	Develop additional outdoor sports facilities on the former Nestle site to complement the existing grass pitches.	York St John University	CYC Sport & Active Leisure, community clubs, FA, sports funders, Sport England	2013 onwards	G3, G12, G11, G10, F2, F5, RL3	Phased project planned, planning approval, funding sources, community access agreed, project developed, facilities opened, community use of the site taking place, increased sports participation amongst students.
A21	Assess the most appropriate surface for AGPs as they need resurfacing to best meet the sporting needs of the city and the time and for the coming years.	England Hockey, FA, CYC	Other NGBs, community clubs, Schools,	Ongoing	G1, H1, F5, G10, G11, G4	NGBs working together, supply and demand analysis for the site completed, surface determined, funding sourced, project completed, increased sports participation.
A22	Make sure that schools are aware that guidance exists to support them to offer community access.	CYC	CYC property, CYC Education, CYC Sport & Active Leisure.	2014	G1, G5, G4, G7, G3, F3, F8, RL1, RU1	Guidance reviewed and updated. Publicity of guidance to all CYC schools.

A23	Develop a number of targeted school sites to create junior cricket hubs.	CYC	CYC, ECB, Community clubs	2014 onwards	G1, G5, G4, G7, G10, C1, C2	Identify possible school sites, identify clubs interested in being part of the project, source funding for facility improvements, develop facilities, junior cricket development taking place on school sites with links to improved school cricket coaching.
A24	Identify key sites for netball development work. Protect and enhance the facilities	CYC	CYC Sport & Active Leisure, England Netball, local community clubs.	2014 onwards	G1, G4, N1, N2, N3	Scope project with England Netball, Carry out detailed club consultation, identify priority facility projects. Source funding for projects. Projects completed, increased netball participation.
A25	Explore the opportunities to improve the quality of the city's municipal tennis courts.	CYC	CYC Parks & Open Spaces officers, CYC Sport & Active leisure officers, LTA, Community clubs, tennis coaches	2014 onwards	T1, G1, G4, G7	Identify priority sites for improvement, develop costed projects, source funding for projects, complete projects, increased tennis participation.
A26	Support the development of improved ancillary facilities on community tennis club sites.	Community clubs	CYC Sport & Active leisure officers, LTA, Community clubs	2014 onwards	G1, G2, G3, G4, T1	Clubs identify facility issues, LTA develop a prioritised list of projects in the city, funding sourced, projects delivered, increased tennis participation.

Ref	Proposed Action	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Key recommendations to be addressed	Success Measures
A27	Maintain upgrade and ensure accessibility to bowls ancillary facilities to allow access for the growing older population	Community clubs	CYC Sport & Active Leisure, EBA, community clubs.	2013 onwards	G1, G2, G4, G9, G10, B1, B2	Projects identified and costed, funding sourced, projects complete, increased participation in bowls.
A28	Support school sites to offer community access in a way that serves the needs of the school and community clubs.	CYC	CYC Sport & Active Leisure, CYC Adults children and education, schools, community clubs	2013 onwards	G1, G5, G4, G7, G3, F3, F8, RL1, RU1	Schools keen to improve community access, links with clubs created, facility improvements delivered if needed, increased community use of school sites.
A29	Pitch and pavilion improvements to enhance sports development at University of York, Heslington West campus	University of York	CYC Sport & Active Leisure, NGBs, University clubs	2013 onwards	RU1, G1, G2, G3, G4, RU3	Pitch demand identified, Pavilion project designed and costed, New pitches found. Project completed.
A30	Create Cricket facilities to serve the Poppleton area	Poppleton community Trust	CYC Property, CYC Sport & Active Leisure, Manor School, Poppleton Junior Football Club	2014 onwards	G4, G8, G10, G11, G12, G14, C1	Club formed, Partnerships developed, land identified, funding sources, project developed, pitch created, club playing on new site.

Active York's current priorities...

Recognising Achievement

Supporting talented and gifted young athletes through the Fund For The Gifted scheme. The Active York Sports Awards, which will include presentations to the Fund For The Gifted recipients, are taking place on 9 April 2014 to recognise the achievements and contributions for sport in York.

The award categories will include: Active Workplace Award, Active School Award, Community Sports Club Award, Award for Student Sports person, Young male sportsperson, Young female sports person, Young disabled sports person, Young club/team, Coach/volunteer Award, Sportsman, Sportswomen, Disabled sportsperson, Young Sports Person of the Year, Sports Person of the Year.

To make a nomination or for more information about the event including sponsorship opportunities please email sportandactiveleisure@york.gov.uk.

Alternatively find us on  @just30york or  /just30york

Communicating With the City

Promoting Active York's Just 30 campaign with the wider community in York to encourage people to take 30 minutes of gentle exercise every day. The Just 30 message is supported by all City of York Council Sport and Active Leisure team's activities and events.

Supporting Community and Voluntary Sport Organisations

Provide support and guidance in varying issues to the city's sports clubs via the regular community forums.

By engaging with the community sports clubs in the city Active York looks to identify the needs of disabled athletes and young athletes by sharing ideas and information.

Active York is the city's sport and active leisure partnership and is working to encourage people to be more active more often.

Active York's aims are...

- To help make the people of York aware of the health benefits of physical activity.
- To ensure coaching and development opportunities exist for people in York to improve their performance and to enable them to compete at the highest level
- To promote the role that sport and active leisure can play in developing safer, stronger and more culturally-rich communities
- To support the sport and active leisure infrastructure in York to maintain high quality facilities and strong sports clubs for the city.

If you would like this booklet in larger print or in an accessible format (for example in braille, on CD or by email), please call 01904 553377 or email: sportandactiveleisure@york.gov.uk

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

 01904 551550