



North Tyneside Council

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL
FINAL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
APRIL 2013 - 2023

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy for North Tyneside Council (NTC). Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitches and ancillary facilities over the next ten years. This Strategy, covering the sports of football, rugby, cricket and artificial grass pitches (AGPs) will:

- ◀ Provide a clear investment strategy for playing pitch facilities within the North Tyneside area;
- ◀ Provide a clear framework for all playing pitch providers, including the public, private and third sectors;
- ◀ Clearly address the needs of all identified pitch sports within the local area, picking up particular local demand issues;
- ◀ Address issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to pitch provision.

It has been developed during a period of reduced and diminishing Council resources. NTC will seek to address shortfalls in provision resulting from current and future demand (as a result of population growth) with developers, facility providers in the public, private and voluntary sectors, NGB's and other interested parties as resources allow.

Reference is made in the Action Plan, later in the document, to the over-supply of provision. However, in reality the amount of genuine over-supply (spare capacity) is limited. This occurs through aggregated sums of spare capacity at sites; often at times of the day when provision is not required and/or is unavailable for use. For example, school sites are commonly identified as having spare capacity. However, in reality the ability of NTC to have access to or the authority to manage these sites does not exist.

It is important to recognise the health and well being benefits that are gained through participation in sport. The need for councils to promote healthy lifestyles and opportunities to sporting activities is essential; particularly in areas with high levels of deprivation.

1.1: Structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within North Tyneside and provides:

- ◀ A strategic framework for provision, development, improvement, maintenance, and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch facility stock.
- ◀ A strategic vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitch facilities (including ancillary facilities).
- ◀ Robust evidence to support the North Tyneside Local Development Framework.
- ◀ A site-specific action plan (where action is deemed necessary to maintain or improve quality and accessibility).

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for North Tyneside, which should be implemented from 2013 to 2023. It also takes account of other facility providers i.e., private clubs and schools (where appropriate). It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, possible partners and sources of external funding are identified.

There is a need to build key partnerships with schools, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited. Gaining access to schools in North Tyneside not permitting community use is an issue. This document provides clarity about the way forward, and allows the Council to focus on key issues that it can directly influence and address.

The site-by-site Action Plan provides recommended actions for each site, based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

1.2: Strategic framework for playing pitch facility improvements

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

1.3: National context

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

The following section summarises the key strategic documents relevant to this Strategy and link, where appropriate, to the aims and objectives set out later.

National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

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

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

Relating to the NPPF, this Strategy is designed to inform the decision making processes for playing pitch provision in North Tyneside.

Sport England

A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England

It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application, which will result in the loss of a playing field, unless it meets one of five exceptions as defined in A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England. Protection of playing fields was further enhanced in 1998 with Circular 9/98 (replaced in 2009 by Circular 02/09) which stipulates that where a local authority is minded to grant planning permission against Sport England's advice on land owned by a local authority or used for educational purposes, then the application should be referred to the relevant Government Office for possible 'call in'.

As a statutory consultee for the loss of playing fields, Sport England is a key partner. Regional planning officers should be kept informed of developing projects/schemes and can provide essential guidance and advice throughout the process, not just at planning application stage.

Sport England Strategy (2011/12 – 2014/15)

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

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

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Sport England Youth and Community Strategy 2012 – 2017

Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics.

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

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

National governing bodies of sport

Consideration has been given throughout the Assessment Report and the Strategy to national governing body facility strategies. A summary of each is summarised below.

The Football Association (FA)

National Games Strategy

The FA's National Game Strategy (2007-2012) provides a strategic framework that sets out the key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a six year period.

The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Growth and retention (young players)
- ◀ Growth and retention (adult players)
- ◀ Football for All
- ◀ Raising standards and behaviour
- ◀ Player development

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- ◀ Running the game
- ◀ Football work force
- ◀ Facilities
- ◀ Partnerships and investment
- ◀ Promotion

The Strategy also reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites.

Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities rather than in private members' clubs. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years as priorities have been in other sectors. This has resulted in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields within the Country has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built 5-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals, JJB (now DW) and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of 5-a-side teams in recent years.

National Facilities Strategy

The recently published new National Facilities Strategy 2013-15 sets out the FA's long term vision for development of facilities to support the 'National Game'. It aims to address and reflect the facility needs of football within the National Game (defined as all non-professional football from Steps 1-7 of the National League System down to recreational football played on open public space).. Facilities are considered to be crucial to the development of the game in England. One of the main issues raised by 'the Big Grassroots Football Survey' (by 84% respondents) was 'poor facilities'.

The FA's vision for the future of facilities in England is to build, protect and enhance sustainable football facilities to improve the experience of the nation's favourite game. It aims to do this by:

- ◀ Building - Provide new facilities and pitches in key locations to FA standards in order to sustain existing participation and support new participation.
- ◀ 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.

The Strategy commits the FA to deliver in excess of £150m (through the Football Foundation) into facility improvements in line with identified priorities:

- ◀ Natural grass pitches improved – target: 100.
- ◀ A network of new AGPs built – target 100.
- ◀ A network of refurbished AGPs – target 150.
- ◀ On selected sites, new and improved changing facilities and toilets.
- ◀ Continued small grants programme to address the modest facility needs of clubs.
- ◀ Ongoing support with the purchase and replacement of goalposts .

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It also commits to:

- ◀ Direct other sources of investment into FA facility priorities.
- ◀ Communicate priorities for investment across the grassroots game on a regular basis.
- ◀ Work closely with Sport England, the Premier League and other partners to ensure that investment is co-ordinated and targeted

On-going engagement with the FA is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Council should seek to further engage with the FA Regional Facility Manager (North East & Yorkshire) as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

The Rugby Football Union

The recently launched National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for the development of high-quality and well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, it will assist and support clubs and other organisations to continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game.

It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

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

The priorities for investment which met the needs of the game for the previous strategy period remain valid. These are to:

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

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

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

On-going engagement with the RFU is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Council should further engage with the RFU Regional Funding and Facilities Manager (North) as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

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English Cricket Board (ECB)

Grounds to Play, ECB Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013) continues to focus on four pillars, as identified in the previous ECB strategy, Building Partnerships. The pillars are:

- ◀ Energising people and partnerships to deliver national goals at local level:
 - ◀ Having streamlined the management of ECB and established the County Boards, where feasible, services currently provided from the centre will be transferred to County Boards;
 - ◀ Enhance asset growth through continuing interest free loans to community clubs, expanding NatWest Cricket Force, seeking to support corporate or public sector cricket grounds under threat of closure through the England and Wales Cricket Trust, and seeking to expand partnerships for Indoor Cricket.
- ◀ Vibrant domestic game.
- ◀ Enhancing facilities, environments and participation:
 - ◀ The focus of this plan will be on providing facilities to sustain participation levels rather than a focus on a substantial increase in participation;
 - ◀ The Cricket Foundation's 'Chance to Shine' programme has been an outstanding success in reintroducing cricket into state schools. ECB will prioritise investment in the programme;
 - ◀ To further expand club/ school links and position the cricket club at the heart of the community, ECB will provide £1.5 million per annum capital improvement grants to local clubs that make their club facilities available to the local community and to local schools.
- ◀ Successful England teams.

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

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

The theme of this plan progresses to Grounds to Play and it is in the areas of facilities and coaches where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

Partners particularly applicable to community cricket include:

- ◀ England and Wales Cricket Trust - to provide up to £5 million of interest free loans to member clubs for recreational projects and to work with grounds in inner city areas to provide greater community use by 2013.
- ◀ Sport England - to enhance the Whole Sport Plan award of £38 million by obtaining a further £10 million of lottery aid support by 2013.

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On-going engagement with the ECB is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Council should seek to further engage with the Regional Funding and Facilities Manager (North) within the ECB as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

England Hockey (EH)

'The right pitches in the right places'¹

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGP's are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGP's for a number of sports.

EH were seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers who have a sound understanding of the following:

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

On-going engagement with England Hockey is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Council should seek to further engage with the relevant Relationship Managers within England Hockey as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

¹<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

PART 2: SUMMARY FROM THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

This section summarises the key findings from the Assessment Report. The Strategy has been developed in recognition of the consultation findings whilst drawing upon a core series of objectives which should be applied across the board and should not be attributed to any one particular type of facility.

2.1 Football summary

- ◀ There are a total of 272 teams playing on pitches in North Tyneside.
- ◀ The audit identifies 36 sites available for community use, providing a total of 109 pitches. The majority of provision with no community usage is at school sites, where NTC gaining access for community use is difficult.
- ◀ Distribution of provision reflects the patterns of population density although there are reduced numbers in the smaller South West Analysis Area.
- ◀ Team generation rates (TGRs) highlight that participation rates in North Tyneside are higher than national averages. Future TGRs suggests an increase in senior men's football (15 teams) and mini-soccer (7.3 teams).
- ◀ Site assessments suggest that generally the quality of pitches across North Tyneside is 'mixed'. Consultation in general supports this. The issue of drainage is often highlighted as a common problem and is the main reason cited for poor quality sites.
- ◀ Over three-quarters (76%) of clubs responding to the survey, report that the number of senior teams fielded over the previous three years has remained static. Only a small percentage report that the number of senior teams has increased (9%) or decreased (9%).
- ◀ A third (33%) of clubs report that if more pitches were available at their home ground they would have more teams. Similarly over a quarter (27%) of clubs believe better ancillary facilities at their home ground would mean they would have more teams.
- ◀ Consideration should be given to changing the designation of some senior pitches to cater for junior and mini football.
- ◀ Almost all clubs report that further access to a 3G pitch is required to support their training requirements. An issue of teams training on pitches designated as the home ground pitch for other teams is highlighted.
- ◀ A number of clubs in North Tyneside report specific pitch/facility developments including the work at Foxhunters and the potential investment in Seaton Burn Recreation Ground.
- ◀ In general, there is a need to improve the quality of existing playing pitch stock, ancillary facilities and the provision of more all weather facilities.

2.2 Cricket summary

- ◀ There are nine cricket pitches, of which all are available for community use in North Tyneside, accommodating 41 teams (including seniors and juniors).
- ◀ TGRs shows that there is likely to be an additional three senior men's teams and one junior team for cricket in 2023.
- ◀ Site assessments generally score the quality of pitches as good. Prior's Park is rated as poor quality which is inhibiting further use.
- ◀ Seaton Burn Recreation Ground ancillary facilities are rated as poor quality but are subject to improvement dependent upon the development of the golf course next to the site.
- ◀ Demand for additional cricket pitch facilities across North Tyneside is expressed by Tynemouth CC. The Club is looking to create a 2nd pitch to accommodate growth;

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particularly in its junior section. Two clubs, Backworth and Percy Main, also express demand for additional training facilities

- ◀ Most sites in North Tyneside are rated as having spare capacity with the exception of Blue Flames CC. Despite this, Tynemouth CC reports being at capacity and in need of an additional 2nd pitch.
- ◀ There is a need for access to at least one better quality cricket pitch in North Tyneside given the demand expressed by clubs.

2.3 Rugby summary

- ◀ There are 9 rugby union grass pitches and one rugby league grass pitch available for community use in North Tyneside. Rugby union pitches are predominately located in North Shields.
- ◀ In total, there are 13 senior rugby union teams playing across North Tyneside. In addition, the majority of training for senior teams as well as a large number of junior teams occurs on competitive grass rugby pitches in North Tyneside (due to a lack of designated training facilities) which further adds pressure on pitches.
- ◀ TGRs suggest there will be an additional 1.4 junior boys and 1.1 senior men's rugby union teams up to 2023.
- ◀ There is one dedicated rugby league pitch which hosts the Whitley Bay Barbarians first team and junior teams at Whitley Bay High School. The Club is currently looking at the potential of relocating to Langley Playing Fields.
- ◀ Quality of provision is in general deemed to be of a sufficient level. However, drainage is identified as being an issue at Whitley Bay High School.
- ◀ Wallsend RFC is currently in the process of securing final funding in order to create a new home ground. The development will include two senior pitches and associated ancillary facilities including a new clubhouse and changing facilities.
- ◀ It is anticipated that participation in rugby union will increase given the focus of the RFU's Strategic Plan which identifies an annual growth of 2% of adult players until 2013. Furthermore, the hosting of the Rugby World Cup is also predicted to see an increase in the demand for rugby provision in North Tyneside.
- ◀ Due to the large number of teams training on match pitches in North Tyneside, most pitches are overplayed. More pitches and ancillary facilities are needed to meet both current and future demand.

2.4 Hockey summary

- ◀ There are six full size AGPs in North Tyneside. Four are suitable and available for competitive hockey; all are rated as good quality with floodlights. However, Marden Bridge Sports Centre is not used by a hockey club.
- ◀ The resurfacing of the all-weather pitch at Marden Bridge Sports Centre is a priority.
- ◀ There are two hockey clubs in North Tyneside fielding a total of 11 senior teams. Both have junior membership. John Spence Community High School currently accommodates North Shields HC and The Parks Sports Centre accommodates Whitley Bay and Tynemouth HC.
- ◀ All AGPs are available for community use. There is significant football use (for training) of all AGPs in North Tyneside which further adds to the wear and tear of carpets/surfaces.
- ◀ Consultation with EH and clubs does not identify the need for more provision per se but it does identify the need to retain the current level of hockey surfaces (at a good level of quality).

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- ◀ The AGP at John Spence High School is a priority target for the FA to be resurfaced with a 3G surface. The resurfacing would see North Shields Hockey Club relocating to The Parks Sports Centre. It is believed that the site can accommodate this additional use but will bring it to full capacity.

2.5 Schools summary

- ◀ There are 94 playing pitches (including all types) in North Tyneside, of which 40 are identified as having community use. It is considered by NTC that where community use is not permitted, the potential of gaining access is difficult.
- ◀ In total, eight secondary, three middle and five primary school are regularly used for competitive community use.
- ◀ In most instances, where pitches are available and in use, access to school changing accommodation is available for community use.
- ◀ The quality and quantity of outdoor sports facilities at school sites varies across North Tyneside. However, a common theme is poor quality drainage of school pitches which often dictates the level of curricular, extracurricular and community use.

2.6 Overall summary

In summary, the following are seen as the key overarching issues in North Tyneside to tackle in the Strategy:

- ◀ The surplus of senior football pitches and a deficit of mini pitches. (This includes school sites identified as having existing community usage. It does not include school sites that do not have or allow community use. Pitches on sites not permitting community usage are difficult for organisations such as NTC to gain access).
- ◀ The improvement of poor quality football pitches and ancillary facilities to increase capacity rather than providing new provision to satisfy current demand.
- ◀ The implications of 9v9 football on current and future provision.
- ◀ Need for access to at least one better quality cricket pitch to service Tynemouth CC.
- ◀ The requirement for new AGP provision to satisfy any potential future growth in hockey and training facilities for other clubs.
- ◀ The need to resurface the AGP located at Marden Bridge Sports Centre.
- ◀ The need to encourage usage of sites with no community use or those that are under used to accommodate overplay of rugby pitches.
- ◀ The lack of interest or willingness of certain education sites to accommodate community use.

PART 3: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

3.1: Vision

The vision set out by North Tyneside Council (NTC) is for:

'North Tyneside to be a place of opportunity, prosperity and vibrancy. A place where people are happy, healthy, safe, able to participate in a flourishing economy and achieve their full potential'

The mission statement for sport and leisure (including for playing pitches and ancillary facilities) is:

'To continuously develop quality leisure opportunities that meets the needs and circumstances of people in North Tyneside'

This strategy will help in identification, and prioritisation, of outdoor sports facilities that are of local and Borough-wide significance and guide NTC and its partners to work collaboratively (i.e., reduce duplication and competition), identify and use limited resources to optimum effect.

3.2: Objectives

The proposed vision is based upon a clear, achievable framework of strategic objectives (not in any priority and summarised in the text boxes below) which should be adopted as policy). These are supported by a range of management objectives. The management objectives need to be implemented to enable the policy objectives to be delivered. It is recommended that the Council adopts the following strategic objectives (as policy) to enable it to achieve the vision.

OBJECTIVE 1

To address quantitative deficiencies to meet existing unmet demand and plan for new provision (as and where required)

OBJECTIVE 2

To address issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision

OBJECTIVE 3

To maximise access to all outdoor facilities and in particular educational facilities

OBJECTIVE 4

To support the development of local leagues and clubs to meet their needs within North Tyneside

PART 4: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The management objectives need to be implemented to enable the policy objectives to be delivered. It is recommended that the Council adopts the following management objectives across a range of departments to enable it to achieve the vision of the Strategy (not in any priority order):

4.1: Strategic objectives

OBJECTIVE 1

To address quantitative deficiencies to meet existing unmet demand and plan for new provision (as and where required)

- a. Regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.
- b. Rectify inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report through improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities in line with the Action Plan.
- c. Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both latent and potential future demand.
- d. Prioritise new capital development projects from the action plan according to a range of core criteria (such as strategic need, sports development objectives, sustainability of provision and work with target groups)
- e. Work with facility providers to establish an approach to co-ordinate investment to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to avoid/reduce duplication of provision.

Management objective (a) - Regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

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

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Management objective (b) - Rectify inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report through improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities in line with the Action Plan.

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report through improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities. It is important that the current levels of pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure the carrying capacity of provision now and in the future.

In general, the future deficiencies in provision identified in North Tyneside can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites (where possible).
- ◀ Encouraging junior leagues to stagger kick off times or play some fixtures/age groups on a Sunday.
- ◀ The re-designation of pitches for which there is an oversupply.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality and ancillary facilities in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.
- ◀ Provision of new facilities where there is an identified demand (and the above options are not practical).

However, there is a need to protect some senior pitches as this provides the flexibility to provide senior, junior or mini pitches (through different line markings/coning areas of the pitch). Furthermore the re-designation of all surplus adult pitches may lead to a deficiency of adult pitches in the medium to longer term as younger players move up the ages. It is likely that for some sports, particularly football, that the provision of new pitches and facilities will be required in the future to support the predicted future demand.

Although the Council is a lead partner in pitch provision, it should support the needs of all sports clubs and bodies to work together to deliver the recommendations of this strategy.

Latent demand, national changes in sport participation, local demographic changes and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will obviously impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. Sports development work also approximates latent demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e., it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur. The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities. However, it is important to note that these may be subject to change.

Latent demand is mostly expressed for senior and junior football. However, some minor latent demand is also expressed for rugby pitches and associated ancillary facilities in the area.

The Sport England Playing Pitch Model (PPM) used in the Assessment Report highlights an anticipated future surplus of senior football pitches in North Tyneside. Whilst these predictions should not be used in isolation, it is in the main attributed to spare capacity across a large number of sites, some of which is significant. This type of surplus can be important to overall levels of participation in the context of using it to accommodate predicted growth in football participation.

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Surplus pitches allow others to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate a senior pitch where there is no demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

Table 4.1: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	The needs of the game will change significantly from the 2013/14 season with the implementation of the FA Youth Development Review. As a result, pitch demands will change. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).	Consider allocating leases to Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams. Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities. Work with clubs in relation to their pitch demands as a result of the FA Youth Development Review.
	Demand for senior football is also likely to be sustained by the high levels of junior participation onward flow of players and supported by the FA's National Strategy.	Continually invest in the improvement of 'key centres' to improve ancillary facilities (see site by site action plan).
Cricket	Clubs have strong and active senior and junior sections which access a range of club facilities.	A number of clubs with large junior sections are likely to require access to additional pitches and to be supported to make improvements to ancillary facilities.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
Rugby union	The previous RFU Strategic Plan focuses on a 2% growth year on year until 2013 for adults. The Rugby World Cup (2015) is predicted to see a further increase in the demand for rugby provision.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches and ancillary facilities. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate.
AGPs	Demand for AGPs for football continues to increase. Provision of 3G pitches (IRB complaint) will help to reduce overplay of football and rugby pitches.	AGP use for football training purposes is likely to continue to grow. Any significant future growth of hockey is not likely to be met unless new facilities are provided.

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Management objective (c) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both latent and potential future demand.

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

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

Management objective (d) - Establish an approach to securing developer contributions which prioritises projects according to a range of core criteria.

It is important that this strategy informs policies and emerging supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development. The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include new provision and/or enhancement of existing appropriate outdoor playing fields and ancillary facilities (including AGPs and sports grounds) as well as subsequent maintenance towards the upkeep for the first ten years. A number of management objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ To continue to ensure that where playing field and sports ground are lost, through alternative development or closure, that the type of sports facilities of the same or improved standard are provided to meet the continued needs of residents.
- ◀ Where pitches are lost due to redevelopment of the site, compensatory re-provision or an equivalent contribution for re-investment into new pitches will be sought as appropriate in an alternative accessible location.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement or equivalent must be completed specifying the amount which will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the Planning Committee, and timing of the Contribution(s) to be paid.
- ◀ Some contributions may need to be ring fenced for use according to the particular terms of the Planning Obligation, where there is opportunity to improve the appropriate sporting facility within the local vicinity. However, for some sports such as for example cricket and rugby a "central pot" for developer contributions across the local authority area may be preferable for the particular sport.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into the appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should also be located on site.

If S106 contributions are not appropriate, CIL may be a preferable form of funding for sports pitch developments. Therefore, inclusion of appropriate sports pitches/facilities improvements should be made in the Council's Regulation 123 list of infrastructure that will accompany the CIL charging schedule (timetabled in the LDS for adoption in September 2015).

Management objective (e) - Work with facility providers to establish an approach to co-ordinate investment to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision.

Some investment in new provision will not be made by Councils directly, it is important that the Council therefore seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by schools, colleges, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision. In delivering this objective the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through existing networks.

OBJECTIVE 2

To address issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision

- f. Adopt a Borough wide quality standard.
- g. Adopted a tiered approach to the management and improvement of facilities which allows for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach including ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation and car parking.
- h. Invest in key multi-pitch/sport sites.
- i. Projects should seek to improve pitch/surface quality as a priority.
- j. Prepare funding packages as appropriate to secure improvements to key strategic sites.

Management objective (f) – Adopt a Borough wide quality standard

To support achievement of this objective, the Council should adopt and work towards the following quality standard for provision:

'All outdoor sports pitches should be of a suitable standard to meet the needs of its users'

Priority in the short term (given limited resources) should be directed to 'poor' quality sites. This standard, based on an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, should be used to identify deficiencies and hence investment should be prioritised to those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database, provided in electronic format). The policy approach to these outdoor recreation facilities achieving these standards should be to continually look to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

'Good' quality refers to facilities that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc, have access for disabled people and are supported by good quality ancillary facilities including changing accommodation, toilets and car parking.

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‘Adequate’ quality refers to facilities that have, for example adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear, reasonable changing accommodation and the goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. Please refer to the Sport England quality assessments.

Management objective (g) – Adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of facilities which allows for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach including ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation and car parking

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

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

Table 4.2: Proposed tiered site criteria

Strategic site	Key Centres	Club/Education Sites	Strategic Reserve Sites
Strategically placed in the Borough.	Strategically placed in the local authority context.	Strategically placed in the local context.	Strategically placed in the local context.
Accommodates five or more pitches.	Accommodates three or more pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.	Likely to be single-pitch site with limited demand.
Single or multi sport provision.	Single or multi sport provision.	Single or multi sport provision.	Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.
Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee	Management control remains within the local authority or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Club either has long-term lease/hires the pitch for the entire season or owns the site. Management control remains within the	Management control remains with the Council or existing management body.

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Strategic site	Key Centres	Club/Education Sites	Strategic Reserve Sites
or education owned		local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	
Special maintenance in conjunction with NGBs.	Special maintenance in conjunction with NGBs.	Maintenance can be either by the club/school or remain with the local authority.	Maintenance should remain with the local authority or existing management body.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	Appropriate access changing to accommodate as required.

Strategic Sites such as Killingworth Young Peoples Club and Wallsend Boys Club already seeks to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for both senior and junior (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for junior football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for junior football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both junior and mini-football matches could be played on these sites and would be an appropriate site to accommodate 9v9 pitches. Initial investment could be required in the short term and has (if required) been identified in the Action Plan.

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

Key Centres such as Lockey Park and Foxhunter's already seek to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for both senior and junior (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for junior football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for junior football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both junior and mini-football matches could be played on these sites and would be an appropriate site to accommodate 9v9 pitches. Initial investment could be required in the short term and has been identified in the Action Plan.

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

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Club Sites such as East Palmersville Playing Field and Seaton Burn Recreation Ground refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis and are primarily more than one pitch sites. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

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

Pitch quality improvements in most cases relate to installation and/or improving drainage works on sites. The continuing issue of teams training on pitches used by other teams for match play is also significant. This unofficial use of pitches is viewed as having a detrimental impact on quality of provision; ensuring a sufficient level of drainage on pitches as well as provision of artificial grass facilities in order to accommodate training needs is vital.

Education Sites such as Valley Gardens Middle School and John Spence Community College refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a regular basis and are primarily more than one pitch sites. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low. Consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club arranging with the school a lease agreement on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

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

Pitch quality improvements in most cases relate to installation and/or improving drainage works on sites. Often a site without community use by a team/club is due to a lack of quality in the pitches found on site. Ensuring a sufficient level of quality in pitches and ancillary facilities in order to accommodate teams/clubs needs is vital.

Strategic Reserve Sites such as Annistford Playing Fields, Billy Mill Playing Field and Southgate Playing Fields could be used for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They could be single-pitch sites with limited usage, or have no recognised current usage.

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Management objective (h) – Invest in multi-pitch sites

Consultation highlighted a number of important key sites in North Tyneside. These pitch sites are considered to be the most popular. They need to be high quality in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week – ideally to service a range of sports.

The creation of key multi-pitch sites is based on importance in a Borough-wide context (i.e. or where they accommodate the majority of play). We therefore recommend that the following sites be developed as such:

- ◀ Killingworth Young Peoples Club
- ◀ Wallsend Boys Club
- ◀ Lockey Park
- ◀ Foxhunters Playing Field
- ◀ Churchill Playing Fields
- ◀ Rising Sun Sports Ground
- ◀ St Peters Playing Fields

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of multi pitch sites are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development at:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/sports_hubs.aspx

Due to local authority budget constraints, it is clear that, across the life of this strategy, not all of those sites currently without changing facilities can be upgraded to have suitable changing facilities. Furthermore in some locations the provision of changing accommodation is not economic or efficient. It is therefore important to prioritise those sites which are being developed as hub sites.

Management objective (i) – Projects should seek to improve pitch/surface quality as a priority

It is vital that local clubs and organisations have access to the best facilities possible, both to accommodate current levels of participation and to stimulate new activity. These facilities must meet the minimum specification requirements set out by governing bodies of sport, leagues/competitions as well as (as far as possible) meet the aspirations of sports clubs in North Tyneside.

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitch stock, it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity (Sport England suggests that a good pitch can accommodate two matches per week). This is determined by assessing pitch quality and allocating a weekly match limit to each.

Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this, for example, overplay at seven sites is attributed to 'adequate' or 'poor' pitch quality:

- ◀ Foxhunters Playing Field
- ◀ Heaton Terrace Playing Fields
- ◀ High Flatworth

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- ◀ East Palmersville Playing Fields
- ◀ Lockey Park
- ◀ Seaton Burn Recreation Ground
- ◀ St Peters Playing Fields

Furthermore, of particular concern is overplay recorded at John Spence Community College (3 matches) and Links Avenue Playing Fields (2.5 matches). These sites are overplayed due to the large number of fixtures being played on the same day of the week. Play on sites such as this could be directed to sites which either have spare capacity or no community use.

Improving pitch quality should not be considered in isolation from maintenance regimes. Projects should seek to improve pitch/surface quality as a priority on sites based on usage, users and site facilities.

Whilst it works both ways in so much as poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being played at overcapacity. Potential improvements may make poor quality sites more attractive and therefore more popular. Sites in North Tyneside identified as being of a poor quality but with spare capacity (and the potential to accommodate further play if pitch quality improves) include:

- ◀ Collingwood View Playing Fields
- ◀ Annitsford Playing Field
- ◀ East Palmersville FIT Playing Fields
- ◀ South Wellfield

Management objective (j) – Prepare funding packages as appropriate to secure improvements to key strategic sites

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

There may be opportunities within the Borough, to secure planning contributions (both proposed and outstanding Section 106 Agreements) to ensure that future provision is sustainable.

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

OBJECTIVE 3

To maximise access to all outdoor facilities and in particular educational facilities

- k. Establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools to maximise community use of educational facilities. Particularly given that gaining access to pitches at schools not currently allowing community use is difficult.
- l. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through lease arrangements.
- m. Create centralised booking services for playing pitches and sports grounds to ensure easy access on pitch availability for local teams, and to aid general promotion of sport and one-stop marketing of provision.

Management objective (k) – Establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools to maximise community use of educational facilities. Particularly given that gaining access to pitches at schools not currently allowing community use is difficult.

Colleges, secondary schools and primary schools where the facilities exist, have an important role in a playing pitch strategy. It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to outdoor sports facilities to the community is limited. The Assessment Report highlighted several issues relating to the use of school facilities:

- ◀ Community use is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs.
- ◀ A number of schools are unwilling to allow community use due to the perceived detrimental impact on the quality of pitches and/or issues about access.
- ◀ There are no identified standard community use agreements between clubs and schools for outdoor pitches.
- ◀ There are management issues inherent in developing, implementing and managing community use agreements. Advice and guidance can be obtained from Sport England’s Planning Bulletin 16 – School Sites and Community Provision (2004). (www.sportengland.org/planningkitbag).

There are a number of schools identified as not having community use (in the form of competitive match play) in North Tyneside. The table below identifies those sites that do not have community use but state provision is available, and sites which do not have community and are not available.

Table 4.3: Availability of school provision currently not in use

Community use available/no usage identified	Community use not available
◀ Amberley Primary School	◀ Bailey Green Primary School
◀ Balliol Primary School	◀ Burnside Business & Enterprise College
◀ Battle Hill Primary School	◀ Forest Hall Primary School
◀ Benton Dene Schools	◀ George Stephenson High School

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Community use available/no usage identified	Community use not available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Collingwood Primary School ◀ Greenfields Primary School ◀ Hadrian Park Primary School ◀ King Edward Primary School ◀ Langley First School ◀ Marden High School ◀ Monkseaton Middle School ◀ Grasmere Primary School ◀ Southridge First School ◀ Spring Gardens Primary School ◀ Waterville Primary School ◀ Whitley Bay High School (football pitch) ◀ St Columbia's Roman Catholic Primary ◀ Redesdale Primary School ◀ Carville Primary ◀ Richardson Dees Primary School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Holystone Primary School ◀ Ivy Road Primary School ◀ Longbenton Community College ◀ New York Primary School ◀ Preston Grange Primary School ◀ St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary ◀ St Stephen's Roman Catholic Primary ◀ St Thomas More Roman Catholic High School ◀ St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School ◀ St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Primary ◀ The Kings School ◀ Wallsend Jubilee Primary School ◀ Westmoor Primary School ◀ Whitehouse Primary School ◀ St Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary ◀ St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary ◀ Riverside Primary School ◀ Holycross Roman Catholic Primary ◀ Burradon Primary School ◀ Marine Park First School ◀ Monkseaton High School (rugby pitch)

Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use. This needs to be examined against these issues:

- ◀ The analysis provides a clear indication of the future pitch requirements and provides a basis for partners to negotiate.
- ◀ Community use should not impact on the needs of schools to deliver curricular and extracurricular activities

It is identified that there is ongoing dialogue with officer from sports and leisure with colleagues from CYPL (Children, Young People and Learning) and, as and when relevant, with individual schools and schools trust to look at how best to make use of the underutilised resources. This practice should be encouraged and could be strengthened through establishing a working group in order to meet regularly.

Management objective (I) - Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality development minded clubs through lease arrangements

As well as improving the quality of well-used, local authority sites, there are a number of sites which have poor quality (or no) ancillary facilities. These are used by a single club on a season-by-season basis. Such sites are therefore considered the 'home ground' of the club, despite not always having a long-term lease. It is recommended that security of tenure should be granted to the clubs playing on these sites (minimum 10 years) so the clubs are in a position to apply for external funding to generate sufficient funds to improve the ancillary facilities.

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There is potential for a number of sites in North Tyneside to be leased to sports clubs and/or organisations. Each club will be required to meet service and/or strategic objectives set out by the Council. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered, which take into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability.

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

Table 4.4: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

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

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

Club outcomes for lease agreements

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

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

Management objective (m) – Create a centralised booking service to provide a user friendly booking system helping the clubs/public to access and use playing pitches

A centralised management system should be implemented which assumes overall management of pitch bookings through a one stop booking service for users. This should ideally include secondary school sites and should be centrally managed. Adequate promotion and marketing attached to this will ensure that users are aware of the availability, location and cost of provision. NTC is recognised as having a booking system already in operation.

Careful consideration should be given to pricing which reflects a balance between affordability and the wider well being benefits of taking part in sport alongside the ongoing subsidy levels for the provision of sports pitches.

OBJECTIVE 4

To support the development of local leagues and clubs to meet their needs within North Tyneside

- n. Support high levels of participation at clubs which contribute to the achievement of sports development objectives.
- o. Work with local clubs which have achieved quality accreditation to, where relevant, identify and secure facility improvements, appropriate sites for new facility development and funding opportunities.
- p. Support local clubs to demonstrate sustainability.
- q. Adopt a Community Asset Transfer Policy.

Management objective (n) – Support high levels participation at clubs which contribute to the achievement of sports development objectives

It is important that sports development objectives, to some extent, dictate and are embedded within the outcomes of the Strategy. To this end, the following objectives are suggested for use to monitor and evaluate the future sustainability, and relative success, of facility projects which are identified and supported:

- ◀ Increasing participation
- ◀ Raising standards
- ◀ Workforce development
- ◀ Improving facilities

Management objective (o) - Work with local clubs which have achieved quality accreditation to, where relevant, identify and secure facility improvements, appropriate sites for new facility development and funding opportunities

The Council should adopt a policy/charter which supports quality accredited clubs (<http://www.clubmark.org.uk/files/images/clubmark-charter-large.gif>). The Clubmark/FA Charter Standard and the local Club Registration Scheme help clubs to achieve their own

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aims and ambitions and to support the complementary objectives and targets of partners in local authorities, schools/school sport partnerships and other community agencies.

Support to accredited clubs may include offering discounted facility hire and priority bookings slots as well as assembling bespoke benefits packages incorporating reduced cost access to courses. The adoption of a charter as policy also benefits partners:

- ◀ **Grow:** Research suggests that Clubmark clubs are better equipped to drive and manage increased levels of participation; particularly, but not solely, for young people.
- ◀ **Meeting targets:** Having Clubmark clubs to work with will assist local authorities to achieve targets for youth participation and school-club links.
- ◀ **Parental confidence:** Being seen to actively address issues such as equity and child protection gives parents confidence when considering or choosing a club for their children - thus helping to boost introductory participation.
- ◀ **Sustaining participation levels:** Clubmark stimulates innovation and improvements to how clubs cater for junior (and all) members. The culture it promotes boosts the morale of players and ensures that volunteers are recognised for their contribution.
- ◀ **Continuous improvement:** Accreditation encourages clubs to adopt better, more organised systems and structures, helping them to run more effectively and efficiently.
- ◀ **Coaches and coaching:** Research suggests Clubmark clubs both deploy more, and work harder to develop the skills of, coaches. This leads to better quality provision and improved player performance.
- ◀ **School-club links:** Increasingly, schools are seeking guarantees of quality and the presence of child-friendly systems and procedures. Clubmark clubs are the first invited to work with local school sport partnerships and individual schools. Teachers and schools staff are actively encouraged to signpost pupils to them.

Management objective (p) – Support local clubs to demonstrate sustainability

Local sports clubs should be supported to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example, the Council should continue to support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an income through their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)². Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally whether volunteer support agencies of linking with local businesses.

Management objective (q) – Adopt a Community Asset Transfer Policy

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

NTC is identified as having a Communities Lettings Policy which a number of clubs/groups already have and continue to benefit from.

² <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

4.2: Sport specific objectives

Sports development objectives should also guide delivery of sports specific objectives and should be read within the context of the summary findings identified by the Assessment Report.

FOOTBALL OBJECTIVE

Meet identified deficiencies in junior and mini football provision and ensure there is a range of football facilities across North Tyneside to service *all* levels of the game.

- ◀ Protect the current playing pitch stock.
- ◀ Improve the quality and capacity of existing pitch stock.
- ◀ Work with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ The anticipated surplus of senior pitches should be considered in contributing towards addressing the current and future deficit of junior and mini pitches (ensuring the new FA pitch sizes and dimensions are taken into consideration). However, also ensure that some senior pitches are retained for strategic reserve and to accommodate latent demand.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs (i.e. Charter Standard Community Clubs) to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development (as detailed in the management objectives).
- ◀ Continue to support clubs in the management and improvement of their facilities.
- ◀ As far as possible, support clubs with facility development aspirations through the planning and application stages.
- ◀ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing particularly for women's and girls' football.
- ◀ Work to maximise primary school sites to address the shortfall of junior/mini pitches (ensuring the new FA pitch sizes and dimensions are taken into consideration) and ensure site security and access to changing facilities is enhanced.
- ◀ Meet likely future deficiencies in mini pitches (5v5 and 7v7) by utilising senior pitches in areas of oversupply and marking out more pitches where land is available on existing sites.

FA Youth Development Review

The FA has consulted widely and has been encouraged to produce national pitch sizes for mini soccer (5v5 and 7v7), Youth football (9v9 and 11v11) and over 18 senior football (11v11). This will see an increased use of small-sided games for all age groups up to U12s. This will allow children to progress gradually through age-appropriate formats. The entry point for U7s and U8s will be the 5v5 game. U9s and U10s will then step up to 7v7, followed by a new 9v9 level for U11s and U12s.

This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches in youth football.

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.5: Summary of each step and the appropriate pitch and goal sizes

Age	Format	Pitch size without runoff (Length x width yards)	Pitch size including runoff ³ (Length x width yards)	Recommended size of goal posts (Height x width ft)
Mini soccer U7/U8	5 v 5	40 x 30	46 x 36	6 x 12
Mini soccer U9/U10	7 v 7	60 x 40	66 x 46	6 x 12
Youth 11/12	9 v 9	80 x 50	86 x 56	7 x 16
Youth 13/14	11 v 11	90 x 55	96 x 61	7 x 21
Youth 15/16	11 v 11	100 x 60	106 x 66	8 x 24
Youth 17/18	11 v 11	110 x 70	116 x 76	8 x 24
Over 18 (senior ages)	11 v 11	110 x 70	116 x 76	8 x 24

Playing smaller-sided games has been proved to give children an increased number of touches of the ball, while providing more goals and scoring attempts, more one-v-one encounters and more chance to attempt dribbling skills. It is this increased contact time with the ball that the FA believe will help children enjoy the game more while providing them with better preparation for the 11-a-side a game.

The introduction of 9v9 football, by the FA, is designed to help bridge the gap between mini soccer at U10s and 11-a-side at U11s and will see the introduction of a new intermediate sized pitch. The FA reports that where there is limited space, there is the ability to mark out 9v9 pitches across a full size pitch.

Through marking out two 9v9 pitches on one senior pitch this will thus help to meet the shortfall of junior pitches identified at peak times. However, specific 9v9 goals (recommended size 7 x 16 ft) would be required. Funding for the purchase of new 9v9 goalposts is available through the Football Foundation⁴.

The proposals will become mandatory from 2013/14 season.

In order to ensure readiness to accommodate the new FA pitch sizes and dimensions the Council should seek to work towards introducing 9v9 pitches by 2013/2014 (based on the number of junior football teams in season 12/13) to ensure it can accommodate this new format of football. However, this does not take into account latent demand and increases in football participation. This could be achieved by either re-marking senior pitches (of which there is a surplus) as 9v9 pitches or additional 9v9 line markings (therefore providing dual use senior and 9v9 pitches) to accommodate this new format of football. Any new pitch development should take into consideration the 9v9 pitch requirements.

³ Including runoff (safety area around pitch)

⁴ www.footballfoundation.org.uk

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CRICKET OBJECTIVE

Maintain current provision levels and quality but work to increase access to single team club pitches for those clubs expressing demand.

- ◀ Protect current levels of provision and seek to increase the quality of cricket pitches (artificial or grass) where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs to gain access to second home grounds to meet latent demand expressed e.g. Tynemouth CC
- ◀ Support clubs to develop their ancillary facilities to further meet local needs.
- ◀ Ensure that any facilities developed support opportunities for senior women's and junior girls' competitive cricket.
- ◀ Encourage and support development of junior girls' and women's cricket.
- ◀ Support clubs to develop and improve practice facilities.
- ◀ Investment should be primarily be targeted and directed to ECB focus clubs which support high levels of participation and have also the ECB Clubmark criteria.

RUGBY UNION OBJECTIVE

Work towards meeting identified current and future deficiencies and increase quality as required.

- ◀ Protect current levels of provision and work with clubs to alleviate pressure on competitive grass pitches to help accommodate future anticipated growth.
- ◀ Ensure clubs have access to, where required, designated grass floodlit training facilities (on club sites).
- ◀ Consider development of at least one IRB standard AGP for rugby. This will also help to reduce levels of overplay on existing grass pitches and allow pitches to rest when not in use.
- ◀ Encourage and support further development of school rugby union.

HOCKEY OBJECTIVE

Maintain current levels of provision.

- ◀ Work with England Hockey (EH) to support its development programmes aimed at increasing participation.
- ◀ Ensure the availability of AGPs in North Tyneside to accommodate both hockey training and competitive play.
- ◀ Work to ensure that plans are in place to maintain AGP quality in the long term.
- ◀ Work to make any quality improvements to AGPs to address occurring issues.
- ◀ Meet any future deficiencies in AGP provision by investigating additional AGPs.

EDUCATION OBJECTIVE

Work with schools to encourage greater community use, particularly for junior sports at appropriate sites.

- ◀ Secure existing community use through implementation of formal community use agreements where they are not currently in existence in order to provide sustainable community access.
- ◀ Ensure appropriate access to changing provision on school sites to support community use of their playing fields.
- ◀ Work with schools where there is no community use to open up sites (pitches and changing facilities) to help address the deficiencies identified in football, rugby and cricket. The priority should be to approach primary schools in order to address the deficiencies in junior and mini football pitches.

PART 5: ACTION PLAN

5.1: Introduction

The Action Plan seeks to address the surpluses and deficiencies identified in the Playing Pitch Model together with key issues emerging from the Assessment Report. This should be used to prioritise investment and spend developer contributions (where secured).

The actions listed below will help to achieve the aims of increasing levels of physical activity, improving health and wellbeing and transforming sport. They are a set of proposals developed by KKP that NTC will review in the light of existing staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make.

The Strategy and its actions have been developed during a difficult economic climate creating a period of reduced and diminishing Council resources. As a result NTC will need to work with key partners to address shortfalls in provision resulting from current and future demand (as a result of population growth). Partners such as developers and facility providers in the public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as NGB's and other interested parties will be vital in the ability to delivery provision in the future.

5.2: Justification of sites within the action plan

The Action Plan details policy options relating to individual sites and the need to enhance and develop new sporting provision. The following criteria have been used to identify priorities and justify the inclusion of sites within the Action Plan. Just one of the following may apply:

- ◀ A project is currently underway to enhance the existing site and/or funding has been secured.
- ◀ An evaluation of site use is required as it is of poor quality and is reportedly underused.
- ◀ The desired action is small scale, short term and will enhance the quality of current provision, whilst aiding community use.
- ◀ The importance of the site is identified in other strategies.

The tables showing the summary of surpluses and deficiencies in each analysis area utilise the capacity data from the Assessment Report. Capacity calculations include school sites identified as already having competitive community usage. It does not include schools without any current community use noted.

It only includes sites that have community use in order to reflect genuine spare capacity at sites. As sites with current community use are more likely to be willing to allow greater levels of club use; having the structures already in place to enable such use.

Conversely schools without and/or unwilling to allow community use are likely to be more difficult for NTC to open to allow club usage.

Subsequently all school sites are included in the action plan. However, the level of influence NTC has in the management and access of some sites is restricted. This has been reflected in the recommended actions for such sites.

5.3: Management and development

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

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

The following tables set out a series of recommended actions relating to sport and site specific issues within North Tyneside.

5.4: Area by area specific action plan

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. It is not feasible to include all sites with identified development issues. Only sites, which meet the criteria listed above, have, therefore, been included.

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

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

South East Area

Summary of surplus and deficiency in South East Area						
	Football			Cricket	Senior rugby union	Total area converted into hectares
	Senior	Junior	Mini			
Current	6.5	-0.5	-3.0	-1.7	-10.5	-9.2
2023	5.0	-1.0	-3.7	-2.3	-12.1	-14.1

Currently there is an oversupply of senior pitches that is attributed to spare capacity across five sites. The site with the most noticeable amount of spare capacity is Norham Community Technology College with capacity for an additional 8.5 matches per week. Capacity is noted for Saturdays and Sunday PM. The deficiency of mini football pitches is attributed to the number of mini teams playing (seven) and the shortage of pitches at peak time (Sunday).

In terms of cricket, the Council should seek to support Tynemouth CC in accessing a second pitch site to help meet the current and future deficiency reported.

The deficiency of rugby union pitches is attributed to overplay (training and competitive use) at two sites; Percy Park RFC and Preston Playing Fields. Any opportunities for the creation of rugby playing pitches and ancillary facilities in the South East Area should be taken in order to increase the level of rugby provision available.

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Collingwood View Playing Fields	15	North Tyneside Council	Site has poor drainage and is prone to vandalism (e.g. bonfires & motorbikes). Also has a problem with dog foul on the pitch. Current spare capacity is noted for Sat AM and Sun AM/PM. Pavilion accommodating four changing rooms is small for size of site.	Improve the quality of pitches which will increase the carrying capacity and use. Explore options of funding sources (e.g. Sport England) and work in with club(s) to maximise funds for quality improvements. Support North Shields FC in aspiration to build new changing facilities, which will enable current provision to be used by other clubs.	Key Centre	S/M

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Foxhunters Playing Field	22	North Tyneside Council	Poor drainage and no changing accommodation at present. Poor quality of pitch results in a low carrying capacity. The site is currently undergoing refurbishment works to its ancillary facilities. Works should be complete by spring 2013 and will include changing provision for 6/8 teams, installation of drainage to one pitch and a new 60x40 size floodlit 3G AGP.	Ensure completion of ongoing works. New AGP facility will help meet demand for training. Consider with Whitley Bay FC (as main user) sources of funding for installation of drainage to other pitches on site in order to further increase carrying capacity.	Key Centre	S M/L
Heaton Terrace Playing Fields	26	North Tyneside Council	Poor drainage and size of (two senior football) pitches are limited. Site has no parking. Pavilion also dated and in need of refurbishment/ replacement. Overplayed due to poor pitch quality.	Explore options to improve existing pitch quality, which will increase the carrying capacity.	Club	M
High Flatworth	27	North Tyneside Council	Pitch drainage is poor and pavilion is in need of replacement.	Look to improve quality of provision. Consider site disposal to allow more industrial units. Ensure any mitigation for loss of pitches is used to fund improvements at other sites.	Strategic reserve	S/M M/L
John Spence Community High School	31	Education	Sandbased AGP to be replaced with a 3G surface in 2013. North Shields Junior FC is seeking funding from Football Foundation to assist in building a clubhouse.	Support school and North Shields Juniors FC in completion of work. Assist North Shields Hockey Club in relocation.	Education	S
King Edward School	34	Education	One poor quality mini football pitch on site.	All available for community use but no play noted. Cost of hire is viewed as not being affordable for clubs. If future demand identifies need, work with schools to consider increasing community usage if cost and quality of provision can be agreed. A community use agreement with a club willing to use sites may offer opportunities to access funding.	Education	M/L
Collingwood Primary School	14	Education	One poor quality junior football pitch on site.			
Waterville Primary School	76	Education	Two poor quality junior football pitches. School report no demand.			

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Links Avenue Playing Fields	36	North Tyneside Council	Surface undulating on top pitch; drainage is average. Drainage on lower pitch is poor. No parking. Cullercoats FC is in process on securing long term lease of site.	Support Cullercoats FC to identify funding opportunities for site improvements.	Club	S-L
Marden High School	41	Education	Senior and junior football pitches, as well as a rugby union pitch. All are of good quality with capacity for use. School reports interest from Whitley Bay Rockcliffe RFC and Tynemouth United FC.	Work with the School to explore options for further community use. Will help to meet latent demand expressed by Tynemouth United FC and capacity issues with Whitley Bay Rockcliffe.	Education	S
Norham Community Technology College	47	Education	Site has two good quality senior football, and one average quality junior football pitch. Spare capacity is expressed on Saturday AM/PM and Sunday PM.	Work with the School to explore options of increasing community use.	Education	S
Percy Park RFC	51	Percy Park RFC	Pitches are used beyond their capacity.	Explore potential of club using Marden High School rugby pitch for training purposes (Rockcliffe RFC also interested in using for training).	Club	S
Spring Gardens Primary School	61	Education	School site contains a generic field. No community usage is recorded but it is available for use.	Investigate the option to mark out mini pitches on the site would help to meet shortfall in the Area. Work with school to promote usage.	Education	M/L
The Kings School (Preston Avenue)	71	Education	Existing rugby provision at Percy Park RFC and Preston Playing Fields are overplayed.	Establish availability of pitch provision (rugby and cricket) following schools transition to Academy status.	Education	S
Tynemouth Cricket Club	73	Tynemouth Cricket Club	Use of current pitch is at capacity. Club is looking at option of Kings School (Preston Avenue) site.	Support the Club in its plans to access a second pitch	Club	S

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
The Parks Sports Centre	84	North Tyneside Council	North Shields Hockey Club is due to relocate to the site following resurfacing of AGP at John Spencer High School.	Support both North Shields Hockey Club and Whitley Bay & Tynemouth Hockey Club in a facility share agreement. Work with clubs and NGB to improve ancillary facilities, such as toilets/ clubhouse, adjacent to pitches.	Key Centre	S/M
Billy Mill Playing Field	91	North Tyneside Council	Ground is undulating with poor drainage. Contamination is identified as being present at a lower depth. No changing facilities or parking provision is present. If drainage is improved there will be a greater carrying capacity. However, consideration to the pitches being on contaminated reclamation land is needed. The area is safe for usage however any earthworks would come at a significant cost.	Consider potential for site to accommodate mini pitch provision if required.	Strategic reserve	L

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

North West Area

Summary of surplus and deficiency in North West Area						
	Football			Cricket	Senior rugby union	Total area converted into hectares
	Senior	Junior	Mini			
Current	8.5	-1.5	-4.0	-2.5	-	0.5
2023	6.9	-1.9	-5.5	-2.9	-	-3.4

There is a current and future shortfall of junior and mini football pitches in the North West Area which is predominately as result of the large number of teams playing and the shortage of pitches at peak time (Saturday).

The Council should seek to increase community use at school sites (where there are existing pitches) to accommodate the current and future deficiency of mini pitches as well as latent demand (of two junior pitches) expressed. There are also a number of schools available for community use but with no competitive usage in the area that should be explored. Alternatively the shortfall could be satisfied through reconfiguration of the existing stock or through provision of a third generation turf pitch.

The surplus of senior pitches should be retained to accommodate the new FA pitch dimension and sizes which will result in demand for 11v11 pitches, particularly to accommodate youth football (U13-U18) as well as latent demand for (two) senior pitches.

As mirrored with football (junior and mini), cricket provision in the North West Area shows a current and future shortfall. The Council should support clubs to increase the availability of artificial wickets for play and improve facilities to accommodate future demand.

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Annitsford Playing Fields	2	North Tyneside Council	One senior pitch with poor drainage. A new pavilion is currently being built. Site is leased to New Fordley Juniors. Club has accessed external funding to improve facilities on site.	Ensure completion of ongoing improvement works. Work with New Fordley Juniors to improve the drainage as and when possible, which will increase the carrying capacity of the site.	Club	S S/M

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Amberley Primary School	1	Education	No community use of junior pitch but it is available. School reports lack of demand.	Work with schools to explore option of attracting community use. Particularly with regard to meeting junior/mini shortfalls and latent demand expressed by Gosforth Bohemians FC.	Education	S/M
Balliol Primary School	5	Education	One senior and one mini football pitch. No usage but is available.			
East Palmersville Playing Field	18	Forest Hall JFC	Three average quality senior football pitches and one good quality junior pitch. Drainage was installed on one senior pitch when pavilion was built.	Work with club (Forest Hall Junior FC) to explore potential to improve the quality of the pitches which will increase the carrying capacity. Explore potential for additional mini pitch to be created at far end of site.	Club	M M/L
Fordley Community Primary School	19	Education	Site has good quality senior, junior and mini football pitches. Some spare capacity is expressed on Saturday and Sunday PM.	Work with the School to explore option of increasing community use. Particularly with regard to meeting junior/mini shortfalls.	Education	S
Killingworth Young Peoples Centre	33	North Tyneside Council	Important central venue for mini soccer. Some drainage issues noted but generally good quality.	When possible support KYPC in continuing to provide a good standard of pitches.	Strategic site	S-L
Lockey Park	37	North Tyneside Council	The site has three senior and two mini football pitches. All assessed as poor quality. Works to pitch drainage are due to take place in 2013 in addition to installation of a 3G pitch to ease capacity for training.	Work with club to continue to improve drainage on site where possible. Also, in improving ancillary facilities including an AGP, any potential extension to the clubhouse and expansion of the pitches.	Key centre	S M
Longbenton Community College	38	Education	Site comprises of one good and two senior football pitches of poor quality. No community use is noted. School identifies being at capacity.	Explore options of opening facilities for community use as part of any future potential development/ investment from the Priority Schools Building programme.	Education	L

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Grasmere Primary School	45	Education	No community use at present (contains a generic field). School is changing to Academy status and is looking to explore options.	Work with the School to explore options of marking a mini or junior pitch on site if required. Could help to meet latent demand expressed by Longbenton Junior FC.	Education	M
Seaton Burn College	56	Education	Two good quality senior football pitches. Some spare capacity is shown on Saturday AM and Sunday PM.	Work with the College to explore option of increasing community use.	Education	M
Seaton Burn Recreation Ground	57	North Tyneside Council	Planning permission for a golf course/ driving range to the adjacent field was approved in November 2012. S106 for the improvement of the ancillary facilities on site was approved as part of the permission. A leasehold transfer of the site to the developer has also been proposed to assist with community use. Seaton Burn FC also notes an area on the bottom of the pitch floods due to there being no drainage.	Work with the clubs and developer to provide improved ancillary facilities. Explore options to improve pitch quality which will increase the carrying capacity.	Club	S/M M
Southgate Playing Fields	59	North Tyneside Council	One senior pitch with poor drainage due to high water table.	Consider potential to reconfigure to accommodate junior pitch provision.	Strategic reserve	S-L
West Moor Community Centre	78	North Tyneside Council	Good pitches and changing facilities (two senior and one mini).	Promote use of site to meet identified mini deficiency and to meet latent demand expressed by clubs such as Longbenton FC and/or Burradon FC	Club	S
East Palmersville FIT Playing Fields	87	North Tyneside Council	Two senior pitches on site. Both of a poor quality. Site has poor drainage and playing surface. Problem of dog foul is highlighted.	Work with Forest Hall FC (as main user) to access funding in order to improve quality of the pitches, which will increase the carrying capacity.	Club	M

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
George Stephenson Playing Fields	92	North Tyneside Council	Site suffers from poor drainage due to a high underlying water table.	<p>Consider potential to reconfigure to accommodate junior pitch provision and changing facilities. Any plans will need to improve drainage.</p> <p>Consider potential of providing an AGP on site (given grass pitch drainage issues) which could be shared by school and community.</p>	Strategic reserve	M/L L

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

South West Area

Summary of surplus and deficiency in South West Area						
	Football			Cricket	Senior rugby union	Total area converted into hectares
	Senior	Junior	Mini			
Current	0.5	0.5	1.0		-	2.0
2023	-0.7	0.2	0.7		-0.1	0.2

The minor surpluses of senior, junior and mini pitches should be retained to accommodate latent demand (of 1 junior and 1.5 senior football pitches) and to accommodate the new FA pitch dimension and sizes. Education sites could offer additional pitches to accommodate current and future demand. Remedial work may be required prior to allowing teams to use them and appropriate community use agreements should be developed at the sites.

The slight future deficiency in rugby pitches is attributed to population growth. This should be able to be accommodated by Wallsend RFCs plans to provide a new home ground in the area.

A new artificial wicket will be provided for the Last Man Stands Initiative at Centurion Park (i.e. Wallsend Golf Club).

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Battle Hill Primary School	6	Education	One good quality junior football. No competitive community use identified.	Work with the School to explore option of increasing community use. Particularly with meeting latent demand expressed by Wallsend Community FC for two additional junior teams.	Education	S
Churchill Community College	19	Education	Site has two good quality senior football pitches and a junior pitch. Spare capacity is expressed on Saturday and Sunday PM. School reports that the grass pitches are played to capacity.	Work with the School to explore option of increasing community use and develop this site as a key site servicing the Borough.	Education	M

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Hadrian Park Primary School	25	Education	School cites it has one senior pitch available for community use but that it is not currently used (as no interest).	Work with the School to explore option of increasing community use. Particularly with meeting latent demand expressed by Wallsend Community FC for an additional U16 and U18 team.	Education	S
Rising Sun Sports Ground	55	North Tyneside Council	Pitch quality is generally good but no drainage installed. Changing accommodation is also good. Rising Sun Sports Ground Users Forum (RSSGUF) is looking to pursue the construction of a permanent barrier around one of the pitches. No funding has yet been secured.	Support RSSGUF to access funding opportunities for pitch fencing in order to improve pitch quality. For example, the Sport England Protecting Playing Fields Fund. Improvements to the floodlighting and surfacing of the existing MUGA could be of benefit. Consideration of a 25 year lease of the site to RSSGUF should be given in order for the group to access external funding.	Strategic site	S S/M
St. Peters Playing Fields - West	69	North Tyneside Council	Site is poor with undulating surface and limited parking. Changing facilities are dated but adequate at present following refurbishment in 2012.	Site to continue to support football use. Consider a lease agreement with a club for the site. This can offer opportunities to access external funding in order to improve quality.	Club	S/M
St. Peters Playing Fields - East	69	North Tyneside Council	New home ground of Wallsend RFC	Continue to support club and its ongoing improvements needed to ancillary facilities (e.g. clubhouse, AGP)	Club	S/M
Wallsend Boys Club	90	Club	It is looking at the possibility of developing a second floor over the existing changing facilities; which would incorporate a function suite and an indoor training area.	Support the Club to access funding opportunities for site improvements. Work with the Club to promote the site as a key strategic football site.	Strategic site	S-L
St. Columba's RC Primary	100	Education	School has two mini pitches available for community use. No competitive community use is identified.	Work with the School to explore option of providing community use. Particularly with meeting any future/cross boundary demand.	Education	M/L

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Holy Cross RC Primary	103	Education	School has one junior pitch of adequate quality. Community use is not available.	Work with the School to explore option of allowing community use in the future.	Education	L
Redesdale Primary	104	Education	School has one junior pitch of adequate quality (drainage is an issue) available for community use. No competitive community use is identified.	Work with the School to explore option of providing community use in the future if drainage issues can be addressed.	Education	L
Carville Primary	105	Education	School has one mini pitch (of good quality) available for community use. No competitive community use is identified.	Work with the School to explore option of providing community use. Particularly with meeting any future/cross boundary demand.	Education	M/L
Richardson Dees Primary	109	Education	School has one mini pitch of adequate quality available for community use. No competitive community use is identified due to small size of pitch.	Work with the School to explore option of providing community use in the future.	Education	L
Beacon Hill School	111	Education	Site has one good quality rugby union pitch. Used as temporary home ground for Wallsend RFC but club moving to St Peters East Playing Field.	Engage with school and club to determine how best to allocate the pitch. Encourage continued community use of site. Could meet demand for rugby training/match play.	Education	S S/M

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

North East Area

Summary of surplus and deficiency in North East Area						
	Football			Cricket	Senior rugby union	Total area converted into hectares
	Senior	Junior	Mini			
Current	0.5	3.0	-2.0	-2.0	-7.5	-10.0
2023	-0.8	2.7	-2.5	-2.5	-8.4	-13.8

There is a current and future shortfall of mini football pitches in the North East Area. This deficiency is due to the number of teams wanting to play at peak time of Sunday AM. The Council should aspire to increase community use at school sites (where there are junior pitches) to accommodate mini teams and latent demand. The surplus of junior pitches should be retained to accommodate latent demand (0.5 junior) and to meet the deficiency in mini pitch provision.

In terms of cricket, the current and future shortfall is brought about by the high number of teams (14) playing and the shortage of pitches at peak time (Saturday PM). The Council should support clubs to increase the availability of artificial wickets for juniors and midweek cricket. The new artificial wicket proposed at Centurion Park (South West Area) may help to meet deficiency in provision particularly for midweek cricket.

The current and future deficiency in rugby pitches is attributed to overplay at two sites; Whitley Bay High School and Whitley Bay Rockcliffe RFC. Whitley Bay Barbarians are considering the potential to relocate to Langley Playing Fields. New rugby union pitch provision (grass or IRB compliant artificial) will be needed to meet the current and future deficiency.

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Churchill Playing Fields	12	North Tyneside Council	Good quality football pitches. Regular unofficial use of the cricket pitch is highlighted. Car parking serving the site is in very poor condition and in need of resurfacing.	Work with Monkseaton CC and Whitley Bay Boys FC to maintain quality of the pitches to ensure carrying capacity. Explore options to address the quality of the car park on site	Strategic	S/M

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Langley First School (Langley Playing Fields)	35	Education/ North Tyneside Council	Two poor quality football pitches. No competitive play identified. Whitley Bay Barbarians RFLC is currently considering relocating to site.	Support the Club in its decision as to whether to relocate and any potential improvements to ancillary facilities. A community use agreement with the Whitley Bay Barbarians may offer opportunities to access funding.	Education	S
Marden Bridge Sports Centre	40	North Tyneside Council	Issues with the quality of the surface are currently highlighted.	Look to resurface the facility. Consider demand from the school and community. Consult with relevant NGBs to consider potential surfaces (including one to an International Rugby Board standard).	Club	S/M
Monkseaton High School	43	Education	School has four senior pitches of adequate quality and one rugby pitch. Minor community use is identified. School identifies no additional community use is available.	Work with the School to explore option of increasing community use if/when required (use of rugby pitch being the priority).	Education	M/L
Monkseaton Middle School	44	Education	The Site has one good quality senior football pitch which is not currently used by community. School has been approached by Whitley Bay Boys FC for next season use.	Support school in allowing community use of pitch.	Education	S
South Wellfield	58	Education	Site has one senior, two junior and one mini pitch. Poor drainage and no changing or parking for community use	Work with Whitley Coast Soccer (as main user) to improve the quality of the pitches (mini and junior being the priority). This will increase the carrying capacity and meet latent demand expressed by Whitley Coast Soccer.	Education	S/M
Southridge First School	60	Education	School has one junior pitch of adequate quality available for community use. No competitive community use is identified.	Work with the School to explore option of providing competitive use. Marking of mini pitches (if demand) could help to meet identified deficiency.	Education	L

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Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Whitley Bay High School	82	Education	Drainage on the football pitch is an issue and there is no community use. Rugby pitch on site is currently home ground of Whitley Bay Barbarians RFC.	Support the School in any drainage improvements and explore local demand for use of the football pitches. Could be a potential for SE Protecting Playing Fields Fund.	Education	M/L
Whitley Lodge First School	83	Education	Site has two good quality junior football pitches. Spare capacity is expressed on Saturday and Sunday PM. School reports that the grass pitches are played to capacity.	Work with the School to explore option of increasing community use if/when required.	Education	M/L
Whitley Bay Cricket Club	93	North Tyneside Council	Site reportedly prone to flooding. Clubhouse of a poor quality due to its age and frequent vandalism.	Explore options of increasing security and improving drainage as well as looking at the ancillary facilities required by the club (such as a new clubhouse and artificial wickets). Consideration should be given to users relocating to an alternative site	Club	M/L
Whitley Bay Rockcliffe RFC	94	Club	Site is overplayed. Club is looking at option of using Marden High School (in South East Area). Club also planning refit of current changing facilities.	Support the Club in its plans to improve quality of ancillary facilities as well as in accessing additional training provision such as an AGP.	Club	S
Star of the Sea Primary School	96	Education	School has one mini pitch (of poor quality) available for community use.	Work with the School and Whitley Bay FC (as main user) to explore options of accessing funds to improve the quality of the pitch, which will increase the carrying capacity for further community use.	Education	S/M

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Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Adderstone Gardens	98	North Tyneside Council	Junior football pitch with drainage problems and no changing or parking.	Consider reconfiguration to accommodate mini pitch provision in order to meet identified deficiency. A community use agreement with a club willing to use site may offer opportunities to access funding.	Strategic Reserve	S L

PART 6: CONCLUSIONS

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for planning decisions made across North Tyneside in the ten years up to 2023. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of North Tyneside can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. The Strategy is intended to be flexible and regularly updated using the accompanying database tools provided.

PART 7: MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is important that there is regular monitoring (i.e. quarterly) and review against the actions identified in the Strategy.

The Council can monitor on an annual basis changes in the supply and demand for facilities by updating the assessment database with changes to site and team information.

This is important as regular monitoring of changes in supply and demand can avoid the need for a complete review of the Strategy after three years.

A Playing Pitch Strategy should be subject to a full review every three years under Sport England recommendations. However, regular monitoring of key supply and demand data can extend the life of the Playing Pitch Strategy to five years.

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APPENDIX ONE: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

In order to deliver much of the Action Plan it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated. Below is a list of current funding sources that are relevant for community improvement projects involving sports facilities.

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Facilities Fund • Sportmatch • Small Grants • Protecting Playing Fields • Inspired Facilities • Iconic Facilities http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Loans Scheme http://www.rfu.com/microsites/rff/index.cfm?fuseaction=loans.home	The Loans Scheme helps finance projects that contribute to the retention and recruitment of rugby players. Projects eligible for loans include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Club House Facilities: General structural improvements, general refurbishment, storerooms and offices, kitchen facilities, training areas. 2. Grounds (other than pitches): Car parking facilities, ground access improvements, fencing, security measures.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme http://www.rfu.com/microsites/rff/index.cfm?fuseaction=groundmatch.home	The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).

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Awarding body	Description
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: Young people and hockey. Young people and sport in Milton Keynes. Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level. Smaller Charities.

Protecting Playing Fields

SE has recently launched a funding programme; Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects over the next three years (2011-2014).

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

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

The programmes three priorities are:

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

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

Iconic Facilities Fund

The Iconic Facilities fund is part of the £135m Places People Play initiative which will deliver an Olympic and Paralympic legacy of increased sports participation by bringing the magic of a home Games into the heart of local communities. It is being delivered by Sport England in partnership with the British Olympic Association, the British Paralympic Association, with the backing of The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

It will direct capital investment into a small number of strategic facility projects that will significantly contribute to an increase in mass participation in sport across England. These facilities will be promoted as best practice and will provide a network of regional sports facilities delivering mass participation across a number of sports.

Iconic Facilities will prioritise funding to projects that provide:

- ◀ Strategic facilities in England for at least two National Governing Bodies of Sport
- ◀ Large scale capital developments resulting in facilities of regional significance for two sports or more; but also demonstrating local delivery
- ◀ Multi-sport facilities, but with a focus on sporting activities that will drive high participant numbers
- ◀ A mix of facility provision to encourage regular & sustained use by a large number of people
- ◀ Indoor and/or outdoor facilities
- ◀ An enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build
- ◀ Confidence in their ability to deliver with detailed designs and planning permission secured
- ◀ A strong project team, led ideally by a Local Authority (providing capital funding)
- ◀ A long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Operating models, which may include an emphasis on community ownership (e.g. social enterprises, trusts)

This may present opportunities to invest in its outdoor sports facilities although will require additional research to identify suitable sites.

Funder's requirements

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

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

Indicative costs

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

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance.aspx

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