



PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
FCC	Cricket Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GI	Green Infrastructure
GMA	Grounds Management Association
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LCF	Lancashire Cricket Foundation
LFA	Lancashire County Football Association
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PBC	Pendle Borough Council
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SE	Sport England
TGR	Team Generation Rates
U	Under
WRFA	West Riding County Football Association
WR	World Rugby

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been appointed by Pendle Borough Council (PBC) to deliver a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) covering all formal playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across the authority to assist it to strategically plan for the future. The study has been jointly commissioned with Ribble Valley Borough Council.

Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, this Strategy and Action Plan provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2040 (in line with the Local Plan review). It has been developed to provide:

- ▶ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- ▶ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ▶ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
- ▶ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ▶ A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ▶ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ▶ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision.
- ▶ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.
- ▶ Stage D: Develop the Strategy.
- ▶ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date.

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it updated.

A PPOSS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future outdoor sport requirements. Its robust evidence base should inform and be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively. It is capable of:

- ▶ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch and outdoor sport providers, including the public, private and third sectors.
- ▶ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, highlighting particular local demand issues.
- ▶ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas.
- ▶ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision.
- ▶ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision.
- ▶ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.
- ▶ Supporting funding applications.
- ▶ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

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The Strategy and Action Plan (Part 6) recommends a number of priority projects relating to sports provision which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.

Partner organisations in Pendle have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary provision are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), sports organisations, education establishments and parish/town councils. In some instances, Pendle Borough Council will not be the organisation which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPOSS is not solely just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

Scope

The PPOSS includes all outdoor sports facilities owned and operated by public, private and third sector organisations are within the scope:

- ✦ Football pitches.
- ✦ 3G pitches.
- ✦ Cricket pitches.
- ✦ Rugby union pitches.
- ✦ Hockey artificial grass pitches (AGPs).
- ✦ Rugby league pitches.
- ✦ Tennis courts.
- ✦ Bowling greens.
- ✦ Other pitch sports (i.e. American football).

Study area

The study area comprises the whole of Pendle Councils administrative area which has been broken into smaller subsections known as analysis areas.

Table 1.1: Summary of Pendle analysis areas

Analysis area	Ward
Barrowford & Western	Barrowford & Pendleside / Fence & Higham
Brierfield & Reedley	<i>Brierfield East & Clover Hill (part)</i> / Brierfield West & Reedley
Colne & District	Boulsworth & Foulridge / Vivary Bridge / Waterside & Horsfield
Nelson	Bradley / <i>Brierfield East & Clover Hill (part)</i> / Marsden & Southfield / Whitefield & Walverden
West Craven	Barnoldswick / Earby & Coates

Cross boundary issues have also been explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries.

The analysis areas and population density are shown in Figure 1.1.

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Figure 1.1: Analysis areas



Local context

The existing Pendle Local Plan was formally adopted in December 2015. It sets out the strategic planning policies the Council will use to help guide development into the most sustainable places over the 15-year period between its adoption through to 2030. In late 2021, the Council identified plans in favour of producing a new Local Plan and has set out a Local Development Scheme confirming timescales for its development. It is expected that the new Local Plan will run through to 2040.

A new PPOSS will provide an up-to-date evidence base and policy for the provision of new, and the improvement of existing, outdoor sports facilities to ensure the planned housing growth is supported by appropriate sporting infrastructure.

National context

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ◆ Protect playing pitches against development pressures in, and around, urban areas.
- ◆ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ◆ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g., growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◆ Address budget pressures and public-sector cuts.

The Pendle PPOSS will provide an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination whilst meeting the requirements of the National Planning

Policy Framework (NPPF)

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 102 stating that “planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.”

Paragraph 103 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Paragraphs 101, 102, and 103 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

Headline findings

Table 1.2 below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all pitch and outdoor sports included within the scope of the preceding Assessment Report. MES stands for match equivalent sessions and has been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken.

The position on future demand is established through ONS projections (2040) and information provided by the relevant national governing bodies of sport. Full details of this can be found in the preceding Assessment Report.

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

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day at a senior level. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket can accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

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The Sport England PPS guidance does not advocate the conversion of MES to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed.

For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

For artificial surfaces (AGPs/3G pitches), how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, whole pitches are used as the comparable unit. Similarly, for the other non-pitch sports (i.e., bowls and tennis etc) where it is not as easy to determine carrying capacity, whole facilities are used as the comparable unit.

Future demand in the Assessment report has been determined by using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator which looks at population change over a predetermined period. For Pendle this has been set to forecasted population rates in 2040 in line with the PBC Local Plan.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Football	Adult	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 7.5
Football	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
Football	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3
Football	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
Football	3G 11v11	Shortfall of 1.75 pitches	Shortfall of 1.75 pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 18	Shortfall of 18
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 30	Shortfall of 30
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 18	Shortfall of 18
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 4.25	Shortfall of 4.25
Rugby league	Senior	Shortfall of 1.75	Shortfall of 1.75
Hockey	AGP	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply if quality improvements occur at Pendle Vale College
Tennis	Club tennis	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Tennis	Recreational tennis	Shortfall	Shortfall
Crown green bowls	Full size greens	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
American football	Senior	Sufficient supply	Potential shortfall
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

Conclusions

The existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall. For most sports played on natural turf grass pitches there are identified shortfalls.

As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing playing pitch provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

Where demand is being met, as is the case for hockey, bowls, American football and rounders, as well as for some elements of football, this does not equate to a surplus of provision. Instead, any spare capacity should be considered as a solution to overcoming shortfalls.

Most of the identified grass pitch shortfalls can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities, increasing match play on 3G pitches, and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. This means that new grass pitches are not generally required, although such a need will increase if other methods of reducing deficits are not possible.

Notwithstanding the above, in regard to artificial pitches, there is a clear quantified shortfall of 3G pitches for football training that can only be rectified through the installation of new facilities. The development of 3G pitches could also help to alleviate grass pitch shortfalls via the transfer of play.

PART 2: VISION

Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the PPOSS.

“To ensure that there are enough playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities in Pendle of the right type, the right quality to help its residents to increase their physical activity levels and support their mental and physical health and wellbeing now and in the future.”

To achieve this vision the PPOSS will deliver the following objectives:

- ◆ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport.
- ◆ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs.
- ◆ Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand.
- ◆ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer-term aspirations.

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PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England planning objectives. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPOSS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

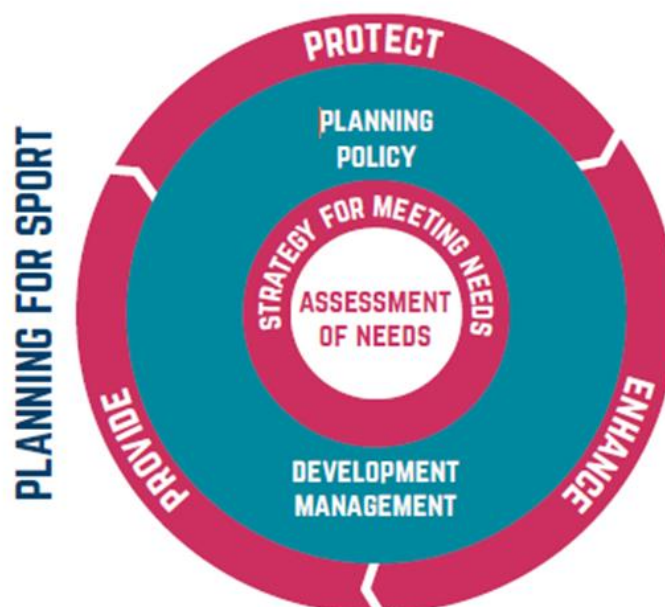
AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 3.1: Sport England planning objectives



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (June 2019)

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, in order to help develop recommendations and actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This then informs sport specific recommendations.

4.1: Football – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Pendle – football supply and demand summary

- Overall, there are current shortfalls across youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 pitches and mini 5v5 pitches, whilst capacity is sufficient across adult provision.

Pendle – football supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 50 grass football pitches within Pendle across 26 sites, with 43 pitches across 21 sites identified as being available for community use.
- Tenure of football sites in Pendle is generally secure, although not at most educational sites.
- Of the pitches that are available for community use, seven pitches (16%) are rated as good quality, 11 as standard quality (26%) and 25 as poor quality (58%).
- Of the sites used for community football in Pendle two (9%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, eight (38%) by standard quality facilities and five (24%) by poor quality facilities. The remaining six (29%) sites are not known to be serviced by onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

Pendle – football demand summary

- There are a total of 160 teams from across 24 affiliated clubs playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Pendle. This consists of 25 adult men's, three adult women's, 59 youth boys', 17 youth girls' and 56 mini teams.
- Three clubs play within the men's national league system and have to adhere to ground grading.
- There is no predicted future growth in teams through population.
- Of responding clubs in Pendle, four report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. This totals a predicted growth of seven teams.

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality

In total there are 14 pitches overplayed in Pendle across nine sites, equating to 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of these pitches (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and consequently reduce both current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights the current levels of overplay that would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating as detailed in the table below:

Adult pitch quality	Adult matches per week	Youth pitch quality	Youth matches per week	Mini pitch quality	Mini matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

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Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions per week)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Good quality rating (MES)
4	Bullholme Playing Field	Barrowford & Western	Standard	Youth (11v11)	2	2.5	1.5
6	Burnley RUFC	Brierfield & Reedley	Good	Youth (11v11)	1	2	2
18	Holt House Playing Fields	Colne & District	Poor	Adult	1	1	1
18	Holt House Playing Fields	Colne & District	Poor	Mini (5v5)	1	1	3
20	John Bradley Playing Fields	Brierfield & Reedley	Poor	Youth (11v11)	1	3	0
38	Springfield Recreation Ground	West Craven	Poor	Youth (9v9)	1	1.5	1.5
41	Swinden Playing Fields	Nelson	Poor	Mini (7v7)	1	2	2
41	Swinden Playing Fields	Nelson	Poor	Youth (9v9)	2	0.5	5.5
43	Trawden Recreation Ground	Colne & District	Poor	Adult	2	0.5	3.5
44	Nori Stadium (Colne Football Club)	Colne & District	Poor	Adult	1	0.5	1.5
46	Victory Park	West Craven	Poor	Mini (7v7)	1	1	3

The impact of improving overplayed pitches to good quality is shown in the table above. In the main, overplay would be alleviated at all but one site, Burnley RUFC which would still have two match equivalent sessions per week of overplay remaining across one pitch. This is because the quality at the site is already good, and improvements won't provide a theoretical benefit to capacity, on this basis, the only resolution to resolving this issue is to transfer demand to an alternate grass pitch with spare capacity or onto a 3G pitch.

The overall impact of this results in the table above overall overplay being reduced from 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week to two.

Table 4.2: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand

Pitch type	Current actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total	Potential actual spare capacity	Potential overplay	Potential total if improvements are undertaken
Adult	3	2	1	5.5	-	5.5
Youth 11v11	0	7.5	7.5	0	2	2
Youth 9v9	0	2	2	0	-	0
Mini 7v7	0	3	3	0	-	0
Mini 5v5	0	1	1	0	-	0

Overplay would be removed across youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches with these pitches being played to capacity.

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The remaining overplay at Burnley RUFC would remain and leave shortfalls across youth 11v11 pitches. An additional 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity would also be created from pitch improvements on adult pitches.

Priority improvement sites

As improving the quality of all overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving specific strategic sites. Such improvements, where not already undertaken, could be led by the County FA and FF with local clubs playing a role in the activation of projects and being a part of the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund. Outside of this, the Council may also have a direct role in undertaking improvement (relative to available resources).

As the Pendle LFFP was written in 2019, it has been agreed to present a new list of priority sites using the findings from the current PPOSS Assessment Report. As such the following sites have been identified as priorities for grass pitch improvements:

- ◆ Bullholme Playing Fields
- ◆ Holt House Playing Fields
- ◆ Swinden Playing Fields
- ◆ Trawden Recreation Ground
- ◆ Nori Stadium (Colne Football Club)
- ◆ Victory Park

The sites listed above are mostly multi pitch sites and improving their quality to good will therefore not only work to reduce pitch specific overplay but also benefit the overall supply and demand position via increasing actual spare capacity. This would alleviate existing shortfalls of mini 7v7 and mini 5v5, increase capacity on adult pitches and reducing shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 4.3: Impact of priority site quality improvements

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Adult	1	5.5
Youth 11v11	7.5	3.5
Youth 9v9	2	1.5
Mini 7v7	3	0
Mini 5v5	1	0

Future demand

This scenario considers the impact that future demand derived from club ambitions which have been identified via consultation with clubs throughout the Borough. Please note that the Assessment Report only considered future demand derived from population projection growth.

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Table 4.4: Summary of participation growth by analysis area

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Totals
Barrowford & Western	1	-	0.5	-	-	1.5
Brierfield & Reedley	-	-	-	-	-	0
Colne & District	-	-	-	-	-	0
Nelson	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	-	1.5
West Craven	0.5	1	-	-	-	1.5
Total	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	0	4.5

Future demand from club ambitions totals nine teams from five clubs and the table below shows the potential impact on the supply/demand balance by analysis area.

Table 4.5: Impact of future demand from clubs

Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance	Potential future demand (club aspirations)	Potential future supply/demand balance
Adult	1	2	1
Youth 11v11	7.5	1.5	9
Youth 9v9	2	0.5	2.5
Mini 7v7	3	0.5	3.5
Mini 5v5	1	0	1

The impact of growth, via club aspirations, equates to exacerbated shortfalls on youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Spare capacity on adult pitches would be overturned and shortfalls would appear across the pitch type.

Loss of access to unsecure sites

The table below outlines sites in Pendle which are accessed by community clubs where tenure is unsecure.

Table 4.6: Demand taking place on grass pitches at unsecure sites

Site ID	Site	Club	Teams
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	Barnoldswick Town Juniors Rolls FC Pendle Blues FC	One team Three teams Three teams
48	West Craven High School	Barnoldswick Town Juniors	Four teams
65	St Paul's Primary School	Brierfield Celtic	One team

In instances where clubs do not have formal tenure agreements in place, clubs could theoretically be asked to vacate at any time which would result in each requiring alternate provision to service existing levels of demand.

There are 12 teams from four clubs accessing three sites with unsecure tenure. The impact on removal of these sites for community access is highlighted in the table below. Please note the total does not include the three teams accessing 3G pitches at the same sites.

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Table 4.7: Impact of loss of access to sites without secure tenure on supply and demand balance

Pitch format	Actual spare capacity ¹	Overplay	Current total	Current total if education sites become unavailable
Adult	3	2	1	1
Youth 11v11	0	7.5	7.5	8.5
Youth 9v9	0	2	2	4
Mini 7v7	0	3	3	3
Mini 5v5	0	1	1	1

As can be seen, if all access to unsecure sites was to be lost, shortfalls would be created on all pitch formats. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure the grass pitches at unsecure sites continue to stay open to community use, given the reliance upon these sites for community football. Site owners should also be encouraged and supported to formalise longer term lease agreements with clubs to further secure long-term access.

Grass pitch summary

Based on the above scenario testing it can be concluded that widespread grass pitch quality improvements are needed at identified grass pitch sites in Pendle. These improvements would largely reduce overplay but there would remain a baseline level of overplay on youth 11v11 pitches equating to two match equivalent sessions per week (if all identified improvements are undertaken).

Improving all identified grass pitches is unlikely to be realistic, particularly in the short to medium term. On this basis to work to alleviate these shortfalls could be better alleviated via a combination of factors such as improving pitch quality, securing security of tenure at key education sites, and ensuring existing and new 3G pitches are used to accommodate match play demand.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect the existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision meets NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- ✦ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ✦ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ✦ Support key football club users of sites with PitchPower assessments to apply for Football Foundation funding where eligible, to improve the maintenance and subsequent quality of these sites.
- ✦ Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity.
- ✦ Work to alleviate identified overplay on grass football pitches, particularly those at youth 11v11 pitch format such as at sites like Burnley RUFC.
- ✦ Seek to gain access to sites not currently available for community use, particularly where large quantities of pitches are provided, such as Marsden Heights Community College.
- ✦ Work to provide security of tenure for clubs accessing sites which are unsecure.

¹ In match equivalent sessions per week

- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, with a focus on sites which provide multiple pitches and accommodate high levels of demand, those directly managed by clubs and sites which are priorities for the growth of female participation.
- ◀ Where appropriate, help to facilitate partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs and leagues to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Work with Lancashire FA, West Riding FA and the Football Foundation to update the current LFFP as to have a more up-to-date picture for the future of football in Pendle.

4.2: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches

Assessment Report summary

Pendle – 3G supply and demand summary

- ◀ **Based on current demand, there is a shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training requirements, and shortfalls are evident within Barrowford & Western, Colne & District and West Craven analysis areas.**

Pendle – 3G supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are three 11v11 size and two smaller size 3G pitches identified, all pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ All of the community available 11v11 size pitches are either FA or FIFA certified.
- ◀ There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches.
- ◀ For the 11v11 size 3G pitches in Pendle, there is one good quality pitch and two standard quality pitches, there are no poor quality pitches identified in Pendle. Of the small size 3G pitches, both are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ No ancillary facility issues have been identified.

Pendle – 3G demand summary

- ◀ The 3G pitches currently servicing Pendle are operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- ◀ High levels of unmet demand for 3G pitch access is expressed, with 71% of responding football clubs stating that additional provision is required to meet or better cater for their training requirements.
- ◀ No significant exported or imported 3G pitch demand is identified, with the only known exported demand from Burnley Belvedere FC and Burnley RUFC which access the 3G pitch in neighbouring Burnley at Prairie Sports Village.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's scenario of one 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalent being able to cater for 38 community football teams) there is a need for 4.5 11v11 size equivalent 3G pitches to accommodate all training demand in Pendle as seen below.

The recommended dimensions for a 11v11 size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches e.g., the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPOSS for any new 11v11 size 3G pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Table 4.8: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	11v11 size 3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Theoretical shortfall
Barrowford & Western	26	0.75 (0.68)	0	0.75
Brierfield & Reedley	27	0.75 (0.71)	1.25	-
Colne & District	45	1.25 (1.18)	1	0.25
Nelson	28	0.75 (0.74)	1	-
West Craven	34	1 (0.89)	0.25	0.75
Total	160	4.5	3.5	1.75

With 3.5 pitches currently provided it would (on a borough-wide level) indicate a shortfall of one 11v11 pitch. However, based on geographical distribution of provision the shortfall is higher than this and equates to 1.75 11v11 3G pitches with sports lighting.

The highest need for 3G provision is in the Barrowford & Western and West Craven Analysis Area where there is a shortfall in each of 0.75 11v11 pitches.

The Pendle LFFP (2019) identifies projects to provide two 11v11 size 3G pitches:

- ✦ West Craven College (West Craven Analysis Area) – 11v11 size 3G pitch.
- ✦ Colne Primet Academy or Nori Stadium (Colne Analysis Area) - 11v11 size 3G pitch.

Of the projects listed above, neither development has been delivered. Albeit a new 3G pitch has been delivered at Marsden Heights Community College (conversion of a sand based AGP).

As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPOSS, the priority project list should be revisited following this study and updated/amended based on the findings. As such, the aforementioned project list has been matched against the table below to see how it services against existing shortfalls.

Table 4.9: Impact of delivering current LFFP 3G projects on PPS shortfalls

Analysis area	Potential 3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall	No. of proposed pitches	Remaining shortfall
Barrowford & Western	0.75 (0.68)	0	0.75	-	0.75
Brierfield & Reedley	0.75 (0.71)	1.25	-	-	-
Colne & District	1.25 (1.18)	1	0.25	1	-
Nelson	0.75 (0.74)	1	-	-	-
West Craven	1 (0.89)	0.25	0.75	1	-
Total	3.5	3.5	1.75	2	0.75

Based on the existing portfolio of projects identified in the LFFP, if the two projects were to be delivered there would be a theoretical shortfall of 0.75 11v11 size 3G pitches remaining. This shortfall would be within the Barrowford & Western Analysis Area. The FF, Lancashire FA, West Riding FA and the Council should now work together to identify sufficient sites to develop 11v11 size 3G pitches on to meet the current shortfalls within Pendle moving forward.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Moving football mini match play demand to 3G pitches (based on minimum dimension of 91 x 55m)

To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities and providers within local authorities to understand the potential demand for 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitches to cater for different formats of match play.

The FA has an ambition to transfer 50% of mini play on to 3G pitches nationally. Thus, a programme of play has been created for Pendle to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this, given that peak time for both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 football is Sunday mornings.

Table 4.10: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

Based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for 1.5 11v11 size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 31 teams playing 5v5 football and 25 teams playing 7v7 football at peak time.

Therefore, with three 11v11 size pitches in Pendle, this scenario can be achieved if programming to enable this can be agreed.

Below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football.

Table 4.11: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – Noon	1 x 9v9	1/2
Noon – 2pm	1 x 9v9	1/2
2pm – 4pm	1 x 9v9	1/2

This demand could be accommodated on 2.5 11v11 size pitches based on 26 teams currently playing this format within Pendle at peak time. As such, it is also worth noting that if all youth 9v9 football were to be moved to a Saturday and all mini football remained on a Sunday (or vice versa), all current demand for mini and youth 9v9 football could be accommodated on the existing stock of provision. To some extent certain leagues within the area namely the Accrington & District Junior League offer venues for 3G matches during the winter to a certain number of fixtures each weekend. Therefore, it is viable that this could be a method that would work.

World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitches

WR produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union.

The RFU generally support the development of 3G pitches which support rugby union where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

Locally, shortfalls are identified for rugby union pitches. These are, however, localised at heavily accessed club sites due to concentrated training demand.

Pendle does not provide a WR compliant 3G pitch. However, there is a World Rugby compliant pitch located adjacent to Burnley RUFC in Burnley Borough Administrative Boundary which the Club has a use agreement with for training. Colne & Nelson RUFC also accesses Nelson & Colne College pitch; however, this is not compliant and therefore use of the pitch is for non-contact rugby only.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Work with relevant partners to deliver additional 3G pitches in the Borough to cater for football training demand where there is an expressed shortfall.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place.
- ◀ Ensure that all FA registered 3G pitches remain on the FA 3G Pitch Register and are re-tested when required to sustain certification.
- ◀ Ensure all current and future providers have in place a pitch replacement fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA 3G Pitch Guidance and quality performance standards. Ensure all new 3G pitches are tested and added to the FA 3G Pitch Register to allow for match play use.
- ◀ Look to transfer mini demand from grass pitches to 3G in line with the FA ambition for 50% of all mini match play to take place on 3G pitches (where it is appropriate to do so).
- ◀ Support all 3G pitch providers where possible to improve the sustainability of running the facility, e.g. conversion to LED sports lighting.

4.3: Cricket pitches

Assessment Report summary

Pendle - cricket supply and demand summary

- Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket at a Borough wide level on Saturdays, Sundays and midweek.
- No future demand for cricket is identified through population changes through to the Local Plan period.

Pendle - cricket supply summary

- In total, there are ten grass wicket squares in Pendle, all of which, are available for community use.
- There are five non turf pitches (NTPs) in Pendle. Three accompany existing squares at club sites and two are located as standalone facilities at Boundary Playing Fields (Nelson) and Marsden Heights Community College.
- A natural turf square was formerly provided at Rolls Royce Sports Ground however has not been maintained since circa 2018. Edge End Playing Field formerly provided a three natural turf square and an NTP which has also come out of us. Finally, there is a disused NTP situated at Ringstone Playing Field.
- All community clubs playing within Pendle have secure tenure at their respective home sites.
- The audit of grass wicket cricket squares in Pendle found four (40%) to be good quality and six (60%) to be of standard quality. None are assessed as poor.
- The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in Pendle determines that two squares (20%) are accompanied by good quality provision, two squares (20%) are accompanied by standard quality provision and six squares (60%) have poor quality supporting ancillary provision.

Pendle - cricket demand summary

- In Pendle, there are eight clubs as well as the Pendle District Cricket League generating 32 senior men's teams, and 13 junior boys' teams.
- Locally, just Barrowford CC identify specific aspirations to increase the number of teams it provides. This growth equates to one junior team.
- Three clubs partake in ECB participation programme "All Stars" (Colne, Nelson and Barnoldswick cricket clubs). On this basis, it may be the case that these clubs see an increase in formal activity at junior level.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality of cricket squares over time.

In Pendle, overplay is identified at five sites across five squares. The scenario below looks at the impacts of quality improvements as a solution to reducing or alleviating overplay. As a reminder, for good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play. No squares are rated as poor in Pendle.

Of the overplayed squares, two are already good quality, which means the position will not improve without a transfer of demand. The impact of improving quality at all the remaining sites, to good, where each wicket has a theoretical capacity of five match equivalent session per season is considered in the table below.

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Table 4.12: Impact on overplay if all overplayed squares were improved to good quality

Site ID	Site name	Club	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of wickets	Current overplay (matches per season)	Potential position (matches per season)
4	Bullholme Playing Field	Pendle District Cricket League	1	Standard	5	2	3
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	Colne CC	1	Good	10	5	5
11	Earby Cricket Club	Earby CC	1	Good	9	9	9
53	Foulridge Cricket Club	Foulridge CC Pendle District Cricket League	1	Standard	6	6	0
64	Barrowford Cricket Club	Barrowford CC Pendle District Cricket League	1	Standard	6	20	14

As seen in the table above, the squares provided at Colne Cricket & Bowling Club and Earby Cricket Club would continue to be overplayed if quality were to be improved to good. This is due to the squares already being good quality. The square at Barrowford Cricket Club would also remain overplayed with shortfall slightly reducing, the overplay remains due to high levels of demand.

Bullholme Playing Field square would see overplay alleviated and spare capacity of three match equivalent sessions per season created. Whilst the overplay at Foulridge Cricket Club would see overplayed alleviated, however, the pitch would still be played to capacity.

Cricket squares can be accompanied by non-turf pitches (NTPs), made of a synthetic material that allows users to play on a usable wicket all year round whilst not contributing towards playing demand on natural turf wickets (grass wickets). By the nature of its design, an NTP can accommodate significantly more demand than a natural cricket wicket, meaning it can contribute towards addressing overplay issues on grass cricket squares.

Colne Cricket & Bowling Club and Barrowford Cricket Club squares are not serviced by an NTP, and both could theoretically benefit from such provision as a way of reducing identified overplay. Earby Cricket Club has an accompanying NTP provided, meaning the Club should look to increase the use of its existing NTP for junior teams as to reduce overplay.

The ECB highlights that non-turf pitches which follow its TS6 guidance² on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets. Typically, however, play would be more suited to junior teams as senior leagues typically stipulate the use of natural turf wickets.

Hybrid wickets

Although not readily available within grassroots cricket, there may be potential in the future to address overplay through the installation of hybrid wicket/s on competitive senior squares.

² <http://www.cag.org.uk/docs/ecb-non-turf-pitches-ts6-final-328.pdf>

The ECB has been working with SIS Pitches on the installation of hybrid cricket wickets at county cricket clubs (2019) and more recently recreational squares such as Perry Hall Park in Birmingham (2021) and Didsbury Cricket Club in Manchester (2022). Due to already good standing provision at Colne Cricket & Bowling Club and Earby Cricket Club there is scope to potentially explore the opportunity to install hybrid wickets in the future.

A hybrid wicket combines natural turf grass with less the 5% of uniquely engineered, soft polyethylene yarn, which has already been used to improve golf tees, tennis courts and pitch surrounds. These wickets are to offer a greater capacity in addition to reducing time on repair works with a faster recovery time. Reports found that hybrid wickets improve surface stability, reduced wear, reduced bowler foot holes and significantly extended hours of playing time.

Ideally, once these become more readily available for community cricket clubs and have gone through the required testing, they could act as a way to increase levels of playing capacity on overplayed squares. This would be particularly beneficial for those sites which are limited on space and cannot create additional wickets due to restrictions things such as boundary length or ball strike.

Although it is difficult at this stage to understand what impact hybrid wickets could have on each site's capacity, it is suggested that it could potentially alleviate all the overplay at Colne Cricket & Bowling Club and Earby Cricket Club in Pendle. This assumes that more senior demand can take place on the hybrid wickets allowing for the outer senior wickets to be used/converted for junior demand. It should also be noted that this approach is currently a rather expensive means of reducing overplay.

Accommodating future demand

In Pendle, only one club has expressed aspirations to increase teams at specific ages. Barrowford CC is looking to introduce an additional junior boys' team at its home site. A junior boys' team, in Pendle is likely to have six matches per season at home and therefore six additional match equivalent sessions per season are required at Barrowford Cricket Club in order to cater for this additional demand.

As referenced in the previous scenario Barrowford Cricket Club is overplayed by 20 match equivalent sessions per season at present and would remain overplayed even with an improvement in square quality. Therefore, at present the square could not theoretically cater for more demand as it is overplayed, however, the site is available midweek to cater for this demand. Therefore, there is evidence to support installing an NTP onsite to be able to cater for this additional demand as well as remove some existing play off the square to maintain its quality.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Improve quality at sites assessed as poor and standard quality and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good through partnership working with LCF.
- ◀ Address overplay via quality improvements, NTP installation and consideration of hybrid wickets in the future.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place, particularly those engaging in lease renewals.
- ◀ Improve the changing and ancillary facilities where there is a need to do so.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities.
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.

4.4: Rugby union - grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Pendle – rugby union supply and demand summary

- Of all the rugby union pitches in Pendle, no pitches offer any spare capacity.
- There are two pitches across Burnley RUFC which are collectively overplayed by a total of 4.25 match equivalent sessions per week.
- Overall, there is a current shortfall of 4.25 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand.

Pendle – rugby union supply summary

- Within Pendle, there are four rugby union pitches, all of which are available for community use. Provision is identified in only two analysis areas across the Borough, as seen in the table below, Brierfield & Reedley and Colne & District analysis areas which both have two pitches each.
- Burnley RUFC owns its home ground and therefore tenure is secure. Tenure is also considered secure for Colne & Nelson RUFC with the Club having a long term lease agreement in place from the Council.
- Of the community available pitches in Pendle, two are assessed as standard quality and two are assessed as poor quality. None are good quality.
- In Pendle, there is one site accompanied by poor quality provision (at Burnley RUFC) and one by standard quality provision (at Holt House Playing Fields).

Pendle – rugby union demand summary

- There are two clubs based in Pendle, collectively providing a total of 22 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of five senior men's, seven age grade boys', one aged grade girls' and nine mini teams.
- Pitches at Burnley RUFC are used to accommodate training demand, whilst Colne & Nelson RUFC accesses a separate sports lit training area at Holt House Playing Fields.
- There is no imported, latent or unmet demand identified.
- However, there is exported demand from Pendle, with Burnley RUFC exporting demand outside to the neighbouring borough of Burnley, where it accesses the Prairie Sports Village WR compliant 3G pitch for training demand during the week.
- There is no predicted growth from population growth within Pendle.
- Colne & Nelson RUFC has future demand aspirations to field a further three junior boys' teams.

Scenarios

Improving pitch maintenance and drainage

Maintenance and drainage solutions are an integral method in improving pitch quality at rugby union sites, ensuring that pitches can accommodate demand throughout the season. Locally, there is one site (Burnley RUFC) which is identified as being overplayed and the following scenario explores what impact improving the level of maintenance and installation of drainage solutions would have on both this site and Holt House Playing Fields which is played to capacity.

The table below illustrates the RFU pitch quality scoring methodology which ascertains the capacity of pitches based on the scoring criteria.

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Table 4.13: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

Drainage	Maintenance Poor (M0)	Maintenance Adequate (M1)	Maintenance Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

The table below looks at what capacity benefits would be ascertained through improvement of both maintenance and drainage solutions in one increment on the above technical criteria. It further looks at the benefit of maximum improvements to both drainage and maintenance to explore maximum benefits.

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Table 4.14: Improving maintenance on all sites/senior pitches by one increment (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lighting?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
6	Burnley RUFC	1	M1 / D2	Standard	Yes	5.5	2.5	3	M2 / D2	Good	2.25
6	Burnley RUFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	3.25	2	1.25	M2 / D1	Good	0.25
18	Holt House Playing Fields	1	M0 / D1	Poor	No	1.5	1.5	0	M1 / D1	Standard	0.5
18	Holt House Playing Fields	1	M0 / D0	Poor	No	0.5	0.5	0	M1 / D0	Poor	1

Improving the maintenance of senior pitches at all sites accessed by community clubs would have a theoretical capacity benefit for Colne & Nelson RUFC, with shortfalls being reduced at Burnley RUFC. For Pendle, the improvement of the maintenance by one increment would reduce total overplay from 4.25 match equivalent sessions per week to three.

Table 4.15: Improving drainage on all sites/senior pitches by 1 increment (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lighting?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
6	Burnley RUFC	1	M1 / D2	Standard	Yes	5.5	2.5	3	M1 / D3	Standard	2.5
6	Burnley RUFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	3.25	2	1.25	M1 / D2	Standard	0.75
18	Holt House Playing Fields	1	M0 / D1	Poor	No	1.5	1.5	0	M0 / D2	Poor	0.25
18	Holt House Playing Fields	1	M0 / D0	Poor	No	0.5	0.5	0	M0 / D1	Poor	1

A similar approach to improving maintenance has been undertaken in the table above for drainage installation (through improvement to pitches by one increment on the RFU technical criteria). Installing pipe drainage to senior pitches at all sites accessed by community clubs would have a theoretical capacity benefit by reducing total overplay from 4.25 to 3.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Burnley RUFC would continue to experience overplay and this would remain higher than when compared to improving the maintenance of pitches.

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Table 4.16: Improving both maintenance and drainage to M2/D3 at all sites/senior pitches (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
6	Burnley RUFC	1	M1 / D2	Standard	Yes	5.5	2.5	3	M2/D3	Good	2
6	Burnley RUFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	3.25	2	1.25	M2/D3	Good	0.25
18	Holt House Playing Fields	1	M0 / D1	Poor	No	1.5	1.5	0	M2/D3	Good	2
18	Holt House Playing Fields	1	M0 / D0	Poor	No	0.5	0.5	0	M2/D3	Good	3

This table above illustrates the position if all overplayed/played to capacity senior pitches in Pendle, which are accessed by community clubs, were improved to an M2/D3 quality. This is the highest threshold a pitch can score based on the RFU technical criteria. As can be seen, overplay would be noticeably reduced but would remain at Burnley RUFC on the sports lit pitch.

Based on the above table it is evidenced that the only option to alleviate overplay at Burnley RUFC is to provide either one of two options. The first would be for additional access to be sought for the existing WR22 compliant 3G pitch at The Prairie Sports Village (Burnley). This would be an extension in hours to its existing use, if programming of the pitch could allow an increase in demand.

Alternatively, access to additional grass pitches could be sought to alleviate demand. The Burnley PPS (2022) identifies that the Prairie Playing Field has an unused senior grass pitch which is standard quality (M1/D1) which could, in theory, be used to alleviate demand pressures at home site of Burnley RUFC.

World Rugby (WR) 3G pitches in Pendle

There are no WR 3G pitches in Pendle. Consultation with both rugby clubs confirms that they access artificial pitches for training, with Burnley RUFC using an adjacent site in Burnley which lies over the road from its home site for training. Whilst Colne & Nelson RUFC accesses Nelson & Colne College for training, however, as this isn't WR compliant this is just non-contact practise. Due to current overplay at Burnley RUFC it is considered that the Club requires additional accesses to Prairie Sports Village pitch to ensure that overplay can be reduced on its pitches.

In addition, any new development within the Colne locality could be installed for WR compliance to ensure additional training demand could be used by Colne & Nelson RUFC.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect the existing quantity of rugby union pitches including those used for curricular and extra-curricular demand.
- ◆ Support clubs in taking part in the GMA pitch advisory service to explore technical requirements to improve pitch quality to address overplay.
- ◆ Work with clubs to improve their ancillary offer where this a need to do so.
- ◆ Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.
- ◆ Ensure additional access for Burnley RUFC at Prairie Sports Village is explored, and any potential new development of a 3G in Colne & District is explored for WR compliance to support training demand for Colne & Nelson RUFC.

4.5: Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Assessment Report summary

Pendle – hockey supply and demand summary

- Overall, there is considered to be a sufficient quantity of full size hockey suitable AGPs to meet current and future demand for hockey in Pendle.
- For Pendle Forest HC, priority should be placed on protecting the pitch at Pendle Vale College.

Pendle – hockey supply summary

- There is one full size hockey suitable AGP in Pendle which is serviced by sports lighting and available for community use. It is located within the Nelson Analysis Area.
- There are also two smaller size sand-based pitches in Pendle across two sites, with one of these available for community use and both serviced by sports lighting.
- The full size pitch at Pendle Vale College is currently the only pitch in use for community hockey.
- Pendle Forest HC reports that although Pendle Vale College suits them at present, it is currently working on developing its own pitch. At present it is looking into potential options however, it suggests that due to being at a school site, after matches it must go elsewhere for refreshments and social events. The Club would prefer to have a site where all activities can take place.
- The pitch at Pendle Vale College is owned and managed by the school.
- The pitch at Pendle Vale College is assessed as poor quality.
- In relation to the smaller sized pitches, one are considered to be good quality, with the pitch at Rolls Royce Sports Ground considered to be poor quality.
- Changing provision at Pendle Vale College is considered to be good quality.

Pendle – hockey demand summary

- There is one hockey club based in Pendle.
- Pendle Forest HC in total has four senior women's and six junior teams. These all play in the Nelson Analysis Area at Pendle Vale College.
- There is no imported or exported demand within Pendle.
- All community available pitches have some level of spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey usage, and the pitch at Pendle Vale College has spare capacity for up to four additional teams on a Saturday.

Scenarios

Meeting demand for hockey suitable AGPs

The PPS Guidance suggests that a pitch with sports lighting can accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday. With teams playing on a home and away format, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).

The table below outlines the position for usage across hockey sites in Pendle. The pitch at Pendle Vale College is operating with four senior teams playing fixtures on Saturday's. Therefore, has sufficient capacity for its current teams and in the future up to a further four additional teams if required.

As the amount of demand requires at least one pitch for peak time access, it is essential for the Pendle Vale College pitch to continue to accommodate demand to meet the current need for hockey and is protected for continued use as it is the only full size AGP in the Borough.

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Table 4.17: Hockey usage and spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Site user	Current use in peak period (MES)	Spare capacity?
30	Pendle Vale College	Pendle Forest HC	2 MES	Yes

Table 4.18: Quality of existing hockey suitable artificial grass pitches

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Site user	Quality rating	Built/ resurfaced
30	Pendle Vale College	Sand filled	Pendle Forest HC	Poor	2008

Based on the above, it can be determined that the quantity of provision in Pendle is sufficient to accommodate existing demand. However, as the pitch at Pendle Vale College is already poor quality, therefore there is a need to replace the existing surface to ensure the long term survival of hockey in Pendle for Pendle Forest HC.

As there are no other suitable hockey facilities within Pendle, the Club would have to relocate outside of the Borough to neighbouring authorities and gain access for fixtures if the Pendle Vale College pitch were to come out of use due to quality concerns.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect the sand based AGP at Pendle Vale College for continued hockey use.
- ◆ Work with partners to provide a replacement surface to the AGP at Pendle Vale College.
- ◆ Ensure all hockey suitable AGPs have a sinking fund in place for their eventual refurbishment.
- ◆ Pursue long-term security of tenure for clubs through community use agreements. In conjunction look to develop the management and accessibility of provision to ensure its accessibility based on club requirements to allow demand to grow.

4.6: Rugby league – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Pendle - rugby league supply and demand summary

- ◆ There is one dedicated rugby league pitches in Pendle, located at Victory Park. The pitch is assessed as standard quality.
- ◆ There is a single affiliated rugby league club located in Pendle, West Craven Warriors RLFC. It currently fields one senior men's team and one junior girls' team and three mini teams.
- ◆ West Craven Warriors RLFC currently overplays the pitch at Victory Park resulting in a shortfall 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

The one community club site in Pendle is overplayed. This translates to the site accommodating more demand than it should be accommodating, relative to the facility stock on each site. The scenario below looks at the impact of improvements to senior pitches at each of the sites through enhancing pitch quality.

As a guide, the RFL has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, set out in the following table.

Table 4.20: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

Category	Capacity
Good	3 matches per week
Standard	2 matches per week
Poor	1 match per week

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Table 4.21: Improvements to existing maintenance regimes to reduce overplay by one increment

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Quality	MES per week	Pitch capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)	Improved quality rating by one quality increment	Theoretical capacity rating (MES per week)
46	Victory Park	1	Standard	2	3.75	1.75	Good	0.75

The table above includes a one quality increment on pitches, undertaking these improvements will have an impact on capacity. The pitch at Victory Park which is currently overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week would see this overplay reduced with improvement from standard to good quality. Although overplay would remain, it should be noted that the Club also has access to a parcel of land onsite, which could be utilised as a training area. The area is currently unused due to its poor quality, however, if this area was improved and maintained to a standard or good quality, this could support removing the overplayed off the dedicated pitch and protect its future capacity.

World Rugby compliant/ RFL Community Standard 3G pitches

World Rugby produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. Additionally, pitches of this nature are also can be tested to support rugby league activity. There is currently no World Rugby/RFL Community Standard compliant 3G pitches in Pendle.

There is currently a shortfall of 3G pitches within Pendle (for football training training) and more specifically the West Craven Analysis Area where West Craven Warriors ARLFC is located. Therefore, to meet the shortfalls for football, it should be explored to see whether the build of a new 11v11 size 3G pitch, could support rugby league through World Rugby/RFL Community Standard compliancy to enable contact rugby league training to take place on the pitch.

The proposed site in the Pendle LFFP for a new 3G pitch is West Craven High School which is located 0.9 miles from Victoria Park. This equates to a three-minute drive time.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect existing quantity of rugby league pitch and areas used for rugby league activity.
- ◆ Support West Craven Warriors ARLFC and the wider sports club in developing/improving ancillary provision onsite at Victory Park.
- ◆ Look to improve pitch quality to increase pitch capacity and give the opportunity to increase demand at Victory Park.
- ◆ Look to improve quality of playing field which doubles as a poor-quality training area. Developing this area into a junior rugby league pitch would be beneficial to site capacity.
- ◆ Explore the feasibility of any new 11v11 size 3G pitch within West Craven to provide World Rugby/RFL Community Standard compliancy to support RFL training demand from West Craven Warriors ARLFC.

4.7: Tennis courts

Assessment Report summary

Pendle - Tennis supply and demand summary

- ◆ Current supply is sufficient for clubs in Pendle.
- ◆ There is a need to improve the quality and accessibility of non-club courts to attract more users. The LTA evidence an unmet/latent demand for improved provision locally.

Pendle - tennis supply summary

- ◆ There are 22 courts across seven sites in Pendle all of which are available for community use.
- ◆ There are disused courts in Pendle located at Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School, Rolls Royce Sports Club and Marsden Park.
- ◆ There are no dedicated indoor courts in Pendle.
- ◆ Most community available courts in Pendle, 12 courts or 55%, are operated by the Council (Sough Park, Alkincoats Park, Marsden Park and Heyhead Park), followed by education sites with 36% or eight courts.
- ◆ Most outdoor tennis courts, whether they are available or unavailable for community use, across Pendle (17/22) have a macadam surface.
- ◆ In Pendle, seven of the 22 community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing 32% of the provision.
- ◆ Of the courts in Pendle, two are assessed as good quality (9%), 15 as standard quality (68%) and five as poor quality (23%).

Pendle - tennis demand summary

- ◆ Craven TC has 14 members. It does not report any active plans to increase demand and choses to grow organically.
- ◆ The LTA reports an unmet/latent demand for recreational tennis opportunities.

Scenarios

Meeting demand for informal tennis

The LTA has developed a package of support for LAs to grow the use of park tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access and can be used individually or in combination. The products are used to provide a remote booking and access system.

Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing their courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of a fob system following payment of a small yearly fee.

Sites such as Sough Park (two courts), Alkincoats Park (four courts) and Marsden Park (four courts) could be prioritised by the LTA for the development of informal tennis. If other, larger sites are identified by tennis partners then these should also be explored.

Satisfying club demand

The LTA suggests that a non-sports lit hard court can accommodate 40 members whereas a hard court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. A grass court has a capacity of 20 regardless of the lighting position and courts covered with an air dome can also accommodate 100 members.

On this basis, when reviewing club demand in Pendle, it is evident that Craven TC is operating well below the LTA recommended capacity guidelines both now and in the future.

It has a relatively low membership which should be monitored through the Stage E process as it is in a position where it may become unsustainable to operate and/or manage the current two court facility offer it has on its site.

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Table 4.22: Capacity analysis for tennis clubs at risk of capacity issues

Site ID	Site	Club users	Current demand (members)	Future demand (members)	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Capacity (members)	Current capacity balance (members)	Future capacity balance (members)
52	Craven Tennis Club	Craven TC	14	0	2	No	80	66	66

As shown, both current and any future demand that arises could currently be accommodated at Craven Tennis Club.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◆ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs or that are (or could be) well used for recreational demand.
- ◆ Monitor Craven TC's membership position over the Stage E process.
- ◆ Consider future opportunities to develop Padel tennis to provide an improved recreational and informal experience for residents.
- ◆ Linked to the above, improve park courts as a priority to create a year-round recreational tennis option to meet local demand.
- ◆ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., ClubSpark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◆ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.

4.8: Bowls

Assessment Report summary

Pendle - bowls supply and demand summary

- ▶ **One club within Pendle (Akincoat BC) is operating at or above recommended capacity levels and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.**
- ▶ **In general, future demand expressed can be accommodated on existing greens.**

Bowls supply summary

- ▶ There are 15 bowling greens across 12 sites in Pendle, all of which, are available for community use. Most of this provision is in the Colne & District Analysis Area (six greens).
- ▶ Most bowling greens are owned and managed by the Local Authority, private ownerships or the respective sports club.
- ▶ Most greens (8 or 53%) are rated as good quality, with seven greens (47%) rated as standard quality. No greens in Pendle are rated as poor quality.

Bowls demand summary

- ▶ There are 12 bowling clubs identified as playing in Pendle although only eight have responded to consultation requests to date and given membership figures. Membership of the responsive clubs where known totals 399, resulting in an average of 44 members.
- ▶ The largest club according to known membership in Pendle is currently Alkincoats BC, with 126 members. The smallest club is Brierfield BC with only 23 members.
- ▶ Of responding clubs in Pendle, three clubs highlight plans to increase membership. These aspirations total 84 additional members.

Scenarios

Accommodating current and future demand

British Crown Green Bowling Association does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green operating with a membership of close to or over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. One club is currently operating above this threshold in Pendle, Alkincoats BC (126 members across two greens).

Alkincoats BC (based at Akincoats Park) currently does not report any capacity issues, with it expressing an aspiration to further increase their memberships. With two greens it is operating just over the BCGBA capacity threshold but is likely to be adequately accommodating demand well across the site. It has aspirations to improve its ancillary offer which should be supported to support its high membership base.

Recommendations

- ▶ Protect existing quantity of currently used greens and, as a minimum, sustain quality.
- ▶ Ensure that any proposed development of currently used greens is done in line with NPPF.
- ▶ Assist clubs, where possible, with any future ancillary provision improvements.
- ▶ Monitor capacity levels of highly supported clubs such as Alkincoats BC to ensure they have sufficient capacity.
- ▶ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.

4.9: Other Sports

Assessment Report summary

Other sports – Supply and demand summary

- ◆ In isolation, the provision at Holt House Playing Fields is sufficient to cater for the current needs of American football in Pendle given no competitive fixtures take place at present. However, the site is shared with rugby union and dedicated provision may be required should Pennine Panthers enter the association league.
- ◆ The current level of supply rounders is sufficient enough to meet community demand in with the community available facilities able to adequately cater for any potential future demand given that there is a league format in Burnley.

Other sports – Supply summary

- ◆ At present, there are no dedicated American football pitches within Pendle. Instead, a rugby pitch at Houlst Hurst Playing Fields is used which is home to Colne & Nelson RUFC.
- ◆ There are four rounders diamonds identified across four sites in Pendle, two of which are available for community use.

Other sports – Demand summary

- ◆ Pennine Panthers field one team in total which is a men's senior team. The team play 11-a-side full contact. Alternatively, the Burnley Tornados offer youth and junior American flag football for those aged between 8-18. No competitive fixtures are played, only friendlies.
- ◆ No formal rounders club demand currently exists in Pendle; however, a significant number of clubs are identified in neighbouring Burnley.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◆ Ensure continued access to existing sites and pitches to enable continued access for all relevant sports.
- ◆ Monitor the growth of Pennine Panthers to understand if existing provision is providing adequate capacity.
- ◆ Sustain quality and look to make improvements when necessary to ensure that demand can continue to be met.
- ◆ Ensure robust maintenance regimes are employed and overall use by all sports monitored to guarantee that sufficient capacity and quality exists to continue to sustain dual usage.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes disused (including any which may not have been identified in this document) underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. NPPF paragraph 103 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

The PPOSS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field used within the last five years. It is also a non-statutory consultee on any playing field which has been unused for over five years. In all cases proposals are assessed against Sport England Playing Field Policy and Paragraph 103 of NPPF.

Policy Exception E1:

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

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

Policy Exception E2

‘The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use’.

Policy Exception E3

The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- ✦ Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- ✦ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- ✦ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
- ✦ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- ✦ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site’.

Policy Exception E4:

‘The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- ✦ of equivalent or better quality and
- ✦ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ✦ in a suitable location and;
- ✦ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

Policy Exception E5

The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field’.

Disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England’s policy exceptions as they may provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused playing fields are included within this Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

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It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one or two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards creating bigger and better quality venues (hub sites). Such sites have the potential to be re-purposed subject to any proposal meeting Sport England's Playing Field Policy and paragraph 103 of the NPPF. It is vital, that there is no net loss of sports facilities.

Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.

Much like some authorities nationally, there is reliance on the education sector to provide for most of the demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities. However, where this is the case, particularly for the likes of hockey, it is imperative that future opportunities to secure tenure for clubs is explored and progressed where possible. The following schools provide community use to clubs.

Table 5.1: Known use of education sites

Site ID	School	Club	Sport
23	Marsden Heights Community College	Number of football clubs for training	Football (3G)
25	Nelson and Colne College	Number of football clubs for training BFC Women Juniors Burnley FC In the Community Colne United FC	Football (3G)
30	Pendle Vale College	Pendle Forest HC Number of football clubs for training	Hockey Sand based AGP
34	Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School	Number of football clubs for training Colne Juniors FC Pendle Forest Sports Club FC	Football (3G)
48	West Craven High School	Barnoldswick Town Juniors FC Number of football clubs for training	Football Football (Small 3G)
65	St Paul's Primary School	Brierfield Celtic FC	Football

Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as England Hockey, Lancashire FA and West Riding FA can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement.

In the context of the [Comprehensive Spending Review](#) which announced significant public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities.

To facilitate this, where practical, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council (including parish and town councils) and private landlords (as relevant) should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council (where relevant), parish and town councils and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be support and clubs should be encouraged to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.

All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)³. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

Each club interested in leasing a council site (including those from parish and town councils) should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

Table 5.2: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have NGB 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.</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, or better, standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Local Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a district-wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>Sites should acquire capital investment to improve or be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p>

The Council (and likewise, parish and town councils) could establish core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate are assigned sites. Outcomes may, for example, include:

- ✦ Increasing participation.
- ✦ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ✦ Commitment to quality standards.
- ✦ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or at minimum retaining existing standards.

³ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site, to some degree, remains available for other purposes or for other users. For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain to improve security of tenure and aid the attraction of funding; clubs with fewer than 25 years remaining on a lease agreement are unlikely to be eligible for external funding.

Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where needed

To maximise community use of education facilities more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for school provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites such as West Craven High School which has a well-used 3G pitch but underutilised (by community clubs) grass pitches.

Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access through a Community Use Agreement, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential for facility provision to be made within the developments, if appropriate. An example of this is ensuring the provision of adult and/or youth 11v11 grass football pitches, 11v11 3G pitches or multi-use provision such as sports lit courts that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students.

As detailed earlier, NGBs, the Active Partnership and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement and/or through planning permission.

AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are several ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality, and these are explored below.

Ground Management Association (GMA) Pitch Advisory Service

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation, the Pitch Advisory Service (PAS, formerly the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme) was launched in 2014 and is funded by the GMA and its partners; the Football Foundation, Sport England, FA, ECB, RFU and RFL.

Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots clubs across England and Wales. The PAS provides an enhanced network of support and expertise available to those maintaining natural turf pitches, particularly at a local level.

The service can be utilised by grassroots clubs, organisations and local authorities with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

Pitch providers are encouraged to complete a self-assessment of pitches using the Football Foundation PitchPower app. In August 2022, PitchPower was re-launched, with enhanced capability to support use beyond football pitches and is now accessible for the assessment of natural turf pitches for cricket, rugby league and rugby union.

In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The Performance Quality Standard Assessment assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the Ground Management Association.

Football Foundation PitchPower Assessment

The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund, The app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

The tool across mobile app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

In addition to non-technical assessments, clubs and education sites across Pendle continue to undertake PitchPower assessments as a means of improving the quality of provision. Consequently, it should be recommended through the PPOSS process for the local authority to support delivering any improvement to new sites that undertake PitchPower assessments.

Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment. If a PitchPower assessment categorises pitches as 'poor' or 'basic' they are then eligible to apply for funding through the Football Foundation through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund⁴, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 good quality grass pitches by 2030. Clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to improve and sustain quality.

All applicants must have as a minimum, landowners permission to undertake improvements to the site and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, and charities. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, clubs, leagues and charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply if they have as a minimum, a service level agreement in place.

The Council is not presently eligible to access the GPMF as an applicant, however, can undertake technical assessment of pitches using the PitchPower app. Opportunities to access the fund to support presently Council managed sites include establishment of a service level agreement with a resident club for maintenance responsibilities, or transfer of long-term management to the club/organisation through leasehold or CAT, both enabling the club/organisation to apply to the fund.

Council managed sites include establishment of a service level agreement with a resident club for maintenance responsibilities, or transfer of long-term management to the club/organisation through leasehold or CAT, both enabling the club/organisation to apply to the fund.

The Football Foundation also launched a Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

⁴ <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

The FA, RFU, RFL, ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

Table 5.3: Capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches (Good quality)	No. of matches (Standard quality)	No. of matches (Poor quality)
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
Rugby union	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
Rugby union	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
Rugby union	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	1 grass wicket 1 synthetic wicket	5 per season 60 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Hockey	Full size AGP	4 per day	4 per day	4 per day

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, to transfer to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. Alternatively quality, should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs (or hybrid wickets when suitable) is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed adjacent to existing squares.

For rugby union, overplay can be reduced but not resolved through improvements to pitch maintenance or via capital drainage solutions.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality that are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor-quality sites have less demand than others, but demand could increase if the quality were improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in Pendle (these are detailed further in the Action Plan), for example, the changing provision at Burnley RUFC/Burnley Belvedere FC is poor quality with each tenant club wanting to redevelop the ancillary facilities as the current facilities are outdated.

Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements, whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed on a phased basis the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities.

To address community need a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPOSS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.

One of sport's key contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

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

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council continue to use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form part of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sports pitch type contained within the Assessment Report and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport. That percentage is then applied to the population growth.

The additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions and associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) then given. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required.

Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England.

This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused. The preference is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings, which should take place regularly following adoption of the study as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. It is recommended that these take place every 6-12 months and inform the annual review/update (see Part 8 for further information).

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate provision and subsequent maintenance. S106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning permission should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up-to-date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.

- ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.
- i. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ✦ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ✦ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ✦ The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type) on the basis any proposal is policy compliant.
- ✦ Securing community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ✦ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

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

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long-term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to redesignate a senior pitch where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality, or unused sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome.

Recommendation (i) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision. Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls for football, cricket, hockey, tennis, netball and lawn bowls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for 3G pitches and the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

However, for rugby union Table 4.17 shows that given the amount of demand at the two club sites, if maximum level quality improvements were to take place, shortfalls at one site would still be present. In this instance, other methods of addressing overplay should be explored such as the installation of additional provision, increased sports lighting or using dedicated sports lit training areas and potentially installing a WR 3G pitch to better support training demand.

Notwithstanding the above, large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the school to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the school as well as the wider community.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is organised by Analysis Area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

Site hierarchy

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a regional context i.e., they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, generally including provision of an AGP/3G pitch (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for two.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers such as town or parish councils
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

Hub sites are of district wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

Key centres are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); however, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports (e.g., bowling green sites).

For local sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities 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/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

Partners

The column indicating partners in the Action Plans below refers to the main organisations that the Council (or the relevant provider) would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council venues).

Priority

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a **high** level actions, as they have wide importance, high priority sites have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

Costs

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

- (L) - Low - less than £150k
- (M) - Medium - £150k-£750k
- (H) - High £750k and above

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:
[Facility cost guidance | Sport England](#)

Timescales

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

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

Aim

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

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

BARROWFORD & WESTERN ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Sport	Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2040)
Football (grass)	Barrowford & Western	Adult	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
Football (grass)	Barrowford & Western	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 2.5
Football (grass)	Barrowford & Western	Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
Football (grass)	Barrowford & Western	Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
Football (grass)	Barrowford & Western	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Football (3G pitches)	Barrowford & Western	11v11 with sports lighting	Shortfall of 0.75 ⁵	Shortfall of 0.75
Cricket	Barrowford & Western	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 10
Cricket	Barrowford & Western	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 10
Cricket	Barrowford & Western	Junior (Midweek)	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 10
Rugby union	Barrowford & Western	Senior	No demand	No demand
Rugby league	Borough-wide	Senior	Shortfall of 1.75	Shortfall of 1.75
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Borough-wide	Full size, with sports lighting	Sufficient supply but poor quality is a significant issue	Sufficient supply but poor quality is a significant issue

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2040)
Tennis	Club tennis	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Tennis	Recreational tennis	Shortfall	Shortfall
Bowling greens	Full size	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
American Football	Senior	Sufficient supply	Potential shortfall
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

⁵ Due to a perceived lack of suitable sites for the development of larger format 3G pitch provision it may be the case that this shortfall is met through outside this analysis area.

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
2	Beverley Road Playing Fields	BB9 6LX	Football	Council	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch, which has discounted spare capacity due to pitch quality. No ancillary facilities are available at this site.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore possibility to develop dedicated ancillary provision onsite.	Council FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
4	Bullholme Playing Field	BB9 8PU	Football	Council	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches, which are played to capacity at peak times. Two standard quality adult pitches, which are overplayed by 2.5 MES per week. Ancillary facilities at this site are rated as good quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council FF CFA	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
4	Bullholme Playing Field	BB9 8PU	Cricket	Council	One standard quality square that supports four wickets. Wickets are overplayed by 2 MES. There is potential spare capacity for Saturday and Midweek cricket. Changing rooms are rated as good quality.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council LCF ECB	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	BB12 9QQ	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch, which has an actual spare capacity of 1 MES. Two good quality mini	Work to alleviate the currently flagged issues with pitch quality and work to achieve good pitch	Sports Club FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					7v7 pitches, which are played to capacity at peak times. The ancillary provision at this site is rated as standard quality. Since KKP undertook the site non-technical audit for this site in late 2023 the Club has reported issues with pitch quality which conflict with initial findings.	quality on the site (as was originally recorded via KKP non-technical site audit). Look to improve ancillary provision offer onsite.						
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	BB12 9QQ	Cricket	Sports Club	This site has one standard quality cricket square, which supports six grass wickets. This site has further capacity for 15 MES. The spare capacity is available on Saturdays, Sundays and Midweek. The changing facilities at this site have been rated as poor quality.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer onsite.	Sports Club LCF ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
50	Barrowford Memorial Park	BB9 6EW	Bowls	Council	This site has one standard quality bowling green, which is home to Barrowford BC. This club currently has 35 members, with	Look to improve green quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer onsite.	Council BCG BA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					capacity for an additional 25. The ancillary facilities at this site have been rated as standard quality.							
64	Barrowford Cricket Club	BB9 8PU	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square, which supports 6 grass wickets. This site is overplayed by 20 MES. There is potential spare capacity for Sundays and Midweek. The changing rooms at this site are rated as poor quality.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer onsite.	Sports Club LCF ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

BRIERFIELD & REEDLEY ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Sport	Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2040)
Football (grass)	Brierfield & Reedley	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
Football (grass)	Brierfield & Reedley	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 5
Football (grass)	Brierfield & Reedley	Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
Football (grass)	Brierfield & Reedley	Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
Football (grass)	Brierfield & Reedley	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Football (3G pitches)	Brierfield & Reedley	Full size, with sports lighting	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Cricket	Brierfield & Reedley	Senior (Saturday)	At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Brierfield & Reedley	Senior (Sunday)	At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Brierfield & Reedley	Junior (Midweek)	At capacity	At capacity
Rugby union	Brierfield & Reedley	Senior	Shortfall of 4.25	Shortfall of 4.25
Rugby league	Borough-wide	Senior	Shortfall of 1.75	Shortfall of 1.75
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Borough-wide	Full size, with sports lighting	Sufficient supply but poor quality is a significant issue	Sufficient supply but poor quality is a significant issue

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2040)
Tennis	Club tennis	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Tennis	Recreational tennis	Shortfall	Shortfall
Bowling greens	Full size	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
American Football	Senior	Sufficient supply	Potential shortfall
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
5	Burnley Belvedere FC	BB10 2LE	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch, which is currently played to capacity. Ancillary facilities at the site are rated as standard quality, which are in a portacabin as a secondary changing venue on the larger site encompassing Burnley Belvedere FC and Burnley RUFC. Recently awarded GPMF following PitchPower to improve pitch quality. In the fourth year of a six-year pitch improvement project. Pitches have considerably improved. However, the Club is concerned about funding the ongoing maintenance once it has passed the sixth year of the GPMF, as it fears if maintenance is not upheld the pitch would start to decline.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Work on a plan with the Club to enable continued maintenance of the pitch onsite after GPMF is complete. Explore transferring a proportion of match play from the site to alternate sites with spare capacity or to nearby 3G pitches to alleviate overplay. Explore the opportunity to redevelop the ancillary provision on site (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy). It is a key site for women's and girls football activity.	Sports Club FF CFA	Key	M	M	L	Protect
6	Burnley RUFC	BB10 2LE	Football	Sports Club	One good quality Youth 11v11 pitch, which is overplayed	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate	Sports Club	Key	M	M	L	Protect

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					by 2 MES per week. Ancillary facilities at this site are rated as poor quality, with the Club looking to redevelop the changing, shower and toilet facilities. Recently awarded GPMF following PitchPower to improve pitch quality. In the fourth year of a six-year pitch improvement project. Pitches have considerably improved. However, the Club is concerned about funding the ongoing maintenance once it has passed the sixth year of the GPMF, as it fears if maintenance is not upheld the pitch would start to decline.	levels of maintenance. Work on a plan with the Club to enable continued maintenance of the pitch onsite after GPMF is complete. Explore the opportunity to redevelop the ancillary provision on site (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy). Consider relocation of demand on youth 11v11 pitch to alleviate overlay.	FF CFA					Enhance
6	Burnley RUFC	BB10 2LE	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square, which supports seven grass wickets and one non-turf wicket. Ancillary facilities at this site are rated as poor quality, with the Club	Improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to redevelop the ancillary provision on	Sports Club LCF ECB	Key	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					looking to redevelop the changing, shower and toilet facilities. This site currently has potential spare capacity/availability for sessions on Sundays and midweek.	site (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy).						
6	Burnley RUFC	BB10 2LE	Rugby Union	Sports Club	One standard quality (M1 / D2) senior pitch with sports lighting. Pitch is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week. One standard quality (M1 / D1) senior pitch with no sports lighting. Pitch is overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week. The ancillary facilities at this site are rated as poor quality, with the changing rooms requiring improvements.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to redevelop the ancillary provision on site (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy). Explore options to provide the club with additional access to the existing 3G pitch at the Prairie Sports Village or through utilisation of the natural turf playing field at the same site. These facilities are in Burnley and are not under the control of PBC.	Sports Club RFU	Key	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
20	John Bradley Playing Fields	BB9 5EY	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch, which is overplayed by three MES per week. One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch. Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. Both pitches onsite have significant areas of the pitch with very limited grass coverage. This leads to areas of mud and puddles across them and in turn cancellation of fixtures. Ancillary facilities at this site have been rated as poor quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhance levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer onsite (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy).	Council FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
23	Marsden Heights Community College	BB9 0PR	Football	Education	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches, which are unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality for continued school use.	School FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
23	Marsden Heights Community College	BB9 0PR	3G	Education	One good quality 3G pitch (92x55m), with sports lighting. This pitch was build/refurbished in 2021. This pitch is available for community use	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure pitch replacement fund is in place for when	School FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					and currently has 18 slots remain during midweek (generally between 5-6pm) and four at weekends.	resurfacing for the pitch is required. The pitch is currently certified for match play until 2027. There is a need to ensure this is sustained and re-certified when re-resting is required.						
23	Marsden Heights Community College	BB9 0PR	Cricket	Education	One cricket square, which supports one non-turf wicket. This square is not available for community use.	Sustain quality for school use.	School LCF ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
42	The Leisure Box	BB9 5NH	3G	Trust	One standard quality small 3G pitch (55 x 37), which was installed/resurfaced in 2018. The pitch has been certified for match play but has recently (May 2024) fallen out the register and is no longer usable for match play.	Look to undertake required maintenance to sustain quality. Ensure the pitch is re-tested and is certified for match play. If it needs to undergo quality improvements to gain certification, ensure these are carried out.	School FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
61	Heyhead Park	BB9 5BW	Tennis	Council	One good quality macadam court, with no sports lighting. One poor quality macadam court, with	Look to sustain and improve court quality of the poor court.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					no sports lighting. Both courts are available for community use.							
61	Heyhead Park	BB9 5BW	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green, which is leased from the council by Brierfield BC. The ancillary provision at this site is rated as standard quality.	Look to improve green quality with enhanced levels for maintenance.	Sports club BCG BA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

COLNE & DISTRICT ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Sport	Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2040)
Football (grass)	Colne & District	Adult	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
Football (grass)	Colne & District	Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
Football (grass)	Colne & District	Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
Football (grass)	Colne & District	Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
Football (grass)	Colne & District	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
Football (3G pitches)	Colne & District	11v11, with sports lighting	Shortfall of 0.25	Shortfall of 0.25
Cricket	Colne & District	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 11	Shortfall of 11
Cricket	Colne & District	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 11	Shortfall of 11
Cricket	Colne & District	Junior (Midweek)	Shortfall of 11	Shortfall of 11
Rugby union	Colne & District	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
Rugby league	Borough-wide	Senior	Shortfall of 1.75	Shortfall of 1.75
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Borough-wide	Full size, with sports lighting	Sufficient supply but poor quality is a significant issue	Sufficient supply but poor quality is a significant issue

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2040)
Tennis	Club tennis	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Tennis	Recreational tennis	Shortfall	Shortfall
Bowling greens	Full size	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
American Football	Senior	Sufficient supply	Potential shortfall
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Barrowford Road Playing Fields	BB8 9QP	Football	Council	Two poor quality Youth 9v9 pitches. Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. There are no ancillary provisions at this site. Nelson and Colne College are currently exploring alternative options for this site, as it is currently losing the College more money in maintenance than it brings in and is becoming unsustainable.	Work with the College to understand options for the site and ensure any potential development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy. Otherwise, consider how the site could be better utilised for community football (or other sports) with a potential view of providing an ancillary offer.	Council FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	BB8 0RF	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square that supports 10 grass wickets. The changing rooms at this site are rated as poor quality. The square is currently overplayed by five MES. However, there is potential spare capacity/availability for Saturdays and midweek. There are two training lanes that are rated as being good quality.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer onsite (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy).	Sports Club LCF ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	BB8 0RF	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green. The ancillary facilities at this site are rated as poor quality.	Look to improve green quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer onsite (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy).	Council BCG BA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
9	Colne Park High School	BB8 7DP	Football	Education	One poor quality adult pitch. One poor quality youth 11v11. Pitches are not available for community. The school has an aspiration to develop a 3G pitch on the site.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
10	Colne Primet Academy	BB8 8JF	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch, which is currently played to capacity. Pitch is not available for community use. The School was identified as potential location to accommodate an 11v11 3G pitch in the Pendle LFFP in 2018.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use. Explore the feasibility to develop an 11v11 size 3G pitch onsite in line with local levels of demand (on the basis any development is	School FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy).						
18	Holt House Playing Fields	BB8 9SF	Football	Council	<p>One standard quality adult pitch, which is played to capacity. One poor quality adult pitch, which is overplayed by one MES per week. One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch, which is overplayed by one MES per week. One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch, which is played to capacity at peak times.</p> <p>One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch, which is played to capacity at peak times. Ancillary provision of good quality.</p>	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council FF CFA	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
18	Holt House Playing Fields	BB8 9SF	Rugby Union	Sports Club	<p>One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch. One poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitch. Both pitches have no sports lighting and are played to capacity.</p>	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance and install purpose-built drainage.	Sports Club RFU	Key	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					Ancillary facilities are rated as standard quality.							
33	Sacred Heart RC Primary School (Colne)	BB8 7JR	AGP	Education	One good quality, small (20 x 15) AGP with sports lighting. Pitch is not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	Education EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
34	Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School	BB8 8JT	3G	Education	One standard quality, 11v11 (100 x 64) 3G pitch built in 2017. This pitch has sports lighting and is available for community use. 22 slots remain during midweek (generally between 5-6pm) and two at weekends. The pitch is on the FA register and is suitable for match play. Its certification is due to expire in 2026.	Look to sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for when surface requires replacing. Ensure that the pitch is re-tested for match play certification in 2026 and can continue to be used to accommodate competitive matches.	Education FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
43	Trawden Recreation Ground	BB8 8RR	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches, which are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch, which is played to capacity.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					Ancillary facilities are rated as standard quality. These pitches are available for community use.							
44	Nori Stadium (Colne Football Club)	BB8 9RT	Football/3G	Sports Club	One poor quality adult pitch, which is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. Step pitch for Colne FC. The Club reports that more than a dozen matches have been cancelled over the last season, due to the inadequate drainage on the pitch. The ancillary facilities at this site are rated as standard quality. The Club aspire to convert its stadium pitch to a 3G surface.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility to develop an 11v11 size 3G pitch onsite in line with local levels of demand and improve the ancillary provision (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy). The site is a key centre for women's and girls' activity and accommodates fixtures in the Lancashire Women's County Premier Division.	Sports Club FF CFA	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
49	Alkincoats Park	BB8 9QQ	Tennis	Council	Four standard quality macadam courts, with sports lighting. These courts are available for community use.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure that courts	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					The site is of a size in which it could benefit from LTA technological improvements to provide a wider benefit to residents.	are resurfaced when required.						
49	Alkincoats Park	BB8 9QQ	Bowls	Sports Club	Two good quality bowling greens. The ancillary facilities are rated as good quality. Alkincoats BC (Pendle) reports that is currently working with Colne Town Council on a plan to replace its pavilion onsite at Alkincoats Park.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure pavilion is replaced in support by the Club and Colne Town Council (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy).	Sports Club BCG BA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
51	Colne Royal British Legion	BB8 0JL	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green. The ancillary facilities are standard quality.	Look to improve green quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Sports Club BCG BA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
52	Craven Tennis Club	BB8 7AA	Tennis	Sports Club	Two standard quality clay tennis courts with are not Sportslit. The Club has a small membership of just 14 members (at the time of the PPOSS audit). The site is not	Monitor the membership of the Club and support it (where possible) to grow its membership base. As the only tennis club in Pendle	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					served by any formal ancillary provision	it is important it is supported.						
53	Foulridge Cricket Club	BB8 7QY	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square which supports six grass wickets. This site is currently overplayed by 6 MES. However, there is potential spare capacity/availability for Sunday cricket and midweek. Changing room quality has been rated as standard. Foulridge CC have a long-term lease agreement from Foulridge Parish Council (10 years remaining).	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to extend length of lease agreement to secure tenure for Foulridge CC.	Sports Club LCF ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
54	Foulridge Social Club	BB8 7PL	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green. Ancillary facilities at this site are also standard quality.	Look to improve green quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Sports Club BCG BA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
57	Trawden Forrest Bowling Club	BB8 8TJ	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green. The ancillary facilities for this site are rated as standard quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports Club BCG BA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

NELSON ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Sport	Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2040)
Football (grass)	Nelson	Adult	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
Football (grass)	Nelson	Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
Football (grass)	Nelson	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
Football (grass)	Nelson	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
Football (grass)	Nelson	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Football (3G pitches)	Nelson	11v11 size with sports lighting	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Cricket	Nelson	Senior (Saturday)	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
Cricket	Nelson	Senior (Sunday)	At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Nelson	Junior (Midweek)	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
Rugby union	Nelson	Senior	No demand	No demand
Rugby league	Borough-wide	Senior	Shortfall of 1.75	Shortfall of 1.75
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Borough-wide	Full size, with sports lighting	Sufficient supply but poor quality is a significant issue	Sufficient supply but poor quality is a significant issue

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2040)
Tennis	Club tennis	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Tennis	Recreational tennis	Shortfall	Shortfall
Bowling greens	Full size	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
American Football	Senior	Sufficient supply	Potential shortfall
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
3	Boundary Playing Fields (Nelson)	BB9 8JE	Cricket	Council	One non-turf wicket. This site is available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued recreational use.	Council LCF ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
12	Edge End Playing Fields	BB9 0PY	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches. Actual spare capacity at peak times. Ancillary provision of good quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
25	Nelson and Colne College	BB9 7YT	3G	Education	One standard quality (92 x 50) 3G pitch, which was installed/ last resurfaced in 2014. This pitch is available for community use. The pitch is FA certified for match play and is due to expire in 2025.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure pitch is resurfaced when required and a pitch replacement fund is in place for any future resurfacing. Ensure that the pitch remains certified for competitive match play in the future.	Education FF CFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
25	Nelson and Colne College	BB9 7YT	Tennis	Education	One good quality macadam court, which has sports lighting and is available for community use.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
27	Nelson Cricket Club	BB9 7TY	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square, which supports 15 grass wickets. Square has actual spare capacity on Saturdays for additional teams. Ancillary provision of standard quality This site has two training lanes, which are standard quality. Nelson CC has a long-term lease agreement from Nelson Town Council.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports Club LCF ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
30	Pendle Vale College	BB9 8LF	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch, pitch is played to capacity. This pitch is not available for community use.	Look to improve quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
30	Pendle Vale College	BB9 8LF	AGP	Education	One poor quality (100 x 62) AGP pitch, which was installed/resurfaced in 2008. The AGP is sand-dressed and suitable for hockey. Home base for Pendle Forest HC.	Look to resurface pitch. Ensure that sinking fund is place for future replacement of surface. Look to secure long-term tenure for Pendle Forest HC	Education EH	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						through community use agreement.						
30	Pendle Vale College	BB9 8LF	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality polymeric courts which have sports lighting and are available for community use. Four standard quality macadam courts, which have sports lighting.	Sustain court quality for continued school use.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
30	Pendle Vale College	BB9 8LF	Rounders	Education	Two rounders pitches. Not available for community use.	Sustain quality for continued school use.	Education	Local	L	L	L	Protect
41	Swinden Playing Fields	BB9 8SJ	Football	Council	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch, which is overplayed by 2 MES per day. Two poor quality 9v9 pitches, which are overplayed by 0.5 MES. The changing rooms at this site are of poor quality. Pendle Panthers BMX is currently looking to take away one football pitch onsite, to establish and build	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore feasibility of developing BMX track onsite, ensuring replacement provision is provided in line with national planning policy and Sport England planning policy for	Council FF CFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					an Olympic size BMX track to ensure it grow its membership and provide for its currently members.	the loss of any pitches						
41	Swinden Playing Fields	BB9 8SJ	Cricket	Council	One standard quality square which supports six grass wickets and one non-turf wicket. Pitch has potential spare capacity on Saturdays and midweek. The changing rooms at this site are of poor quality.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer onsite.	Council LCF ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
45	Victoria Park (Nelson)	BB9 7BN	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch. Actual spare capacity discounted to protect Step pitch quality. This pitch is available for community use. The ancillary facilities at this site are poor quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary offer onsite.	Sports Club FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
56	Thomas Street	BB9 9BY	Bowls	Sports Club	Two good quality bowling greens. Ancillary facilities at this site are standard quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports Club BCG BA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
59	Westfield Bowling Club	BB9 7UE	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green. Ancillary facilities at this site are also good quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports Club BCG BA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
60	Marsden Park	BB9 8BQ	Bowls	Sports Club	Two standard quality bowling greens. Ancillary facilities at this site are rated as standard quality.	Look to improve green quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Sports Club BCG BA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
60	Marsden Park	BB9 8BQ	Tennis	Council	Four poor quality macadam courts, with no sports lighting. These courts are available for community use.	Look to resurface courts. Ensure courts are kept to a usable standard in future and receive appropriate maintenance.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
65	St Paul's Primary School	BB9 0PY	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch, which is available for community use. Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to secure use for football clubs on site through community use agreement.	School FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
-	Hodge House Community Centre	BB9 8LJ	N/A	Community Organisation	Bradley Big Local Community Land Trust which manages the site has aspirations to develop an 11v11 3G pitch to service local football demand and to provide recreational offers within the local community. https://www.bbl-clt.org/3g-agp-development.html	Whilst there is no direct shortfall for 11v11 3G provision within Nelson, if the pitch can accommodate demand from other catchment areas within Pendle then it should be considered as a viable development option. Any application must be compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy).	Council CFA FF	-	-	-	-	-

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

WEST CRAVEN ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Sport	Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2040)
Football (grass)	West Craven	Adult	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1
Football (grass)	West Craven	Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
Football (grass)	West Craven	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
Football (grass)	West Craven	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
Football (grass)	West Craven	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Football (3G pitches)	West Craven	11v11 with sports lighting	Shortfall of 0.75	Shortfall of 0.75
Cricket	West Craven	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 9
Cricket	West Craven	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 9
Cricket	West Craven	Junior (Midweek)	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 9
Rugby union	West Craven	Senior	No demand	No demand
Rugby league	Borough-wide	Senior	Shortfall of 1.75	Shortfall of 1.75
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Borough-wide	Full size, with sports lighting	Sufficient supply but poor quality is a significant issue	Sufficient supply but poor quality is a significant issue

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2040)
Tennis	Club tennis	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Tennis	Recreational tennis	Shortfall	Shortfall
Bowling greens	Full size	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
American Football	Senior	Sufficient supply	Potential shortfall
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
11	Earby Cricket Club	BB18 6NN	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square, that supports nine grass wickets and one non-turf wicket. Changing rooms at this site are good quality. The site is overplayed by 6 MES. However, there is potential spare capacity/availability for Sunday and midweek cricket. This site also has two standard quality training lanes. Whilst ball strike have recently arisen due to a nearby new housing development.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to resolve ball strike issues.	Sports Club LCF ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
16	Hill Top Recreation Ground	BB18 6PX	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch, which is played to capacity. The ancillary facilities at this site are standard quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	BB18 6JG	Football	Industry Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch, which is played to capacity. One youth 11v11 pitch, which is played to capacity. Both	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to	Industry Sports Club FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					<p>pitches are available for community use. Ancillary facilities at this site are standard quality.</p> <p>Teams onsite are considered to have unsecure tenure due to the nature of management at Industry Sports Club sites.</p> <p>The Club is currently accessing GPMF.</p>	<p>secure tenure through a more formal use agreement for clubs onsite.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility to develop an 11v11 size 3G pitch onsite (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy).</p>						
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	BB18 6JG	AGP	Industry Sports Club	One poor quality AGP (38 x 20) that was installed/resurfaced in 2002. This pitch has sports lighting and is available for community use.	Look to resurface pitch. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for future replacement of surface.	Industry Sports Club FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	BB18 6JG	Bowls	Industry Sports Club	One good quality bowling green, that is home to Rolls BC. Ancillary provision at this site is good quality. This green has sports lighting.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Industry Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
36	Silentnight Stadium	BB18 5LJ	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch. Actual spare capacity	Sustain pitch quality with	Sports Club	Key	L	L	L	Protect

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					discounted to protect National League System pitch quality. This pitch is available for community use. Ancillary facilities at this site are good quality.	appropriate levels of maintenance.	FF CFA					
37	Sough Park	BB18 6SY	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch, which is played to capacity. The ancillary facilities at this site are poor quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary facilities onsite.	Council FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
37	Sough Park	BB18 6SY	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality macadam courts, with no sports lighting. These courts are available for community use. The site is of a size in which it could benefit from LTA technological improvements to provide a wider benefit to residents.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
37	Sough Park	BB18 6SY	Bowls	Sports Club	One bowling green which is good quality. The ancillary facilities are poor quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports Club BCGB A	Local	L	L	L	Protect

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
38	Springfield Recreation Ground	BB18 6LS	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch, which is currently overplayed by 1.5 MES per week. There are no ancillary facilities available at this site.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility to develop dedicated ancillary provision onsite (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy).	Council FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
40	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Barnoldswick)	BB18 5EN	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch. This pitch is not available for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	Education FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
46	Victory Park	BB18 5EN	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch, with actual spare capacity at peak time. One poor mini 7v7 pitch, which is overplayed by one MES per week. Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches, which are currently played to capacity.	Sustain and improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunities to improve the ancillary provision which supports the site. It is a key site	Council FF CFA	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					<p>These pitches are available for community use. Ancillary facilities at this site are standard quality.</p> <p>Barnoldswick Town Juniors which use the site is in the early stages of exploring a new drainage system for their 7v7 pitch at Victory Park. The Club has been speaking with WRCFA, FF, GMA & Steve Wells & Associates. and has been asked by the FF to clarify with the Lead Local Flooding Authority (LLFA) exactly what permission would be required before proceeding further.</p>	<p>for women's and girls' activity, Explore the feasibility to develop an 11v11 size 3G pitch onsite (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy).</p>						

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
46	Victory Park	BB18 5EN	Rugby League	Council	One standard quality senior pitch. Which is overplayed by 1.75 MES per week. There is no sports lighting for this pitch. The pitch is available for community use. The ancillary facilities at this site are rated as standard quality. There is also a parcel of land which could be utilised as a training area; however, it is currently of poor quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to relocate training demand off the pitch and introduce training area once pitch area has improved.	Council RFL	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
48	West Craven High School	BB18 5TB	Football	Education	Two poor quality youth 9v9 pitch, actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure. The ancillary facilities at this site are standard quality. These pitches are available for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to secure tenure for clubs onsite, through a community use agreement.	Education FF CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
48	West Craven High School	BB18 5TB	3G	Education	One standard quality (50 x 30) 3G pitch. This pitch was	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Education FF CFA	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					installed/refurbished in 2015. This pitch has sports lighting and is available for community use.	Ensure sinking fund is in place in order to resurface pitch when required. Explore the feasibility to develop an 11v11 size 3G pitch onsite (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy).						Provide
62	Barnoldswick Cricket Club	BB18 5EN	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square, which supports 10 grass wickets. Changing rooms at this site are poor quality. There is currently potential spare capacity/availability for cricket on Sundays and midweek.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer onsite (on the basis any development is compliant with NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy).	Sports Club LCF ECB	Key	L	L	L	Protect

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2040 (in line with the Local Plan). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

Experience shows that housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For such large-scale developments, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). If this is not the case, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision.

In either case of new provision being provided or contributions being sought to improve existing provision there may be a need for provision to be split across the analysis areas used within this document to fully satisfy demand generated from development. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

The following scenario is based on potential population growth over the Local Plan period. This growth is cumulative over the plan period which will derive from a combination of new development and organic growth within the Borough.

- ◀ **Scenario One** – Anticipated population growth in line with Local Plan – 2,103 people (ONS population forecasts)

7.1: Scenario One – Local Plan Authority wide population growth (Pendle)

The estimated additional population derived over Local Plan is 2,103 people by 2040. This population increase equates to 1.85 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.12 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP's and 9.09 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 3.30 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.22 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

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Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 2,103 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week ⁶	Training demand ⁷
Adult football	0.28	3.30 hours
Youth football	0.84	As above
Mini soccer	0.53	As above
Rugby union	0.17	0.19 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.03	0.03 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.06	0.19 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.06	0.03 hours
Cricket	9.09	-

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ⁸	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ⁹	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.28	£29,947	£5,900	0.56	£106,857
Youth football	0.84	£74,288	£15,006	1.13	£217,923
Mini soccer	0.53	£15,581	£3,085	0.00	£0
Rugby union	0.17	£27,672	£5,119	0.34	£65,825
Rugby league	0.03	£3,908	£723	0.05	£10,577
Cricket	0.21	£71,360	£13,130	0.42	£81,184
Sand based AGPs	0.02	£15,327	£398	0.03	£6,332
3G	0.09	£97,023	£2,970	0.17	£33,405
Total	2.16	£335,104	£46,332	2.71	£522,104

Overall, an additional 2.16 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 2,103 people living in Pendle. This consist of 2.05 grass pitches and 0.11 of access to artificial pitches. This would require an expected capital cost of £335,104 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £46,332. To facilitate the increased provision, 2.71 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £522,104.

Demand arising from this potential growth will not emerge as part of one development, but from separate allocations over the next 16 years as well as organic population growth in the Borough. On this basis, the figures and numbers accounted for in the above tables should be considered a cumulative position for 16 years of growth.

It is recommended that the PPC is ran alongside the Councils own developer contribution policy to help inform future collation of contribution and to support the development of new provision where it is applicable to be sought.

⁶ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

⁷ Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

⁸ [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

⁹ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP-TO-DATE

The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up-to-date. However, a more tailored approach should also be considered and designed for the Pendle based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group.

Delivery

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across the Pendle. 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 the District can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and recommends how best to resolve this in the future.

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

The creation of this document should be regarded as part of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are needed to improve the situation and meet future demand. For this to be achieved, the Steering Group needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of completing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

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It is agreed that the Council (potentially via consultants e.g., KKP) is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up-to-date in order that area-by-area action plans can be updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

An annual review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ✦ How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g., the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- ✦ How the PPOSS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- ✦ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g., the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ✦ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ✦ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Alongside regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up-to-date and maintain relationships is to hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

















These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings.

The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

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Checklists

In order for this Strategy to be signed off by the steering group, a Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy, is signed off.

Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan		
1. Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?		
2. Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information?		
3. Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?		
4. Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?		
5. Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?		
6. Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?		
7. Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed?		
8. Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?		
9. Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?		
10. Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?		
11. Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?		
12. Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?		
13. Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?		
14. Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?		
15. Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?		
16. Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?		
17. Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?		
18. Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?		
Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy		
1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?		

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2.	Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?	✓	
3.	Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	✓	
4.	Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	✓	
5.	Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	✓	
6.	Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?	✓	

To help ensure the PPOSS is delivered and is kept robust and up-to-date, the steering group can refer to the new methodology Stage E Checklist: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date:

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy		
1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
2. Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?		
3. Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up-to-date		
1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up-to-date?		
2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

Department of Media Culture and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
 - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
 - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
 - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
 - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
 - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
 - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
 - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ▶ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ▶ Joining forces on five big issues
- ▶ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

Recover and reinvent: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

Connecting communities: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

Positive experiences for children and young people: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

Connecting with health and wellbeing: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

Active environments: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

National Planning Policy Framework (2023)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides

a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

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

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

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

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

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of 11v11 and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has now been produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League, DCMS, Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP will build upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP will also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This could include those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

LFFPs will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2019-2024)

“Inspiring Generations” is the new ECB participation strategy which was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women’s and girls’ cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

- ♦ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ♦ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ♦ Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- ♦ Investing in girls’ county age group cricket.
- ♦ Delivering a girls’ secondary school programme.

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan 2021 onwards

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey’s Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#). England Hockey is in the process of updating its facilities strategy which can be expected in the near future.

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

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

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

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

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

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

The intention is to:

- ❖ Be progressive.
- ❖ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ❖ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ❖ Lead the sport.
- ❖ Support clubs and county associations.

Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

The LTA has a vision of 'Tennis Opened Up' – aiming to grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. We want tennis to be open to as many people as possible, across the whole of Britain. Linked to this is the emergence and growth of padel, a new showing a huge multi-sport, all age group appeal.

Key elements connected to growing participation include:

- ❖ Widening the appeal of tennis through inclusion of flexible formats of the game
- ❖ Emergence of padel.
- ❖ Improving the customer journey by making it easier to find a court, book it, and find somebody to play with
- ❖ Develop more relevant and enjoyable competitions at grass roots level for all abilities and ages
- ❖ Support community facilities & schools to provide more opportunities to play
- ❖ Help clubs grow & retain members
- ❖ Create more opportunities for children to play at school
- ❖ Facilitate partnerships to further increase rate of participation in parks
- ❖ Support venues to provide a welcoming and enjoyable experience
- ❖ Increase awareness of affordability.

Parks Tennis

- ❖ The majority of participation in the UK takes place in a park environment
- ❖ The park environment is the most common place where new participants will start their tennis journey. For those that don't play, the majority of people who have expressed an interest in playing would see the park environment as their first option for play.
- ❖ Participation in parks is often less frequent and generally aligns with the seasonal participation peaks in the summer months. This trend is not helped by the lack of floodlit provision that currently exists in the park environment.
- ❖ Park players are generally more interested in recreational play and are less reliant on organised activity.
- ❖ Park players are most dissatisfied with the condition of the courts, the number of courts available and the journey from booking a court to the actual play.

- ✦ The LTA in partnership with the government are upgrading 4500 park courts to enable greater levels of participation within park environments.
- ✦ The LTA has successfully implemented technology that improves the customer journey to court. This involves the use of an access gate with key pad entry which is connected to the Clubspark venue management system. When a booking is made an automated code is generated and sent to the customer, thus allowing access to the court during the allocated booking time. Where implemented, the system has been successful in increasing participation rates, whilst also generating income that helps to improve the financial sustainability of a venue.
- ✦ The LTA is looking to significantly increase the number of gate access systems that are installed national as part of the Digital Participation Pathway.
- ✦ Padel is still very early in development in parks, however the LTA is keen to see this development and see this as a natural offer alongside multi-sport and tennis provision.

Club Tennis

- ✦ The club environment is a very important sector for participation.
- ✦ Whilst the level of participation is higher in parks, the regularity of play generally increases in the club market.
- ✦ The club market has a higher focus on organise activity both via coaching and competition.
- ✦ There has an increase in the number of clubs that are looking to implement online booking systems and the gate access technology. This not only offers the ability to increase the amount of court usage at a venue but acts as a key marketing tool locally in the quest to attract more users to a venue initially and create a higher level of exposure locally.
- ✦ A clear environment for the further development of padel, working alongside existing tennis provision.
- ✦ Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ✦ Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)

Bowls England's new Strategy: 'Fit For The Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get it the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

- ✦ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ✦ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
- ✦ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
- ✦ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ✦ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

England Netball

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to:-

- ◆ accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
- ◆ elevate the visibility of the sport, and
- ◆ lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

The elite game is in focus too, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.

Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

Facility Development

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- ◀ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ◀ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ◀ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.
- ◀ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
- ◀ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- ◀ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ◀ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ◀ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ◀ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ◀ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.