

# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BARLA	British Amateur Rugby League Association
CC	Cricket Club
CW&C	Cheshire West & Chester
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
IMS	International Matchball Standard
IRB	International Rugby Board
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RFL	Rugby Football League
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
U	Under

## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Cheshire West and Chester (CW&C). Building upon the preceding Assessment Report it provides a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities. It replaces the previous PPS, completed in 2015 and updated in 2018.

The Strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting playing fields and, as appropriate, directing developer contributions secured through development.
- ◀ Inform the protection and provision of sports facilities and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and S106 and CIL schedules.
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing outdoor sports areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches) across the Borough;
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of outdoor sports across the Borough;
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximise support for outdoor sports facilities;
- ◀ Providing the basis for on-going monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sport.

### **Covid-19**

The PPS has been undertaken during the Covid-19 global pandemic, which has resulted in England entering into unprecedented restrictions that have fluctuated since March 2020. At various points in time, grassroots sport has been halted, leading to truncated seasons and changes to way leagues have been run and fixtures scheduled. This has had a direct consequence on the supply of and demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities, which, if considered in isolation, would not present an accurate representation of provision.

Given then above, this study presents information based on what supply and demand would have been like had there not been any restrictions in place, although consideration is given to the impact of Covid-19 and the issues clubs, teams and users face as a consequence. The approach taken is further explained within each section of the report, where appropriate.

It is currently unknown what impact the pandemic and enforced restrictions will have on participation and provision moving forward. Therefore, this should form a key aspect of the Stage E process, with the review of the documents ensuring that any recommendations made remain accurate as the effect of Covid-19 becomes clearer.

As part of Stage E, the PPS should be reviewed ideally on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. A review will not only help keep the work up to date, but it will also assist in maintaining the momentum and commitment built up during its development.

### **1.1: Structure**

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within CW&C to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock.

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- ◀ 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.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for CW&C. 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 (see Appendix Three: Funding Plan).

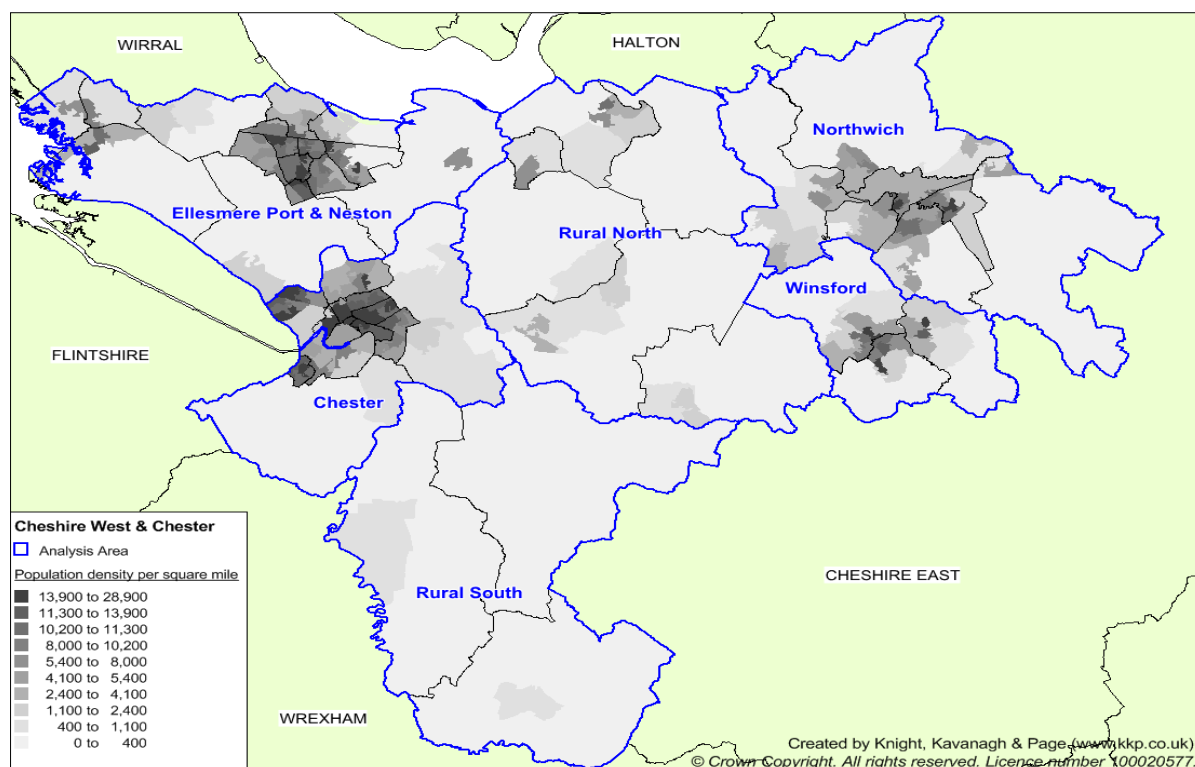
The recommendations that come out of this strategy must remain translated into local plan policy so there is a policy mechanism to protect existing provision and secure investment where the opportunity arises.

## 1.2: Study area

The study area is the CW&C Council boundary area. Further to this, analysis areas have been used to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

CW&C is divided into six analysis areas, Chester, Ellesmere Port & Neston, Northwich, Rural North, Rural South and Winsford, as seen in the figure below.

Figure 1.1: PPS analysis areas



## 1.3: Agreed scope

The following types of playing pitches are agreed for inclusion, consistent with previous iterations of the PPS:

- ✦ Football pitches
- ✦ Third Generation artificial turf pitches (3G AGPs)
- ✦ Cricket pitches
- ✦ Rugby union pitches
- ✦ Rugby league pitches
- ✦ Hockey/artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ✦ Other grass pitch sports (walking football, Gaelic football, American football, lacrosse and polo)

## 1.4: Context

A PPS provides the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting the provision of outdoor sports facilities and to support sports development objectives.

The rationale for undertaking this study is to identify current levels of provision within CW&C across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand. The primary purpose of the PPS is therefore to provide a strategic framework that ensures the provision of outdoor sports facilities meets the local needs of existing and future residents.

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 on land 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.

This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust, and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

One of the core planning principles of the 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 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with paragraph 98 discussing the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 99 discusses assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". Paragraphs 101 and 102 also promote the identification of green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

## ***CW&C Place Plan 2019-24***

Using insights from the Council's current Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Plan represents its vision for the next five years, highlighting areas where it can do more to benefit the people of CW&C.

The vision is to "reduce inequalities, increase years of healthy life and promote improved mental and physical health and wellbeing for everyone in Cheshire West."

Its focus for the next four years will be to ensure we all play to our part to:

- ◀ Support children and young people to make the best start in life and achieve their full potential
- ◀ Enable more adults to live longer, healthier and happier lives
- ◀ Make our neighbourhoods even better places to call home
- ◀ An efficient and empowering Council
- ◀ Healthy lifestyles and preventing ill-health
- ◀ Tackle the Climate Emergency
- ◀ Grow our local economy and deliver good jobs with fair wages for our residents

Emphasis on the wider determinants and a good start in life does not mean that actions at later stages of the life course are unimportant. Adulthood is an important time for maintaining good health, reducing health risks and where necessary, intervening early. Prevention is as much about the kind of communities lived in, the lifestyle choices made, and the quality of care received, as it is the contents of our medicine cabinets. It is also about early detection, intervention and access to services and activities that can help maintain and sustain our good health (including playing pitch facilities).

### **1.4: Headline findings**

The table below highlights the quantitative headline shortfalls from the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 6: Action Plan.

Match equivalent sessions have 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. Based on how matches tend to be played, this unit for football, rugby union and rugby league pitches relates to a typical week for each sport, whereas for cricket it is over the course of a season.

For artificial surfaces (AGPs and 3G pitches), how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play can be accommodated before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, whole (or full size) pitches are used as the comparable unit.

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Table 1.1: Headline findings

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance <sup>1</sup>	Future supply/ demand balance (2030) <sup>2</sup>
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
Chester	Adult	Shortfall of 4.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 8 match sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 4.5 match sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 3 match sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity 2 match session	Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 11 match sessions
Ellesmere Port & Neston	Adult	Shortfall of 10 match sessions	Shortfall of 11.5 match sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 6.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 8.5 match sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 7.5 match sessions
	Mini 7v7	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 2 match sessions
	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity 2.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 1 match session
Northwich	Adult	Shortfall of 4.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 5 match sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2 match sessions	Shortfall of 4.5 match sessions
	Youth 9v9	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity 3.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity 1 match session
	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity 3 match sessions	Actual spare capacity 1.5 match sessions
Rural North	Adult	Shortfall of 6 match sessions	Shortfall of 6 match sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions
	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity 1 match session	Actual spare capacity 1 match session
	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions
Rural South	Adult	Shortfall of 1 match session	Shortfall of 1 match session
	Youth 11v11	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Youth 9v9	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Mini 7v7	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 1 match session
Winsford	Adult	Shortfall of 2 match sessions	Shortfall of 3 match sessions
	Youth 11v11	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions
	Youth 9v9	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 2 match sessions
	Mini 7v7	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 1 match session
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions
CW&C	Adult	Shortfall of 30 match sessions	Shortfall of 36.5 match sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2 match sessions	Shortfall of 14 match sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 12.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 19.5 match sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity 3 match sessions	Shortfall of 5 match sessions
	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity 5.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 13.5 match sessions
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>			
Chester	Full size	1 pitch	2 pitches
Ellesmere Port & Neston	Full size	1 pitch	1 pitch
Northwich	Full size	4 pitches	5 pitches
Rural North	Full size	1 pitch	1 pitch

<sup>1</sup> Current demand is calculated from an analysis of overplay and spare capacity only.

<sup>2</sup> Demand that will exist in 2030 if the current demand is not met' also includes identified latent/exported demand.



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Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance <sup>1</sup>	Future supply/ demand balance (2030) <sup>2</sup>
Rural South	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Winsford	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
<b>CW&amp;C</b>	<b>Full size</b>	<b>7 pitches</b>	<b>9 pitches</b>
<b>Cricket</b>			
Chester	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 30 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 30 match sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 30 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 25 match sessions
Ellesmere Port & Neston	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 30 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 20 match sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 40 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 35 match session
Northwich	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 8 match sessions	Shortfall of 2 match sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 28 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 23 match sessions
Rural North	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 34 match sessions	Shortfall of 74 match sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 29 match sessions	Shortfall of 49 match sessions
Rural South	Senior (Saturday)	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity 5 match sessions	Demand is being met
Winsford	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 10 match sessions	Demand is being met
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 5 match sessions
<b>CW&amp;C</b>	Senior (Saturday)	<b>Actual spare capacity of 39 match sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 31 match sessions</b>
	Senior (Sunday)	<b>Actual spare capacity of 74 match sessions</b>	<b>Actual spare capacity of 34 match sessions</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>			
Chester	Senior	Shortfall of 2 match sessions	Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions
Ellesmere Port & Neston	Senior	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions
Northwich	Senior	Shortfall of 9 match sessions	Shortfall of 9 match sessions
Rural North	Senior	1.5 match sessions of actual spare capacity	Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions
Rural South	Senior	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Winsford	Senior	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
<b>CW&amp;C</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Shortfall of 18 match sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 27 match sessions</b>
<b>Rugby league</b>			
<b>CW&amp;C</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Shortfall of 0.75 match sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 0.75 match sessions</b>
<b>Hockey</b>			
<b>CW&amp;C</b>	<b>AGP</b>	<b>Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)</b>	<b>Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)</b>

### **Conclusions**

The existing position for all pitch sports is either demand is being met or there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and additional shortfalls in some areas and for some sports.

Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to accommodating existing or future demand, or as strategic reserve. As such, there is a need to protect all existing provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace any lost provision to an equal or greater quantity and an equal or better quality before it is lost (aligned to Sport England's Playing Field Policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF).

For low value sites, e.g. single pitch sites that are rarely used and are without appropriate ancillary facilities, there could be a case for rationalisation providing that there is no net loss of playing field and pitches and that investment into other more sustainable playing field sites is made. As an example, the proceeds acquired from the loss of single pitch sites could contribute towards the creation of a multi-pitch site or the extension/improvement of an existing multi-pitch site.

In the main, most shortfalls expressed can be met by improving pitch quality to increase capacity; however, it must be noted that this would only be the case if most pitches currently assessed as poor/standard were improved to good, which is considered unlikely given budget restraints. Key sites should therefore be focused upon, such as those that would contribute the most to reducing shortfalls if they were to be enhanced e.g. large, multi-sport venues such as Moss Farm Leisure Complex. However, in terms of planning policy any loss of playing field land is required to be replaced to an equivalent or greater quantity and quality. Qualitative improvements to existing sites will not be supported until all unmet demand has been met and there is an overall position of excess pitch provision across all pitch types and sizes.

As substantial improvements are unlikely, there is also a requirement for access to existing unused pitches, such as those located at currently unavailable school sites, or the creation of new provision, particularly in key housing growth areas. Furthermore, there may be sites that could benefit from a pitch re-configuration, e.g. converting an adult football pitch with spare capacity into a youth pitch to reduce youth pitch shortfalls (as many youth teams currently play on adult pitches).

Notwithstanding the above, a shortfall of 3G pitches can only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, thus reducing overplay, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements. The location of 3G pitches must serve an identified strategic need and demonstrate clear sporting benefits that outweigh the loss of natural turf playing field and should not affect other pitch sport types. This is in accord with Sport England Playing Fields Policy Exception E5 and paragraph 99(c) of the NPPF.

## PART 2: VISION

### 2.1: Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the CW&C Playing Pitch Strategy:

*“An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of playing pitches that provides opportunity for residents of and visitors to Cheshire West and Chester to play pitch sports. The network will cater for all standards of play, from grass roots to elite and will encourage and promote sustained participation”*

To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy has the following aims - to;

- ◀ 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 sufficient facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to affordable facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer term aspirations.
- ◀ Ensure that all providers seek to ensure all facilities meet up-to-date standards of accessibility.

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## PART 3: OBJECTIVES

The following overarching objectives are based on the three Sport England principles (see figure 1 below).

It is recommended that the following are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sport England Planning for Sport principles. Delivery of the Strategy is the responsibility of and relies on *all* stakeholders.

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

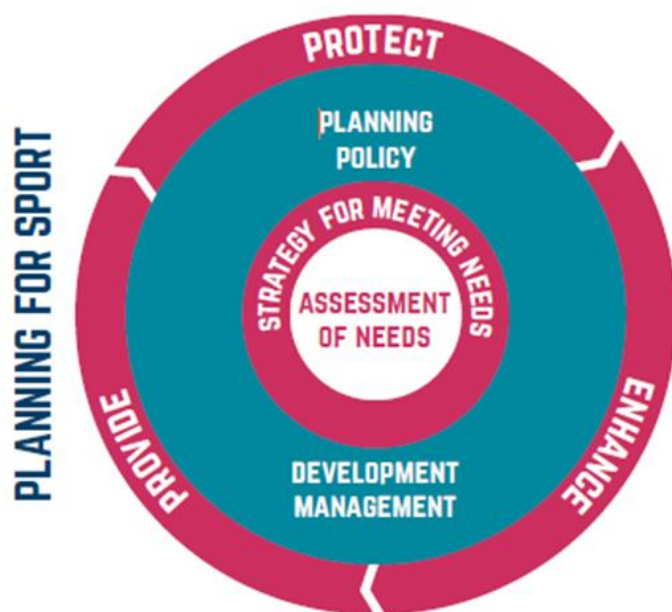
### AIM 2

To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

### AIM 3

To **provide** new playing pitches and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

Figure 1: Sport England Objectives



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

## PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for the playing pitch sports resulting in the sport specific recommendations.

### Football pitches

#### *Supply and demand summary*

- Overall, there are current shortfalls evidenced for adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches show actual spare capacity.
- After considering future demand, existing shortfalls are expected to worsen whilst a shortfall of mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 pitches will be created.
- There is a total of 29.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exists across CW&C with most expressed on adult pitches and in the Chester Analysis Area.
- There are 62 pitches overplayed across 27 sites by a total of 67.5 match equivalent sessions; overplay is most prevalent on adult pitches and in the Ellesmere Port Analysis Area.

#### *Supply summary*

- The audit identifies a total of 368 football pitches across 180 sites in CW&C; of these, 287 are available, at some level, for community use.
- In addition, four disused sites have been identified that previously accommodated football provision.
- Tenure is unsecure at many school sites such as at Sir John Deane's College and St Nicholas Catholic High School, whilst numerous clubs' express aspirations to improve security of tenure including 1874 Northwich FC, AFC Waverton and Frodsham Veterans Athletic FC.
- Of the community available pitches, 47 are managed by the Council, 16 by parish/town councils, 131 by schools/colleges/universities and 45 by clubs. The remaining pitches are privately or commercially managed.
- In total, 30 pitches are assessed as good quality, 125 as standard quality and 133 are deemed to be poor quality.
- Changing facilities are generally viewed as being adequate by clubs, with 60% rating provision as good, 27% rating facilities as standard and 13% rating facilities as poor.

#### *Demand summary*

- A total of 816 teams are identified as playing within CW&C, consisting of 140 men's teams, nine women's teams, 292 youth boys' teams, 74 youth girls' teams and 301 mini soccer teams (49 of which are girls' teams).
- There is a general trend of increasing team numbers, with more clubs reporting a growth in demand compared to those that report a reduction.
- There are seven clubs in CW&C competing within the men's football pyramid and two competing in the women's football pyramid.
- Due to the Cheshire Girls Football League utilising Moss Farm Leisure Complex as a central venue, 15 clubs are known to import demand into CW&C.
- A total of 14 express latent demand linked to grass pitch, training and/or ancillary facility provision.
- Of the clubs which quantify their potential future demand, there is a predicted growth of 61 teams equating to four adult, seven youth and 19.5 mini match equivalent sessions.
- Through population increases, a further 44 teams are likely to be generated, although this falls to 41 teams when broken down by analysis area.

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## Scenarios

### Alleviating overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). In CW&C, 59 pitches are overplayed across 27 sites by a total of 64.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Several of these pitches are at schools, where the main reason for overplay is a culmination of curriculum PE use, extra-curricular use including school fixtures and any additional overuse by the community.

Improving pitch quality at overplayed sites to either standard or good quality will help to accommodate expressed overplay. Whilst it is recognised that such improvements are unlikely to occur at all sites, given the costs involved, these should be prioritised, particularly those with numerous pitches that are assessed as poor quality. Of the overplayed pitches, 39 are assessed as poor quality across 19 sites, accounting for 49 match equivalent sessions of overplay.

As seen in the table below, the majority of overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality increased to good. The exceptions to this are adult pitches at Blacon High School, Sir John Deane's College, The Groves Sports and Social Club, Wealstone Lane Playing Field, Whetstone Hey and Waverton Village Hall.

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating <sup>3</sup>	Good quality capacity rating <sup>4</sup>
14	Blacon High School	Chester	Adult	1	Standard	2.5	1.5
16	Cairns Crescent	Chester	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
31	Duddon Village Hall	Rural North	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
47	Helsby High School	Rural North	Adult	3	Poor	5	1
52	Johnston Recreation Grounds	Ellesmere Port & Neston	Adult	2	Standard	0.5	1.5
57	King George V Playing Field, Tarvin	Rural North	(11v11)	1	Poor	2.5	0.5
59	Knights Grange Sports Complex	Winsford	Adult	13	Poor	2	24
67	Moss Farm Leisure Complex	Northwich	Adult	7	Standard	2.5	4.5
73	Neston High School	Ellesmere Port & Neston	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
73	Neston High School	Ellesmere Port & Neston	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	2

<sup>3</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>4</sup> Match equivalent sessions

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating <sup>3</sup>	Good quality capacity rating <sup>4</sup>
76	Norley Road Playing Field	Northwich	(11v11)	1	Poor	3	-
85	Saltworks Farm	Rural North	Adult	2	Poor	1.5	2.5
89	Sir John Deane's College	Northwich	Adult	2	Standard	4.5	2.5
92	Stanney Grange	Ellesmere Port & Neston	Adult	2	Poor	2	2
96	Tattenhall Recreation Club	Rural South	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
97	Thackeray Drive Playing Fields	Chester	Adult	1	Poor	2	-
102	The Dale Barracks	Chester	Adult	1	Standard	1	-
105	The Groves Sports and Social Club	Ellesmere Port & Neston	Adult	2	Poor	6	2
112	The Ellesmere Port CE College	Ellesmere Port & Neston	(11v11)	2	Standard	2	2
115	Vauxhall Sports and Social Club	Ellesmere Port & Neston	(11v11)	2	Standard	2.5	1.5
115	Vauxhall Sports and Social Club	Ellesmere Port & Neston	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
118	Wealstone Lane Playing Field	Chester	Adult	1	Poor	2.5	0.5
124	Westminster Park	Chester	(11v11)	3	Poor	1	8
124	Westminster Park	Chester	(9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
125	Whetstone Hey	Ellesmere Port & Neston	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
125	Whetstone Hey	Ellesmere Port & Neston	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	2
150	Great Barrow Field	Rural North	Adult	1	Poor	1.5	0.5
173	Tarporley Playing Fields	Rural North	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2.5
178	Waverton Village Hall	Chester	Adult	1	Poor	7	5
253	Ellesmere Port Sea Cadets	Ellesmere Port & Neston	(11v11)	1	Standard	2	-
257	Farndon Sports & Social Club	Rural South	Adult	1	Poor	1	1



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Should the above occur, overplay will reduce to 11.5 match equivalent sessions across seven pitches. For sites that remain overplayed, a solution is required beyond quality improvements, such as through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity or through greater utilisation of the 3G pitch stock for competitive matches. The same also applies at overplayed sites that are not viable for pitch quality improvements if the cost of carrying out such work is considered prohibitive.

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

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Current actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total	Potential overplay	Potential total
Adult	15.5	43.5	28	11.5	4
Youth 11v11	1	14.5	13.5	-	13.5
Youth 9v9	2	4	2	-	2
Mini 7v7	5.5	1.5	4	-	4
Mini 5v5	5.5	-	5.5	-	5.5

### *Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)*

As improving the quality of all overplayed sites may not be feasible or sustainable from an investment point of view, an alternative or additional approach is to focus on improving strategic sites. To that end, CW&C's LFFP identifies 11 sites for grass pitch improvements that are considered to be key for football in the area. The table below therefore identifies what the impact would be if quality was improved to good at these sites.

The only site not to be included in the table below is Netherpool Road. Pitch improvements have already taken place on site and the pitches are now considered to be in good condition. Therefore, further improvements would not have any impact on site capacity.

*Table 4.3: Impact of LFFP quality improvements*

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity	Improved capacity
9	Barnton Stadium (Winsford United Football Club)	Adult	1	Standard	-	1
59	Knights Grange Sports Complex	Adult	1	Standard	-	1
		Adult	13	Poor	2	24
67	Moss Farm Leisure Complex	Adult	7	Standard	2.5	4.5
76	Norley Road Playing Field	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	3	-
		Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	-	3
85	Saltworks Farm	Adult	2	Poor	1.5	2.5
		Youth (9v9)	2	Poor	1.5	7.5
86	Seacombe Drive Recreation Ground	Adult	2	Poor	-	4
90	St Nicholas Catholic High School	Adult	2	Standard	3	5
		Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1	4
		Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	4	6
92	Stanney Grange	Adult	2	Poor	2	2
113	Former Sutton High School	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	2	4
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	2	4
		Mini (7v7)	2	Standard	8	12



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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity	Improved capacity
		Mini (5v5)	2	Standard	8	12
127	Whitby Park	Adult	3	Poor	3	9

Improving quality as set out in the table above would create 65 match equivalent sessions of additional capacity. In addition, for those pitches that are overplayed, overplay will be alleviated. However, it should be noted that St Nicholas Catholic High School is currently unavailable for community use and the School has no current aspirations to allow community use. This could be revisited in the future but without allowing community use, pitch improvements on site would not lead to increased capacity.

The impact the improvements would have on the overall supply and demand balance is shown in the following table. Shortfalls reduce on youth 11v11 pitches, whilst spare capacity is created on adult and youth 9v9 pitches and increased on mini pitch types.

*Table 4.4: Impact of improving pitch quality at LFFP sites on overall supply and demand*

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	30	17
Youth 11v11	12.5	8.5
Youth 9v9	2	12.5
Mini 7v7	3	9
Mini 5v5	5.5	9.5

As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPS, the priority project list should be revisited following this study and updated/amended based on the findings. To help guide this process, the table below comments on whether the PPS provides evidence to support the inclusion of the sites currently featured.

*Table 4.5: Assessing LFFP priority list (grass pitch improvements)*

Site ID	Site name	Comments	LFFP recommendation
9	Barnton Stadium (Winsford United Football Club)	Improvements are required to support use by Winsford United FC.	Retain
59	Knights Grange Sports Complex	Key site with numerous adult pitches, improvements would significantly reduce adult shortfalls.	Retain
67	Moss Farm Leisure Complex	Key site with numerous adult pitches, improvements would significantly reduce adult shortfalls.	Retain
76	Norley Road Playing Field	Contains some poor quality issues and has capacity issues.	Retain
85	Saltworks Farm	Contains some poor quality issues and has capacity issues.	Retain
86	Seacombe Drive Recreation Ground	Contained issues with poor quality. Pitches improvement works have been undertaken and are being rested, prior to becoming available for next season.	Remove as improvement works have been completed
90	St Nicholas Catholic High School	No significant quality or capacity issues; however, improvements will help reduce local shortfalls.	Retain but not as a priority due to previous failed attempts

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Site ID	Site name	Comments	LFFP recommendation
92	Stanney Grange	Contains some poor quality issues and has capacity issues.	Retain
113	Former Sutton High School	No significant quality or capacity issues; however, improvements will help reduce local shortfalls.	Retain but not as a priority due to more pressing concerns elsewhere
127	Whitby Park	Contains issues with poor quality.	Retain

Further to the above, additional sites could be added, especially considering the shortfalls identified across CW&C. In that regard, the following sites should be considered given the number of pitches supplied and the quality/overplay issues identified:

- ♦ The Groves Sports and Social Club
- ♦ Vauxhall Sports and Social Club
- ♦ Westminster Park

### *Accommodating youth 11v11 demand*

As it stands, there are 163 youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. This is principally due to the fact that there are only 22 youth 11v11 pitches across CW&C to cater for 225 youth 11v11 teams.

If all youth 11v11 demand was to be transferred away from adult pitches, 27 of the 44 overplayed adult pitches would no longer be overplayed. Furthermore, spare capacity would be created on adult pitches in each analysis area as opposed to the shortfalls that currently exist.

To ensure that youth 11v11 teams play on the correct pitch size, an additional 35 youth 11v11 pitches are required given that 70 of the teams require access at peak time. To achieve this growth, it is clear that new pitches would be required, either through the creation of additional provision or through converting adult pitches. For example, Knights Grange Sports Complex and Moss Farm Leisure Centre only have adult pitches marked despite accommodating 11 and 22 youth 11v11 teams respectively.

Alternatively, the 3G pitch stock could be utilised.

### *Providing security of tenure*

Currently, 91.5 match equivalent sessions per week are played on unsecured pitches throughout CW&C. If these pitches were to fall out of use, shortfalls would be significantly exacerbated.

*Table 4.6: Supply and demand balance without unsecure sites*

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Current total	Unsecure usage	Potential total	Future demand	Potential future total
Adult	28	18.5	46.5	6.5	53
Youth 11v11	13.5	11	24.5	7	31.5
Youth 9v9	2	21.5	23.5	12	35.5
Mini 7v7	4	25.5	21.5	8	29.5
Mini 5v5	5.5	15	9.5	19	28.5

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Most of the unsecured use is located at educational sites. Whilst not always possible, creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term. Where there is external investment on sites e.g. by an NGB or Sport England, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. This also applies to new schools or for existing schools seeking changes to provision that requires planning permission as, via planning consent, the Council can seek a community use agreement.

As creating community use agreements at all school sites is unlikely, focus should be placed on those schools providing a significant number of pitches and/or that receive significant levels of community use. Examples include Bishops Blue Coat C of E High School and Ellesmere Port Catholic High School.

### *Securing access to currently unavailable sites*

By opening up sites currently unavailable for community use, an additional 47 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity on adult pitches would be created, as well as 11 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and four match equivalent sessions on 9v9 pitches. For mini football, 62 match equivalent sessions would be available on 7v7 pitches and 19 match equivalent sessions would be available on 5v5 pitches.

*Table 4.7: Supply and demand balance after opening up unavailable sites*

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Current total	Unavailable capacity	Potential total	Future demand	Potential future total
Adult	28	47	19	6.5	12.5
Youth 11v11	13.5	11	2.5	7	9.5
Youth 9v9	2	4	2	12	10
Mini 7v7	4	62	66	8	58
Mini 5v5	5.5	19	24.5	19	5.5

As with unsecured sites, most sites not currently offering community use are school sites. As accessing all school sites is considered improbable, initial focus should be on schools offering a large number of pitches, such as at St Nicholas Catholic High School, where community use is currently unavailable due to significant quality issues.

### *Moss Farm Leisure Complex*

Planning is also ongoing in relation to a project at Moss Farm Leisure Complex as part of wider proposals for the site. Discussions regarding grass pitch improvements on site are ongoing as part of this, whilst the creation of a “super-size” 3G is also being considered. A super size 3G measures 120 x 84 metres and allows up to eight mini matches to be played at one time.

Two options have been presented, with both of these, for football, entailing the loss of two adult football pitches and the creation of a “super-size” 3G pitch.

Currently, the site comprises of seven standard quality adult football pitches. These pitches are presently used for 16.5 match equivalent sessions per week, resulting in overplay of 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Reducing the number of football pitches to five but improving pitch quality to good quality would increase playing capacity to 15 match equivalent sessions, therefore reducing overplay to 1.5 match equivalent sessions. However, this could easily be negated through transferring some match play demand to the “super-size” 3G pitch.

## ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of grass pitches (unless full quantitative replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and look to reconfigure adult pitches to accommodate more youth 11v11 pitches.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to improve quality.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity or to sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Seek to gain access to currently unavailable sites, particularly multi-pitch sites.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements and support negotiation with operators to secure appropriate access.
- ◀ Support proposals at Moss Farm Leisure Complex.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ Explore transfer of match play from grass pitches onto 3G.
- ◀ Where a housing development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation/improvements of pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, where possible.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Ensure walking football can continue to be hosted at current venues and explore additional venues to accommodate potential growth (i.e. AGPs).

## ***3G pitches***

### ***Supply and demand summary***

- ◀ **For training purposes, based on the FA model, there is a current shortfall of seven full size 3G pitches and a future shortfall of ten.**
- ◀ **When analysing the FA model on an analysis area basis, current shortfalls equate to four pitches in the Northwich Analysis Area and one pitch in each of the Chester, Ellesmere Port & Neston and Rural North analysis areas.**
- ◀ **For rugby union, the creation of additional full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in strategically viable locations would further relieve pressure on grass pitches and also help to accommodate any future demand.**

### ***Supply summary***

- ◀ There are 15 full size 3G pitches within CW&C, all of which are floodlit and available to the community.
- ◀ In addition, there are also numerous smaller size 3G pitches across five sites, although very few if any of these would be suitable for any form of match play.
- ◀ New pitches are projected to be complete in 2021 at Helsby High School and Blacon Avenue.
- ◀ Proposals are also in place for a 'super size' 3G pitch to be developed at Moss Farm Leisure Complex (in addition to the existing pitch).
- ◀ In total, 12 of the full size 3G pitches are FA approved and can therefore host competitive matches; the pitches at Christleton Leisure Centre, Helsby Community Sports Club and University Church of England Academy are not accredited at present.
- ◀ The full size 3G pitches at Chester Rugby Club and University of Chester (Chester Campus) are World Rugby compliant.

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- ◆ Helsby RUFC reports that the pitch at Helsby Community Sports Club is suitable for rugby activity; however, if this is the case, it has not been accredited.
- ◆ All of the full size 3G pitches are within their recommended lifespans and all are assessed as good or standard quality; the pitches at University of Chester (Chester Campus) and University Church of England Academy should be prioritised for future refurbishment.

### ***Demand summary***

- ◆ The 3G pitches currently servicing CW&C are reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- ◆ Of football clubs responding to consultation, around a third (32%) report that they require additional training facilities, or access to additional training facilities, with most (71%) of these specifically mentioning demand for 3G pitches.
- ◆ There are 137 football teams currently playing home matches on the 3G pitch stock, which is a considerably high number when compared to other local authorities.
- ◆ The two World Rugby compliant 3G pitches are well used for rugby union activity by Chester RUFC and the University of Chester.
- ◆ Rugby league, lacrosse and American football activity is also identified on the existing 3G pitch stock.

### ***Scenarios***

#### *Accommodating football training demand*

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a calculated theoretical need for 21 full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 21.4). This would ordinarily indicate a shortfall of six pitches based on 15 currently being provided; however, it is considered that the shortfall should actually be increased due to limited football access to the pitches at Chester Rugby Club (as it is primarily used for rugby union) and at University of Chester (as it is primarily used by the University itself). In effect, these two pitches provide the same level of availability to football clubs as one pitch normally would. On this basis, the shortfall in CW&C amounts to seven full size pitches.

*Table 4.9: Current demand for 3G pitches in CW&C (based on 38 teams per pitch)*

Current number of teams	3G requirement <sup>5</sup>	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Current shortfall
816	21	15	-1	7

When considering future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is demand for 24 full size 3G pitches, resulting in a shortfall of ten pitches.

*Table 4.10: Potential demand for 3G pitches in CW&C (based on 38 teams per pitch)*

Future number of teams	3G requirement <sup>6</sup>	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Future shortfall
903	24	15	-1	10

<sup>5</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

<sup>6</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

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Alternatively, if every team were to remain training within the respective analysis area in which they play their matches in, a current shortfall of seven full size 3G pitches is identified. This equates to four pitches in the Northwich Analysis Area and one pitch in each the Chester, Ellesmere Port & Neston and Rural North analysis areas. Only the Rural South and Winsford analysis areas are without a shortfall.

*Table 4.11: Current demand for 3G pitches in CW&C by analysis area*

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement <sup>7</sup>	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Current shortfall
Chester	237	6	6	-1	1
Ellesmere Port & Neston	221	6	5	-	1
Northwich	234	6	2	-	4
Rural North	65	2	1	-	1
Rural South	9	-	-	-	-
Winsford	50	1	1	-	0
<b>CW&amp;C</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>7</b>

When accounting for future demand, there is an exacerbated shortfall in the Chester and Northwich analysis areas, with the total shortfall amounting to nine full size 3G pitches.

*Table 4.12: Potential demand for 3G pitches in CW&C by analysis area*

Analysis area	Future number of teams	Potential 3G requirement <sup>8</sup>	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Potential shortfall
Chester	274	7	6	-1	2
Ellesmere Port & Neston	243	6	5	-	1
Northwich	247	7	2	-	5
Rural North	66	2	1	-	1
Rural South	11	-	-	-	0
Winsford	53	1	1	-	0
<b>CW&amp;C</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>9</b>

### *Future developments*

3G pitches at two sites are due to come online in the immediate future; Helsby High School and Blacon Avenue. In addition, the King's School is now working to deliver a 3G pitch at its Wrexham Road site.

If both these were to be delivered, the current overall shortfall and the analysis area shortfall in CW&C would reduce to five pitches.

*Table 4.13: Impact of Council 3G aspirations*

Analysis area	Current 3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Current shortfall	No. of proposed pitches	Shortfall if delivered
Chester	6	6	-1	1	2	0
Ellesmere Port & Neston	6	5	-	1	-	1

<sup>7</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

<sup>8</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number



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Analysis area	Current 3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Current shortfall	No. of proposed pitches	Shortfall if delivered
Northwich	6	2	-	4	-	4
Rural North	2	1	-	1	1	0
Rural South	-	-	-	0	-	0
Winsford	1	1	-	0	-	0
<b>CW&amp;C</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>

Two of the three proposals are supported by the FA model, with an additional pitch being proposed in the Chester Analysis Area above what is deemed to be required.

### *Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)*

The LFFP for CW&C identifies the following sites for potential 3G pitch developments:

- ♦ Blacon Avenue – one pitch (Chester)
- ♦ Helsby High School – one pitch (Rural North)
- ♦ Moss Farm – one pitch (Northwich)
- ♦ Knights Grange Sports Complex – one pitch (Winsford)
- ♦ Malpas Sports Club – one small-size pitch (Rural South)

As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up to date PPS, the priority project list should be revisited following this study and updated/amended based on the findings, if necessary. To help further guide this process, the table below identifies what impact delivering the current projects would have on existing shortfalls.

*Table 4.14: Impact of delivering current LFFP 3G projects*

Analysis area	Potential 3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Potential shortfall	No. of proposed pitches	Shortfall if delivered
Chester	7	6	-1	2	1	1
Ellesmere Port & Neston	6	5	-	1	-	1
Northwich	7	2	-	5	1	4
Rural North	2	1	-	1	1	0
Rural South	-	-	-	0	-	0
Winsford	1	1	-	0	1	0
<b>CW&amp;C</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

All but one of the LFFP projects are warranted based on existing shortfalls, with the exception of the Knights Grange Sports Complex development. However, fewer pitches are identified in the LFFP than what is theoretically required overall, as evidenced by only the Rural North Analysis Area having its current shortfall alleviated. Shortfalls would remain in the Chester and Northwich analysis areas, albeit reduced, whilst no proposals are currently set out for the Ellesmere Port & Neston Analysis Area despite a shortfall being evidenced. Additional sites should therefore continue to be identified and added to the LFFP.

The above is summarised in the table overleaf.

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.15: Assessing LFFP priority list (3G pitches)

Analysis area	Site ID	Site name	Comments	LFFP recommendation
Chester	13	Blacon Avenue	One pitch proposed.	<b>Retain and identify another suitable site to alleviate remaining shortfall.</b>
Ellesmere Port & Neston	-	-	No projects identified.	<b>Identify suitable sites to alleviate shortfall.</b>
Northwich	67	Moss Farm Leisure Complex	One pitch proposed. If a 'super-size' 3G is delivered at Moss Farm, this may be able to accommodate more demand.	<b>Retain but continue to identify suitable sites to alleviate shortfalls.</b>
Rural North	47	Helsby High School	One pitch is proposed to meet a shortfall of one.	<b>Deliver, then no action required.</b>
Rural South	-	-	No projects identified and no identified shortfall.	<b>No action required.</b>
Winsford	59	Knights Grange Sports Complex	One pitch proposed.	<b>Further feasibility work is needed for this site to determine deliverability and sufficient demand.</b>

### Moving council match play demand to 3G pitches

To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches be transferred. The following table therefore calculates the number of teams currently using council facilities in CW&C for each pitch type.

Table 4.16: Number of teams currently using council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Saturday AM	3
Youth	11v11	Saturday AM	23
Youth	9v9	Saturday AM	11
Mini	7v7	Saturday AM	18
Mini	5v5	Saturday AM	25
<b>Total</b>			<b>80</b>

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of full size 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table overleaf.



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Table 4.17: 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No. of teams at peak time	No. of matches at peak time	3G units required per match	Total 3G units required	3G pitches required
Adult	3	1.5	32	48	0.75
11v11	23	11.5	32	368	5.75
9v9	11	5.5	10	55	0.86
7v7	18	9	8	72	1.13
5v5	25	12.5	4	50	0.78

A total of ten (rounded up from 9.27) 3G pitches would be required to accommodate all matches currently played on council pitches. In CW&C, there are currently 15 full-size 3G pitches. This means all competitive matches played on council pitches could be transferred to 3G pitches if availability was programmed efficiently and if all pitches met correct FA testing specifications.

### *Moving mini demand to 3G pitches*

The FA is particularly keen on enabling 3G match usage for mini teams given the high volume of matches that can be played at one time. The table below therefore tests a scenario to permit all 5v5 and 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches within CW&C based on a programme of play at current peak time (Saturday AM).

Table 4.18: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams <sup>9</sup>
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
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 18 full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 139 teams playing 5v5 football requiring 18 pitches (rounded up from 17.4) and 148 teams playing 7v7 football requiring 13 pitches (rounded up from 12.3). With a current 3G pitch requirement in CW&C for training demand of 21 pitches, it is therefore considered feasible that all mini football could be accommodated on 3G pitches if training shortfalls were to be alleviated.

### *Moving youth 11v11 demand to 3G pitches*

Given that there are only 22 youth 11v11 grass pitches currently provided in CW&C, use of 3G pitches for this format of play could better accommodate such demand as well as alleviating demand placed on adult grass pitches.

Based on the below programme of play, there is demand for 28 full size 3G pitches to cater for all youth 11v11 demand (rounded down from 28.1). As it is not considered feasible to install such a high number, consideration could instead be given to the 17 (rounded down from 17.3) that would be required if only the teams currently using the incorrect pitch type were transferred.

<sup>9</sup> Number of teams is double the number of games based on teams playing home and away

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Table 4.19: Moving all youth 11v11 matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams <sup>10</sup>
10am – 11:30am	1 x 11v11	1/2
11:30am – 1pm	1 x 11v11	1/2
1pm – 2:30pm	1 x 11v11	1/2
2:30pm – 4pm	1 x 11v11	1/2

It must also be noted that if peak time for youth 11v11 football was moved to differ from the peak time for mini football (or vice versa) there is no reason why both formats could not be accommodated.

### World Rugby compliant 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. The RFU investment strategy for AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

There are two World Rugby compliant full size 3G pitches within CW&C, at Chester Rugby Club and University of Chester (Chester Campus). These are both utilised by Chester Rugby Club, whilst the latter is also used for rugby activity by the University itself.

Given the significant grass pitch shortfalls identified for rugby union in CW&C, the creation of additional World Rugby compliant 3G provision would be of benefit, especially in an area that could accommodate numerous clubs (rather than just a host club). Due to significant local shortfalls and the number of teams in the Northwich Analysis and at Moss Farm Leisure Complex, Northwich could be a preferable location, however further feasibility should be undertaken. For further detail on the extent of the demand for 3G pitches to accommodate rugby, please see rugby union scenarios.

### Rugby league

It should also be noted that Chester Gladiators RLFC and University of Chester Mavericks access 3G pitch provision for their training demand. Both clubs predominately access University of Chester (Chester Campus) although 3G pitch provision at Cheshire County Sports is also accessed.

The RFL in 2018 amended its rules to allow the use of 3G pitches in all of its competitions providing a pitch holds a Fields Test Certificate showing it fully complies with the relevant field test requirements of the RFL Performance and Construction Standards for Pitches. These can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.20: RFL 3G pitch certification

Level of competition		Category of field certification
Club Tiers One and Two (Super League and Championship)		Stadium
Club Tiers Three and Four (Community and training)	New provision	Community
	Existing provision	Community or World Rugby Turf Performance Specification

<sup>10</sup> Number of teams is double the number of games based on teams playing home and away fixtures

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Neither of the 3G pitches currently utilised for rugby league are RFL certified. Therefore, Field Test Certificates should be pursued at both sites to ensure rugby league demand can be safely accommodated.

### *Moss Farm Leisure Complex*

Planning is also ongoing in relation to a project at Moss Farm Leisure Complex as part of wider proposals for the site. Discussions regarding grass pitch improvements on site are ongoing as part of this, whilst the creation of a “super-size” 3G is also being considered. This should be supported given the existing 3G shortfalls in the Northwich Analysis Area.

*Table 4.21: Potential Moss Farm 3G development*

Analysis area	Current 3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall	No. of proposed pitches	Current shortfall if delivered	Future shortfall	Future shortfall if delivered
Northwich	6	2	4	1	3	5	4

### **Recommendations**

*Protect current stock of 3G pitches.*

*Seek to resurface existing stock of 3G pitches that have exceeded recommended lifespan (10 years).*

*Develop additional 3G pitches to alleviate identified football shortfalls.*

*Support creation of additional 3G pitches above and beyond football training shortfalls if it can satisfy rugby union demand, or explore creation of 3G pitches that are both football and rugby appropriate when alleviating shortfalls.*

*Enable partners to work collaboratively to agree preferred surfaces when AGPs are proposed to ensure sustainability across all relevant sports.*

*Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/World Rugby recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.*

*Ensure all 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.*

*Seek FA testing of existing and new 3G pitches to allow for competitive matches to be played on the surface and ensure that all pitches currently on the FA Register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.*

*Ensure that all existing and new pitches that are World Rugby compliant are re-tested every two years to sustain certification.*

*Pursue RFL Field Test Certificates for 3G pitches accessed for Rugby League.*

*Encourage more football match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, focusing on mini and youth 11v11 play.*

*Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.*

*Ensure walking football can continue to be hosted at current venues and explore additional venues to accommodate potential growth (i.e. AGPs).*

# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## Cricket pitches

### *Supply and demand summary*

- ✦ Taking into consideration current demand only, there is overall spare capacity in CW&C for senior cricket totalling 39 match equivalent sessions on Saturdays and 74 match equivalent sessions on Sundays; however, shortfalls are present in the Rural North Analysis Area.
- ✦ When taking into account future demand, there is an overall shortfall on Saturdays but spare capacity on Sundays. The Northwich Analysis Area will become overplayed on Saturdays.
- ✦ Spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future.
- ✦ Actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket totals 115 match equivalent sessions, whilst for junior cricket actual spare capacity of 365 match equivalent sessions is identified.
- ✦ Overplay is evident at seven sites and amounts to 24 match equivalent sessions of overlay across CW&C.

### *Supply summary*

- ✦ In total, there are 28 grass cricket squares identified in CW&C, of which 26 are available for community use.
- ✦ There are NTPs accompanying 12 grass wicket squares and there are 10 standalone NTPs; a further six standalone NTPs are identified as disused.
- ✦ Frodsham CC has a lease agreement due to expire in four years from the Council, whilst the lease agreement for Davenham CC from Davenham Parish Council has only seven years remaining.
- ✦ The audit of grass wicket cricket squares identified 21 pitches as good quality, whilst the remaining seven are assessed as standard (none are assessed as poor).
- ✦ Most of the ancillary provision is regarded as fit for purpose; 15 clubs consider the condition of their clubhouse to be good and six consider theirs to be standard (none assess their facilities as poor).
- ✦ There are 11 clubs that report a demand for additional training facilities, with new/refurbished training nets, NTPs and mobile cages identified within the aspirations.

### *Demand summary*

- ✦ In total, there are 23 clubs generating 71 men's, three women's and 75 junior teams.
- ✦ A total of 13 clubs have plans to increase the number of teams that they field, totalling seven senior men's, five senior women's, 23 junior boys and one junior girls' team.
- ✦ Team generations rates expect eight junior boys' teams to be generated in CW&C; when this is broken down by analysis area, this equates to two teams in the Chester and Northwich analysis areas, two in the Rural North Analysis Area and one in the Rural South Analysis Area.
- ✦ In addition, due to anticipated demand growth in women's and girls' cricket through ECB initiatives, one senior women's and one junior girls' team are also projected in each of the Chester, Northwich, Rural North and Rural South analysis areas, although aspirations from Alvanley, Barrow, Christleton and Frodsham cricket clubs absorb some of this demand. Information from the CCCB indicates an additional girls' team is likely to be generated in each of the Rural North and Northwich analysis areas.
- ✦ There are 19 squares which show potential spare capacity on grass wickets; however, only seven have actual spare capacity during peak time for senior cricket (Saturdays), amounting to 80 match equivalent sessions.

# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## **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 over time.

In CW&C, overplay is identified at seven sites and across seven squares. Of these, the squares at Alvanley Cricket Club and Northwich Cricket Club are both assessed as standard quality. Improving quality to good would reduce overplay at Alvanley Cricket Club from 16 match equivalent sessions to six, whilst overplay at Northwich Cricket Club would be alleviated.

Four of the overplayed squares are currently without an NTP and as follows:

- ◀ Barrow Cricket Club
- ◀ Davenham Cricket Club
- ◀ Northwich Cricket Club
- ◀ Oakmere Cricket Club

The best solution at these sites (in addition to quality improvements at Northwich Cricket Club) would be to install a NTP *in situ* as this would allow for the transfer of junior demand away from grass wickets.

Alvanley Cricket Club, Frodsham Cricket Club and the Croft (Kingsley Cricket Club) already have NTPs installed. As such, increased levels of demand should be transferred to the provision from the grass wickets. However, if usage is already being maximised, access to secondary venues may be required.

### *Accommodating future demand*

Of the 12 clubs that express aspirations to increase their number of junior teams, six have capacity to do so on their current facility stock. In contrast, Alvanley, Barrow, Chester Boughton Hall, Christleton, Frodsham and Oakmere cricket clubs are all unable to accommodate an increase in demand at their respective home venues, although Alvanley, Boughton Hall and Frodsham cricket clubs are supported by NTPs which could potentially accommodate growth. An NTP could be installed at the remaining three sites to provide a solution.

Nine clubs indicate a desire to field additional senior teams. Of these, Alvanley, Barrow, Frodsham, Oakmere, The Groves, Winsford and Winnington Park cricket clubs all hope to add further Saturday teams; however, only The Groves and Winsford cricket clubs have the capacity to do so on their current facility stock. Similarly, Alvanley, Barrow, Christleton, Frodsham and Neston cricket clubs plan to establish women's teams, with only Christleton and Neston cricket clubs having the capacity to do so. For other clubs, demand will either have to be fielded outside of peak time, or alternative venues will be required.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares (unless full quantitative replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on squares to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Address overplay via quality improvements, the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity and through an increase in NTPs accompanying grass wickets.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision where it is required.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for Frodsham and Davenham cricket clubs.
- ◀ Ensure clubs can realise future growth plans and continue to monitor increases in demand to ensure additional teams can be fielded.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Ensure appropriate ball-strike risk assessments take place for any developments immediately adjacent to cricket grounds that may prejudice the use of an existing or proposed cricket square.

### Rugby union pitches

#### Supply and demand summary

- ◀ **There is currently an overall shortfall of rugby union pitches amounting to 19.5 match equivalent sessions, which can be attributed to the Chester, Ellesmere Port & Neston and Northwich analysis areas.**
- ◀ **When factoring in future demand, there is an overall shortfall of 28.5 match equivalent sessions; the shortfall worsens in the Chester Analysis Area, whilst a shortfall is created in the Rural North Analysis Area.**
- ◀ Five pitches are considered to have actual spare capacity for increase in senior rugby demand, amounting to 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Overplay totals 23 match equivalent sessions and is identified across 11 pitches at four sites.

#### Supply summary

- ◀ Within CW&C there are 21 sites containing a total of 33 senior and two mini rugby union pitches, of which, 21 senior and both mini pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ Five senior pitches available for community use assessed as standard quality, with the remaining 16 assessed as poor in addition to the two mini pitches (no pitches are assessed as good).
- ◀ No pitches have an adequate drainage system in place.
- ◀ Winnington Park, Helsby and Northwich rugby clubs all express aspirations to improve ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ellesmere Port and Christleton rugby clubs both have security of tenure issues.

#### Demand summary

- ◀ Eight rugby union clubs play within CW&C, consisting of 17 senior men's, two senior women's, 14 junior boys', nine junior girls' and 20 mini teams.
- ◀ In addition, the University of Chester fields two men's and one women's team.
- ◀ The majority of teams' train at their home ground on match pitches; only Chester RUFC and Helsby RUFC do not, with the former utilising its 3G pitch and the latter reporting that it will access the 3G pitch at Helsby Community Sports Club when it is operational.
- ◀ Chester RUFC and Christleton RUFC express latent demand.



## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- Future demand is expressed by Chester, Christleton, Helsby and Northwich rugby clubs and amounts to four senior, nine junior and six mini teams.  
Team generation rates predict one senior men's, one junior boys' and one junior girls' teams as well as two mini teams.

### Scenarios

#### *Improving pitch maintenance*

Currently, there are 11 rugby union pitches across four sites in CW&C which are overplayed by a total of 23 match equivalent sessions per week. To show how this could be reduced, the first scenario considers the impact of enhancing maintenance across the overplayed sites by an achievable level (one stage e.g. from M0 to M1).

As seen in Table 4.21, overplay at only three pitches (at Chester Rugby Club, Moss Farm Leisure Complex and Whitby Sports and Social Club) can be alleviated through quality improvements alone. As a reminder, the quality ratings for rugby union pitches are shown in the table overleaf.

*Table 4.22: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments*

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	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

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.23: Improving maintenance on overplayed rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Improved quality	New capacity rating
24	Chester Rugby Club	Chester	3	Senior	N	M1/D0	0.5	M2/D0	0
				Senior	N	M1/D0	1.5	M2/D0	1
				Senior	N	M1/D0	1.5	M2/D0	1
67	Moss Farm Leisure Complex	Northwich	3	Senior	Y	M0/D1	3.5	M1/D1	3
				Senior	N	M0/D0	1	M1/D0	0
				Senior	N	M0/D0	1.5	M1/D0	0.5
128	Whitby Sports and Social Club	Ellesmere Port & Neston	2	Senior	N	M0/D0	3.5	M1/D0	2.5
				Senior	N	M0/D0	1	M1/D0	0
182	Winnington Park Rugby Club	Northwich	3	Senior	Y	M0/D1	2	M1/D1	1.5
				Senior	Y	M0/D1	5.5	M1/D1	5
				Senior	N	M0/D1	1.5	M1/D1	1

### Improving pitch drainage

This scenario considers the effect of enhancing drainage by one stage (e.g. D0 to D1) on overplayed pitches. As seen in the table below, overplay at only three pitches (at Chester Rugby Club, Moss Farm Leisure Complex and Whitby Sports and Social Club) would be alleviated through drainage improvements alone.

Table 4.24: Improving drainage on overplayed rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Improved quality	New capacity rating
24	Chester Rugby Club	Chester	3	Senior	N	M1/D0	0.5	M1/D1	0
				Senior	N	M1/D0	1.5	M1/D1	1
				Senior	N	M1/D0	1.5	M1/D1	1
67	Moss Farm Leisure Complex	Northwich	3	Senior	Y	M0/D1	3.5	M0/D2	3.25
				Senior	N	M0/D0	1	M0/D1	0
				Senior	N	M0/D0	1.5	M0/D1	0.5



## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Improved quality	New capacity rating
128	Whitby Sports and Social Club	Ellesmere Port & Neston	2	Senior	N	M0/D0	3.5	M0/D1	2.5
				Senior	N	M0/D0	1	M0/D1	0
182	Winnington Park Rugby Club	Northwich	3	Senior	Y	M0/D1	2	M0/D2	1.75
				Senior	Y	M0/D1	5.5	M0/D2	5.25
				Senior	N	M0/D1	1.5	M0/D2	1.25

### *Improving pitch maintenance and drainage*

A combination of improving maintenance and drainage would create actual spare capacity on three pitches (at Chester Rugby Club, Moss Farm Leisure Complex and Whitby Sports and Social Club) and alleviate overplay at a further three pitches (two at Chester Rugby Club and one at Moss Farm Leisure Complex). Overplay would no longer occur at Chester Rugby Club.

*Table 4.25: Improving drainage on overplayed rugby union pitches*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Improved quality	New capacity rating
24	Chester Rugby Club	Chester	3	Senior	N	M1/D0	0.5	M2/D1	1
				Senior	N	M1/D0	1.5	M2/D1	0
				Senior	N	M1/D0	1.5	M2/D1	0
67	Moss Farm Leisure Complex	Northwich	3	Senior	Y	M0/D1	3.5	M1/D2	2.5
				Senior	N	M0/D0	1	M1/D1	0.5
				Senior	N	M0/D0	1.5	M1/D1	0
128	Whitby Sports and Social Club	Ellesmere Port & Neston	2	Senior	N	M0/D0	3.5	M1/D1	2
				Senior	N	M0/D0	1	M1/D1	0.5
182	Winnington Park Rugby Club	Northwich	3	Senior	Y	M0/D1	2	M1/D2	1
				Senior	Y	M0/D1	5.5	M1/D2	4.5
				Senior	N	M0/D1	1.5	M1/D2	0.5

Based on the above, whilst maintenance and drainage improvements on rugby union pitches across CW&C should be supported, these developments alone are insufficient to holistically address shortfalls.

# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## *Increasing access to floodlit training provision*

There is often a preference for rugby clubs to train at their home sites and on their match pitches if they are without dedicated training facilities. In CW&C, training demand directly results in overplay of one pitch whilst overplay is exacerbated on a further three.

None of the clubs with overplayed pitches have sufficient capacity on their remaining pitches to accommodate training demand without overplay still existing or without the additional training pitch/es becoming overplayed. As such, whilst additional floodlighting of grass should be pursued, alternatives also need to be considered such as provision of 3G pitches, as explored below, or dedicated floodlit training areas.

The table below presents the scenario that World Rugby compliant 3G provision is delivered in CW&C and all rugby clubs transfer their training demand off their grass pitches. The figures show the significant impact training activity has on grass pitch capacity.

*Table 4.26: Impact of training demand transferring to World Rugby compliant 3G provision*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area <sup>11</sup>	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Current capacity rating	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating without training demand
67	Moss Farm Leisure Complex	Northwich	1	Senior	3.5	4	0.5
128	Whitby Sports and Social Club	Ellesmere Port & Neston	1	Senior	3.5	3	0.5
182	Winnington Park Rugby Club	Northwich	2	Senior	2	1	1
				Senior	5.5	4	1.5

The table above suggests significant levels of overplay could be addressed if a WR22 AGP was established in the Northwich Analysis Area, with Northwich and Winnington Park rugby clubs securing community use agreements. The remaining pitch at Whitby Sports and Social Club would still be overplayed, albeit at reduced levels and in a way that could be alleviated through quality improvements.

## *Moss Farm Leisure Complex*

Planning is ongoing in relation to a project at Moss Farm Leisure Complex as part of wider proposals for the site, with two options existing. For rugby, one of these involves the relocation of the floodlit pitch/training area from the east of the site to where the hockey AGP currently resides, whilst the other option involves no change. Neither of these will have any impact on supply and demand (unless quality improves), although the option to relocate a pitch may benefit the Club as all rugby provision will then sit within one area of the site. However, it should be noted that the rugby options are dependent on further feasibility work to establish whether the existing AGP should be retained and refurbished, or relocated.

<sup>11</sup> [Click for analysis areas](#)

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches (unless full quantitative replacement provision is agreed upon and provided prior to any loss).
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems, particularly at sites containing overplayed pitches that are not a result of training demand.
- ◀ Consider installation of additional floodlighting at club sites to allow for training demand to be either spread across a greater number of pitches or removed from pitches altogether.
- ◀ Support the delivery of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch (or pitches) with associated partner rugby clubs providing that they would be sustainable, and that usage would be maximised.
- ◀ Consider working in partnership with football partners to deliver 3G pitches that are compliant for both sports, sustaining World Rugby certification with regular re-testing.
- ◀ Explore community use aspects at currently unused educational sites to fully determine availability and, as a minimum, protect the pitches for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.
- ◀ Support aspirations for ancillary facility improvements relating to Helsby, Northwich, Winnington Park and Christleton rugby clubs.
- ◀ Provide Ellesmere Port, Chester Centurions and Christleton rugby clubs with improved security of tenure.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand from local rugby clubs.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, use contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

## **Rugby league**

### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ **The pitch at Cheshire County Sports Club is currently over its recommended capacity through use by Chester Gladiators RLFC, with a shortfall equating to 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week.**
- ◀ **When factoring in American football use (based on a senior team using 0.5 of a pitch), this increases to 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week.**
- ◀ **All remaining activity is being sufficiently accommodated for through the use of 3G pitch provision.**

### **Supply summary**

- ◀ There are two rugby league pitches within CW&C, located at Cheshire County Sports Club and Kingsway Campus.
- ◀ Rugby league is also played by the University of Chester via the use of a 3G pitch.
- ◀ The pitch at Cheshire County Sports Club is assessed as standard quality whilst the pitch at Kingsway Campus is assumed to be in good condition as it has been newly established.

# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## Demand summary

- ◀ Chester Gladiators RLFC fields two senior teams and five primary teams, whereas the University of Chester fields one senior men's team.
- ◀ Both clubs primarily use the 3G pitch at the University of Chester (Chester Campus) for their training demand.
- ◀ Chester Gladiators RLFC reports plans to increase its number of teams with a focus on setting up a women's and girls' section.
- ◀ The pitch at Cheshire County Sports Club is also used by Chester Romans American Football Club for its first team matches.

## Scenarios

### *The utilisation of an additional pitch*

For Chester Gladiators RLFC to continue to grow, there is a requirement for it to have access to an additional pitch. Whilst the ideal solution would be for this to also be provided at Cheshire County Sports Club, consideration must be given to the detrimental effect this would have on other sports given that it will involve replacing a football pitch during summer months. The utilisation of the newly provided pitch at Kingsway Campus should therefore be explored.

Given that the pitch at Cheshire County Sports Club is overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions, the additional pitch will need to be provided to at least standard quality (providing two match equivalent sessions of capacity). As the pitch at Kingsway Campus is considered to be of good quality, providing Chester Gladiators RLFC with access to this pitch would alleviate its current capacity issues.

## Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure existing pitch quality is sustained or improved as resources allow through maintenance improvements.
- ◀ Support Chester Gladiators RLFC to access the new rugby league pitch at Kingsway Sports Pitches.

## Hockey pitches (AGPs)

### Supply and demand summary

- ◀ **All ten of the community available full size AGPs require protection for continued hockey use as it is not considered feasible for the clubs that use such provision to amalgamate onto a lesser number of pitches.**
- ◀ **Resolving pitch access issues for Winnington Park HC should also be seen as a priority, which could be explored at the Grange School, Sir John Deane's College, Moss Farm Leisure Complex or at a new site entirely.**

### Supply summary

- ◀ There are 11 full size hockey suitable AGPs in CW&C, ten of which are available to the community, as well as 14 smaller size pitches.
- ◀ The pitch at Moss Farm Leisure Complex is unusable due to significant quality issues, whilst the pitch at Sir John Deane's College is no longer available for community use as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ The provision at the Grange School is available for community use; however, in reality it is more limited than this as its floodlighting is considered to be poor quality and therefore not conducive for play in the late afternoons and evenings.
- ◀ Six of the full size pitches are assessed as good quality and four are considered to be standard; only the pitch at Moss Farm Leisure Complex is poor.
- ◀ Changing facilities at Bishop Heber High School, the Catholic High School, Moss Farm Leisure Complex and Sir John Deane's College are said to be dated and in relatively poor condition by the clubs that currently or that have previously accessed the sites.

### **Demand summary**

- ◀ The five hockey clubs in CW&C consist of 70 teams, which as a breakdown consists of 26 senior men's, 17 senior women's and 19 junior teams as well as eight other team varieties.
- ◀ All of the hockey clubs have plans to increase their membership, whilst Winnington Park HC and Deeside Ramblers HC express latent demand.
- ◀ No Hockey Heroes or Back to Hockey sessions are held in the Borough.
- ◀ There is significant use of hockey suitable AGPs in CW&C for other activities, most notably in terms of football whether that be through formal training or via informal social use.
- ◀ Most AGPs are currently operating at capacity for hockey matches and training, although some capacity exists at the Catholic High School, Bishop Heber High School and Neston High School.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Converting sand-based AGPs*

None of the ten sites containing full size sand based AGPs should be considered for conversion/loss as all nine are in current use by hockey clubs. This is unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by EH and Sport England. For clarity, this applies to pitches at:

- ◀ Abbey Gate College
- ◀ Deeside Ramblers Hockey Club
- ◀ Bishop Heber High School (Malpas Sports Centre)
- ◀ Moss Farm Leisure Complex
- ◀ Neston Cricket Club
- ◀ Neston High School
- ◀ The Catholic High School (Chester)
- ◀ The Grange School
- ◀ The King's School
- ◀ University of Chester (Main Campus)

Sport England consider that conversion of an AGP requires planning permission because of the extent of engineering works required for its development. Ensuring that all proposals to convert an AGP require planning permission would therefore ensure a robust consultation process is undertaken and that no sport is negatively impacted.

### *Winnington Park HC*

As detailed in the Assessment Report, numerous potential options could be explored to alleviate pitch access issues for Winnington Park HC, including:

- ◀ Increasing access to the pitch at the Grange School and resolving its floodlighting issues.
- ◀ Re-securing access to the pitch at Sir John Deane's School.
- ◀ Refurbishing or replacing the pitch at Moss Farm Leisure Complex.

Starting at the Grange School, the pitch is available for 26 hours a week; however, the floodlights on site are reported to be of poor quality and not conducive for play in the late afternoons and evenings. That being said, initial planning applications indicate that the floodlights on site are of 350 LUX, which would be suitable for all activity from Winnington Park HC. Therefore, the floodlights on site are likely to only require maintenance/refurbishment to be brought to a suitable level.

Notwithstanding the above, despite the School being open to the community from 18:00 to 21:00 during the week and from 09:00 until 20:00 on Sundays and Bank Holidays, the pitch cannot be used on Saturdays. This makes the pitch insufficient to accommodate Winnington Park HC's match demand and training demand cannot be accommodated entirely on site without floodlighting improvements.

To summarise, for the Grange School to cater for Winnington Park HC's demand, floodlights on site would need maintenance/refurbishment to be brought to a suitable condition and the pitch be permitted to be used on Saturdays. A secure, long-term usage agreement between the School and the Club is also required to provide security of tenure.

At Sir John Deane's College, whilst re-enabling the Club's access is a possibility, it is unlikely that this will be sufficient to the Club or EH due to concerns over the longevity of accessibility. The College has previously abruptly halted usage and worries exist that this is something that could repeat itself in the future.

If the conditions required for the Grange School to meet Winnington Park HC's demand cannot be met, the pitch at Moss Farm Leisure Complex must be refurbished/replaced. In addition, there may be a requirement to still provide a secondary pitch even if issues are resolved at the Grange School due to future demand expressed and additional future demand that could be created through the Club having access to more provision.

### *Demand from other sports*

When sports clubs (e.g. football teams) are unable to access appropriate training facilities, they often resort to training on hockey surfaces as these pitches are typically the only floodlit pitches which are available to the community.

If sufficient alternate training facilities were available, it is likely that all demand would relocate away from hockey surfaces (subject to costs). Therefore, this scenario explores the long-term feasibility of each full-size AGP if demand from other sports was removed.

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.28: Hockey usage of hockey-suitable full-size AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Availability in the peak period (hours) <sup>12</sup>	% of hockey usage
1	Abbey Gate College	Unknown	Unknown
29	Deeside Ramblers Hockey Club	34	100%
65	Bishop Heber High School (Malpas Sports Centre)	34	20%
67	Moss Farm Leisure Complex	0	-
71	Neston Cricket Club	34	80%
73	Neston High School	34	40%
89	Sir John Deanes College	0	-
98	The Catholic High School (Chester)	29	10%
104	The Grange School	26	20%
106	The King's School	25	10%
114	University of Chester (Main Campus)	27	30% <sup>13</sup>

As seen in the table above, removing demand of other sports completely from full size hockey pitches would put the long-term viability of many of these surfaces into question, such as at Bishop Heber, Neston, The Catholic, The Grange and The King's schools, where non-hockey use outweighs hockey use. To counter this, the transfer of this demand away from hockey pitches may enable an increase in hockey demand if such demand cannot currently be fielded due to capacity issues.

At sites that may not be sustainable, it is imperative that partners work together to ensure that no 3G developments are detrimental to hockey. In addition, alternative solutions should be explored, such as through exploring usage for recreational hockey and football formats, as well as looking to accommodate alternate sports such as tennis, netball, lacrosse and bowls.

### *Moss Farm Leisure Complex*

Planning is ongoing in relation to a project at Moss Farm Leisure Complex as part of wider proposals for the site, with two options existing. For hockey, one of these involves the retention and refurbishment of the existing hockey AGP, whilst the other option involves the loss of the pitch, with a new pitch to be developed to the east of the site. Either of these would be beneficial to hockey in the area, especially for Winnington Park HC, given current quality issues at the site as well as access issues at The Grange School and Sir John Deane's College.

<sup>12</sup> Based on data from Sport England's Active Places

<sup>13</sup> Whilst hockey usage appears low, the only external use of the pitch comes from Chester HC. All remaining demand on site is taken by curricular and extra-curricular demand.



## **Recommendations**

- ◀ As a minimum, protect the ten full size AGPs currently available to hockey clubs, unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by EH.
- ◀ In addition, as a priority, find a resolution to pitch access issues for Winnington Park HC.
- ◀ Consider the condensation of demand onto a reduced number of pitches, where hockey clubs have sole use of multiple pitches.
- ◀ Encourage providers to have sinking funds in place at all sites to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Pursue long-term security of tenure for all clubs, particularly those using education sites, through community use agreements.
- ◀ Seek to maximise hockey use of AGPs where unmet demand exists through the transfer of other demand (e.g. football) to existing and new 3G pitches.
- ◀ Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey and revisit hockey demand when and if a conversion is proposed to ensure that the pitch in question is not required.
- ◀ Ensure planning applications for all proposed AGP conversions are submitted to ensure robust consultation with NGBs and Sport England, and that the conversion is sustainable and fit for purpose.
- ◀ Enable partners to work collaboratively to agree preferred surfaces when AGPs are proposed to ensure sustainability across all relevant sports.
- ◀ Due to pitch capacity issues in neighbouring Shropshire, be aware of potential future imported demand from the authority.

## **Other pitch sports (Gaelic football/American football/lacrosse/polo)**

### **Summary**

- ◀ A Gaelic football pitch was in place at Blacon Site; however, the site is now unmaintained due to its poor quality. It is unknown whether Chester GAA St Patricks is still in existence.
- ◀ A lacrosse pitch at the Kingsway Campus is used by University of Chester teams and there is also a lacrosse pitch at the Queens School (City Walls Rd/New Crane St).
- ◀ There is one American football team in CW&C, Chester & Flintshire Romans AFC. The Club plays its home matches at the Cheshire County Sports Club.
- ◀ There are two sites containing polo pitches within CW&C. Cheshire Polo Club, located in Tarporley, contains five pitches, whereas an additional pitch is located at Chester Racecourse.

### **Scenarios**

N/A

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Further investigation is required to determine whether a dedicated Gaelic football pitch is required within CW&C.
- ◀ Retain lacrosse pitches and sustain quality.
- ◀ Retain American football pitch and sustain quality.
- ◀ Retain polo pitches.

## PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed from the key issues cutting across all playing pitch sports and categorised under each of the Strategy Aims. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

### OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitch facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs

#### Recommendations:

- a. Protect playing field sites through 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 there is a need to do so.

#### Recommendation a – Protect playing field sites through local planning policy

The Assessment Report shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Furthermore, lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is a requirement for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls. As such, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy continues to reflect this situation.

NPPF paragraph 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land 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.

Should outdoor sports facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. council budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future. This means that land containing provision should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (subject to being informed by a review of the PPS), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

## ***New housing development***

Where proposed housing development is located within close proximity of an existing site identified in the PPS, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further improvements. To the contrary, provision enhancements may be required in order to accommodate additional demand arising from a particular development (or group of developments). The PPS should be used to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand for, and capacity of, existing sites, and whether improvement to increase capacity or new provision is required.

Housing growth scenarios have been provided in Part 7 of this document to provide a guide and to estimate the additional demand that could be generated by specific housing growth by sport and facility type. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, which has informed the scenarios, will be available for the Council to use upon completion of the PPS.

## ***Development Management***

The PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields, outdoor sport facilities and ancillary provision. 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 sports facilities and will use the PPS to help assess such planning applications against its Playing Fields Policy. It will object to proposals unless at least one of its five policy exceptions is met. The exceptions are:

- ◀ **Exception 1:** Excess of provision - a robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
- ◀ **Exception 2:** Ancillary development - the proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.
- ◀ **Exception 3:** Land incapable of forming part of a pitch - 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 their quality;
  - ◀ result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site; or
  - ◀ prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site.
- ◀ **Exception 4:** Replacement provision of equivalent or better quality and quantity - the area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field:
  - ◀ of equivalent or better quality, and
  - ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity, and
  - ◀ in a suitable location, and
  - ◀ subject to equivalent or better accessibility and management arrangements.

- ◀ **Exception 5:** New sports provision benefit outweighs the loss of the playing field - 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 to the use, of the area of playing field.

Lapsed and disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused/lapsed playing fields identified within this PPS are therefore included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss via a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

Over the lifetime of the PPS other lapsed and disused playing fields may be identified that are not contained within the PPS. These sites remain playing fields and should be afforded the same protection as sites contained within the PPS. Previously unidentified sites should be included in annual updates of the study.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value sites (i.e. poor quality one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is provided, available and useable prior to existing provision being lost (including an allowance for a "bedding-in" period. As such, rationalisation needs to be carried out in accordance with paragraph 99 of the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

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

A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in CW&C for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of provision has been classified as secure, however, it is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of use, such as The Ellesmere Port CE College and Helsby High School.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as Active Cheshire and the Football Foundation 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 the agreement.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (for a minimum of 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 local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council, NGBs or Active Cheshire to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs 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)<sup>14</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding (unless the agreement has been recently entered into).

Each club interested in leasing a council site 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. Clubs in CW&C that express an interest in acquiring a lease that do not currently do so include Frodsham Veterans Athletic FC and AFC Waverton.

*Table 5.1: Recommended criteria for lease of council sport sites to clubs/organisations*

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/NGBs 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 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 Borough 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>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p> <p>Site should be subject to an appropriate designation so that the use proposed is likely to be suitable and secure over the longer term.</p>

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

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

<sup>14</sup> <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 facilities. It is important in these instances that the site remains available for other purposes or for other users.

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

To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended, especially in the wake of Covid-19 with many schools yet to re-open facilities. 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. In CW&C, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, staffing issues, poor quality and resistance from schools, especially some academies, to open up provision is also an issue.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making as many of these available as possible to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs. Many schools in CW&C currently prevent community use of some or all of their facility stock and, as a priority, community use options should be explored at these sites. This is particularly the case at large schools offering numerous pitches as securing access to these sites will significantly reduce shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within and for the sports that they provide facilities for.

In some instances, provision is unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity at these sites sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

Although there is 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, the relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver the strategy and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision, particularly for football pitches.

As detailed earlier, NGBs, Active Cheshire and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the Council 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.

It is also common for school facility stock not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites. This could be due to clubs not being aware of availability, perceived quality issues, a lack of security of tenure and/or a lack of access to appropriate ancillary facilities. Where this is identified as being the case, further exploration should take place with the schools and potential users to better understand what is currently preventing access and how this can be overcome.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sporting 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 youth 11v11 and/or youth 9v9 grass football pitches given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students.



### OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance playing pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

#### Recommendations:

- d. Improve quality
- 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 a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face reducing budgets it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g. the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest). The Action Plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed. These should be prioritised for improvement.

With such pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance. Other options may include the creation of equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance/enhancement.

#### ***Addressing quality issues***

Quality in CW&C is variable but generally facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality. Where provision is not assessed as good and/or are overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality facilities is also essential.

It is also important to note the impact that weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the facilities tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place, especially in relation to rugby union where pitch quality is directly linked to the drainage profile of a site. This also means that quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.

Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format).



## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPS refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. However, some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces and that are free from vandalism and litter. For rugby union, a good pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking. The age of the facilities can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. For rugby union, drainage is natural but adequate. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets.

Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. For rugby union, pitches will have inadequate natural drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate (too small) changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same applies to women's and girls' demand.

To prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to CW&C, to provide a steer on this. It is the responsibility of the whole steering group to agree and to attend regular subsequent update meetings to ensure progress is being made.

For improvement/replacement of 3G pitches and AGPs, please refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces: [www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/). Generally, such provision requires refurbishment after being 10 years old, although this can vary depending on usage and maintenance levels.

### ***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 limit to each. For pitch sports, this relates to matches (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket), whereas for non-pitch sports it relates to membership.

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The FA, the RFU, the ECB and EH all recommend a maximum 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 5.2: Carrying capacity of pitches*

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football (grass)	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union <sup>15</sup>	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	Four matches per day	Four matches per day	N/A

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play at overused sites should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. 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 NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting will reduce overplay at club sites as it will allow clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality but which are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand this could increase if the quality was 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 again lead to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained. It is therefore imperative that any enhancements are supported by adequate maintenance to ensure that the improvements are sustainable.

<sup>15</sup> The RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and the maintenance programme afforded to a site.

### *Increasing maintenance*

Standard or poor quality may not just be a result of unofficial use, overplay or poor drainage. In some instances, ensuring appropriate maintenance for the level/standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase pitch capacity. Each NGB can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes.

The FA has a general pitch improvement strategy which has been developed in partnership with Grounds Management Association (GMA) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise council-maintained sites.

In addition, the FA's Strategy also aims to focus on developing improved maintenance with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority-maintained sites.

Further to the above, the Football Foundation and the FA have recently developed a new pitch maintenance grant fund that allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Local authorities are currently ineligible applicants through this fund; however, clubs, leagues and or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure and/or a proforma is in place.

For cricket and the ECB, the equivalent is the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaNTIP), which is jointly funded by the ECB, FA, Football Foundation and the GMA. Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots sports clubs across England Wales.

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 Assessment (PQS). The PQS assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the GMA.

At local authority sites in CW&C, maintenance is deemed to be minimal due to budget constraints. As such, if budget restrictions allow, additional work should be carried out. This could include sand dressing, weed-killing and/or fertilising pitches and greens (little of which currently takes place) and an improvement in post-season remedial work.

The Council should work with users and the relevant NGBs to achieve the above and to fully determine the most appropriate improvements on a site-by-site basis.

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

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 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, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities as well as accompanying ancillary facilities.

In order to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the PPS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs.

One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and 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 remains in line with local planning policies and that the current local planning policies remain robust and up to date. This is especially pertinent to CW&C given the level of housing growth planned.

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 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.

It is recommended the Council work with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining contributions using the Playing Pitch Calculator to help inform that process.

The guidance (provided by the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator) forms the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions for new sustainable provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance. On-site provision is not generally supported unless it is accompanied by ancillary facilities with a management and maintenance scheme and community use agreement. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition of pitches in order to increase capacity to accommodate more matches.

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, with the PPS used to guide this. Where improvements are required, the

PPS and in particular the Action Plan can identify sites in the locality that would most benefit from contributions and that would best cater for the increased demand.

To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPS 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 multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future 3G/AGP development.

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 the PPS Steering Group meetings that should take place regularly following adoption of this 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 PPS review/update (see Part 8 for further information).

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

- ▶ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 agreement or equivalent must be completed 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. To ensure deliverability the developer contribution must be linked to a specific site and set of works.
- ▶ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches, 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 playing pitch facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ▶ Where new multiple pitches are 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.

Please see Part 7 for further information regarding Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator.

### OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new playing pitches and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

#### Recommendations:

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

#### **Recommendation (h) - 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 for improvements to the Council's own provision whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most deficits can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches and where there is significant housing growth (600 dwellings or above).

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sporting needs explored at the planning stage to maximise potential demand and ensure the correct facility provision. For example, full size 3G pitches are often best suited to secondary school sites, whereas mini football pitches and small sided AGPs are best situated at primary school sites.

Any new provision, whether that be at a school or as a result of housing growth, should also consider the Council's wider sporting needs. This means that the focus should not solely be on sports featured in the PPS but also other types of sports facilities (including indoor) as well as provision for wider recreational activity (e.g. walking/cycling routes).

Notwithstanding the above, there also remains an isolated need to reconfigure pitches at certain sites, in particular in relation to the lack of dedicated youth 11v11 football pitches.

#### **Recommendation (i) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current facility 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). Linked to this, it is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future.

Maximising use of existing facilities through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:



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- 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).
- Securing long term 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 that 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 and the consequences of Covid-19 also needs to be monitored.

*Table 5.3: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends*

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults.	Additional need for 3G pitches. Sustain current pitch stock but give consideration to pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements.
	Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G pitches.	Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing.
	The FA has a strategy for Women's and Girls' football: 2020 – 2024 in October 2020. One of the major goals of the new strategy will give every girls the earliest opportunity to play the game. <sup>16</sup>	Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase.
	Focus on recreational/informal play	Greater need for small-sided and informal football spaces e.g. MUGAs, indoor facilities and developed open spaces.
3G pitches	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.	Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for CUAs to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds. Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface.
Cricket	Except for grounds identified as poor quality, ECB predicts further growth	Pitches that are already identified in the PPS as being at capacity will not be able to accommodate additional playing demand

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.thefa.com/news/2020/oct/19/sue-campbell-inspiring-positive-change-191020>



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Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
	in cricket demand for pitch use over the next few years.	generated and it is predicted there will be demand for additional cricket playing facilities.
	All Stars Cricket, the ECB national programme for 5-8 year olds, is engaging large numbers of children and has already been delivered over the past 3-4 years, with increasing numbers of participants year on year, alongside Chance to Shine cricket delivery in primary schools. Dynamos Cricket is the latest launch by the ECB, building on the existing All Stars programme for 5-8-year-olds. Participants will continue to develop their skills and be introduced to a countdown style of cricket match.	Greater usage of outfields to accommodate demand from All Stars Cricket. Shorter formats of cricket, and additional formats including softball cricket, are also driving up demand for pitches. An increase stock of NTPs likely to be required to accommodate demand.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national ECB priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.	Increased requirement for peak time access to pitches. Need to ensure access to good quality facilities including, segregated changing and toilet provision.
Rugby union	Locally, the RFU want to ensure access to pitches satisfies existing demand and predicted growth. It is also an aim to protect and improve pitch quality, as well as ancillary facilities.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and support facility development. In particular, capital improvements are required to the existing natural turf pitches as is improvements to the quality of changing rooms, where appropriate. All clubs should have access to high quality floodlit pitches to support training and match play demand.
Hockey	Current playing level is likely to continue to increase.	Ensure continued use of sand-based AGPs to accommodate demand and ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey.
	High profile events (e.g. Hockey World Cup 2018 Legacy)	High profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England. During the Hockey World Cup 2018 there were community events in the build-up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. These inevitably helped to raise the profile of the game with the aim of increasing participation. These high profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England and there will be community events in the build-up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. This will inevitably raise the profile of the game with the aim to increase participation.
	2019 launched England Hockey initiative, Hockey Heroes (aimed at growing participation for under 10s).	Ensure that pitches are able to accommodate additional future demand.

## 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 should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. The Action Plan is separated by analysis area.

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 Borough-wide 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 area as a whole. The table below provides a guide as to how sites are assigned.

*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 (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.
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 Borough 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 facility or a low number of facilities that service just one or two sports.

For local authority 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.

### Management and development

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

- ✦ Financial viability and sustainability.
- ✦ Security of tenure (funding should not be directed to a site that offers no community use or that does not provide users with a guarantee of long-term access).
- ✦ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ✦ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ✦ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ✦ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities (e.g. a lease arrangement incorporating multiple clubs and/or multiple sports under an umbrella).
- ✦ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ✦ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ✦ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.
- ✦ Football investment programme/3G pitches development with the FA.

### Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council 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 of the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to provide support.

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Whilst the Council is considered to be a partner within each action to a lesser or greater extent, it is only referenced where it is considered to be a key stakeholder (e.g. at council operated sites).

## **Priority**

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority level 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), unless the actions are not considered relevant or achievable in such a timeframe.

The majority of key centres are a **medium** priority, have analysis area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

The **low** priority sites tend to be 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.

## **Costs**

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

- ◀ (L) -Low - less than £50k;
- ◀ (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k;
- ◀ (H) -High £250k and above.

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:  
<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

## **Timescales**

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. 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 aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect**.

In addition, reference in the aim column is made to sites that are included as priority projects in the CW&C **LFFP**, or that should be included when the plan is updated based upon the findings of this study.

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – CHESTER ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

### CHESTER AREA

#### Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/ demand balance <sup>17</sup>
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 8 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity 2 match equivalent session	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions
	3G	1 pitch	2 pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 30 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity of 30 match equivalent sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 30 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity of 25 match equivalent sessions
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	Senior	Shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions
Hockey	AGP	Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)	Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)

<sup>17</sup> Up to 2037 in line with Local Plan

# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – CHESTER ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>18</sup>	Cost <sup>19</sup>	Aim
12	Bishops Blue Coat C of E High School	Football	School	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and two 9v9 pitches assessed as standard quality. All pitches are unused by the community but spare capacity has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Pursue security of tenure for potential club users via community use agreements and seek to maximise access given identified actual spare capacity.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
		Cricket		A disused standalone NTP.	Consider replacement of wicket for school use and explore community use options for potential transfer of junior teams.	School ECB		L	S	L	
		Rugby union		A standard quality senior pitch which is available to the community but has unsecure tenure.	Explore community use options to reduce local shortfalls.	School RFU		L	S	L	
13	Blacon Avenue	Rugby union	University	A playing field site that previously accommodated a rugby union pitch. Proposal with FF and Council to provide a 3G and changing facilities on site.	Support plans for a 3G pitch to be created on site.	Council FA RFU	Local	H	S	H	Protect Provide LFFP
14	Blacon High School	Football	School	One adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard. The adult pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions (MES) per week whilst the youth 9v9 pitch have 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay. Reconfigure adult pitch to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand. Reallocate some demand to an alternate site with actual spare capacity to alleviate overplay.	School FA	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G AGP		A full size, floodlit, 3G pitch that is FA tested for competitive matches. Assessed as good quality having been installed in 2016. The pitch is available to the community although lettings have been temporarily suspended throughout lockdown periods.	Sustain quality and encourage a sinking fund to be put into place for long-term sustainability. Re-test every three years so matches can to be hosted and maximise match play usage. Ensure that lettings are re-instated as soon as possible.	School FA		H	S	L	
15	Boughton Hall Cricket Club	Football	Club	Two adult, one 9v9, one 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches all assessed as good quality. There is a third adult pitch on site of standard quality. All good quality pitches are overmarked on cricket outfields. The standard quality pitch is played to capacity whilst the remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Chester Nomads FC has plans to extend the clubhouse and social space on site although this is currently on hold.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to protect pitch quality and cricket outfield.	Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

<sup>18</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

<sup>19</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.



# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – CHESTER ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>18</sup>	Cost <sup>19</sup>	Aim
		Cricket		Two good quality grass wicket squares which are played to capacity during peak time. The main square on site has 12 wickets whilst the second square has seven wickets. NTPs accompany both squares.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Ensure future demand can be accommodated, either outside of the peak period or at an alternative site.	Club ECB		L	L	L	
16	Cairns Crescent	Football	Avenue Services	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one mini 5v5 pitch. The adult pitch is of standard quality whilst the youth and mini pitches are of poor quality. The adult pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES per week whilst the youth 11v11 is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. The mini 5v5 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
21	Cheshire County Sports Club	Football	Club	One adult and two mini 7v7 pitches, all of good quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity whilst the mini pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain good quality and high levels of use.	Club FA	Hub Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G AGP		Two full-size 3G pitches with both assessed as good quality. The pitches are used close to capacity during the week.	Sustain quality and encourage a sinking fund to be put into place for long-term sustainability.	Club FA		L	L	L	
		Cricket		A good quality square with eight grass wickets and an accompanying NTP. The square is played to capacity on Saturdays but can accommodate further play on Sundays and midweek.	Sustain square quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	Club ECB		L	L	L	
		Rugby Union		One senior and two mini pitches, all of poor (M1/D0) quality. Actual spare capacity on site has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. There is potential for dedicated changing and storage facilities to be provided for Christleton RFC as well as a long-term tenure agreement on site. Chester Centurions RFC aspires to relocate to the site.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to secure tenure for Christleton RFC on site. Support Cheshire County Sports Club to provide dedicated ancillary facilities on site for Christleton RFC. Explore the feasibility of hosting Chester Centurions at Cheshire County Sports Club.	Club RFU		M	M	L	
		Rugby league		A standard quality rugby league pitch used by Chester Gladiators RFLC and Chester Romans American Football Club. Overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to increase capacity.	Club RFL		M	S	L	
		Hockey		A small sized sand-based AGP which is floodlit but unavailable for community use. The pitch is in poor condition.	Explore feasibility of reinstating community lettings on site. Improve pitch quality through resurfacing.	Club EH FA		L	S	H	



**CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER**  
**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – CHESTER ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>18</sup>	Cost <sup>19</sup>	Aim
24	Chester Rugby Union Football Club	Rugby union	Club	Three poor quality (M1/D0) senior rugby union pitches that are without floodlighting. All three pitches are overplayed by a cumulative total of 3.5 MES per week.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay through installation of drainage system and/or improved maintenance. Explore the feasibility of installing floodlighting on site.	Club RFU	Key Centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G		One good quality, full-size 3G pitch which is floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is World Rugby compliant and operated by the RFU.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary. Retain World Rugby certification via regular retesting.	Club RFU		L	L	L	
25	Christleton Sports Centre	Football	Brio Leisure /School	Two adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality which are available to the community. The adult pitches have one MES per week of actual spare capacity whilst the 9v9 pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Ensure appropriate maintenance to sustain usage levels.	School FA	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G AGP		One standard quality, full-size 3G pitch which is floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is played to capacity during the week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary.	School FA Brio Leisure		L	M	L	
		Cricket		One poor quality standalone NTP which is available for community use but unused.	Improve wicket quality through replacement to support curricular and potential recreational demand.	School ECB		L	S	L	
		Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch available to the community but used to capacity through curricular demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to support community use. Retain the pitch for rugby union demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
36	Field of Dreams	Football	Private	One standard quality adult pitch which has 0.5 MES per week of actual spare capacity. Site has been for sale for a prolonged period.	Review status after the site is sold to determine whether it will continue to provide playing pitches. If it will, protect quality and seek to provide users with security of tenure. If it does not, seek replacement of provision to an equal or better quantity and quality elsewhere in the locality, in accordance with national, local and Sport England Policy requirements.	Council FA	Local	M	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>18</sup>	Cost <sup>19</sup>	Aim
39	Garrison Ground	Football	Club	Two standard quality adult pitches which have 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity per week. Ancillary facilities on site are assessed as poor quality. Chester Nomads FC hope to construct a permanent facility on site. The site is listed in the LFFP for ancillary improvements.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usage. Improve ancillary facilities in line with LFFP recommendations.	Council FA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide LFFP
40	Goals Soccer Centre (Chester)	3G	Commercial	Seven small-size 3G pitches that are floodlit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary.	Commercial FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
43	Water Tower Pitch, Handbridge	Football	Council	One adult pitch which now lies disused.	Site has the potential to alleviate identified shortfalls. Determine future use of the provision based on the following priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and mitigate loss to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements.	Council FA	Local	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
49	Hoole Primary School	Football	School	A 9v9 pitch and a 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality and unavailable to the community.	Explore community use options with the School to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Provide Protect
50	J H Godwin Primary School	Football	School	A 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and has actual spare capacity.	Pursue security of tenure for clubs via community use agreements.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
58	Kingsway Sports Pitches	Football	Education	Two good quality adult football pitches, overmarked with a Lacrosse pitch and a Rugby League pitch, that have actual spare capacity although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure. A revised community use agreement will be implemented later this year to provide security of tenure.	Ensure the revised CUA is implemented in full to help address local shortfalls in football and rugby league.	University FA RFL	Local	L	S	L	Protect
61	Little Heath (Christleton Cricket Club)	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of one MES per week. Christleton FC is planning to redevelop the clubhouse on site.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to protect pitch quality and the cricket outfield.	Club FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>18</sup>	Cost <sup>19</sup>	Aim
		Cricket		A good quality square with 13 grass wickets. Christleton CC reports that an area has developed in the centre of its square where water sits. The square has capacity for additional play on Sundays.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Consider the feasibility of rectifying standing water issues on the square.	Club ECB		M	S	L-M	
69	Mount Pleasant Playing Fields	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that now lies disused.	Site has the potential to alleviate identified shortfalls. Determine future use of the provision based on the following priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and mitigate loss to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements.	Council FA	Local	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
75	Newton Primary School	Football	School	One 9v9, one 7v7 and one 5v5, all of standard quality. The pitches are available for community use and have spare capacity although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Pursue security of tenure for clubs via community use agreements. Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
81	Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields	Football	Avenue Services	A poor quality adult pitch which has capacity although this has been discounted due to poor quality. No changing facilities on site which causes issues for users.	Consider rationalisation of site given its low value providing that contributions go towards replacing the provision at an improved site in the locality, in accordance with national, local and Sport England Policy requirements.	Council FA	Local	L	S	M	Enhance
82	Queen's Park High School	Football	School	Four poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are available to the community and have spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality in order to enable community access.	School FA	Local	L	S	L-M	Protect Enhance Provide

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>18</sup>	Cost <sup>19</sup>	Aim
87	Sealand Road	Football	Council	Three adult pitches which are now lapsed. No community use has been recorded since October 2012, although University fixtures were recorded up to 2015. The pitches have recently been remarked, reportedly for temporary use, but due to be lost. As mitigation for loss of the site, the Council is working with the Football Foundation, Chester FC and its Community Foundation to construct a full size 3G pitch and changing pavilion at Blacon Avenue, and a formalised CUA at Parkgate Road Campus.	Ensure appropriate mitigation is delivered.	Council Club FA FF	Local	M	S	H	Provide
		Rugby League		One lapsed senior rugby pitch. No community use has been recorded since October 2012, although University fixtures were recorded up to 2015. The pitches have recently been remarked, reportedly for temporary use, but due to be lost. Rugby pitch has been mitigated at Kingsway Campus with an amended CUA.	Ensure revised CUA is implemented in full.	Council RFL		M	S	L	
97	Thackeray Drive Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult football pitch which is overplayed by two MES per week. The site is reported to drain poorly.	Improve pitch quality to eradicate overplay on site.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L-M	Protect Enhance
98	The Catholic High School	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches which are available the community and have two MES of actual spare capacity.	Explore options to maximise community usage.	School FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch which is available to the community but unused. Pitch is played to capacity through curricular demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to support community use.	School RFU		L	S	L	
102	The Dale Barracks	Football	MOD	One adult and two 9v9 pitches assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session whereas the 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Transfer two teams to a site with actual spare capacity to alleviate overplay on adult pitch, or improve quality to good to increase capacity.	MOD FA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
		3G		One small-size 3G pitch which is floodlit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary.	MOD FA		L	L	L	

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**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – CHESTER ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>18</sup>	Cost <sup>19</sup>	Aim
		Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch which is unavailable to the community.	Retain for internal use and as strategic reserve for potential community use.	MOD RFU		L	L	L	
106	The King's School	Football	School	Five adult, two 11v11, two 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches assessed as good quality. The pitches are available for hire but cannot be accessed on a regular basis.	Explore increased community use options to reduce local shortfalls, especially given high volume of pitches.	School FA	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect Provide
		Cricket		Three grass wicket squares, one of which is supported by an NTP and one standalone NTP, all of which are good quality. The cricket square supported by an NTP will be used by Saughall CC from the 2021 season onwards.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	School ECB		L	S	L	
		Hockey		A full size, floodlit, sand based AGP which was resurfaced in 2013. Deeside Ramblers HC use the pitch as an overspill site and are in discussion about formalising a long-term tenure agreement.	Protect surface type to retain hockey use. Ensure long-term tenure is agreed to secure club usage. Encourage sinking fund for long-term sustainability.	School EH		M	S	L	
107	The Queen's Senior School	Hockey	Education	One small-size, sand based AGP which is without floodlighting and unavailable for community use.	Retain pitch for curricular demand.	School EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
109	The University of Law (Chester)	Football	University	A poor quality adult pitch unavailable to the community. The site is subject to a planning application although the pitches fall outside of the development area. The Council is looking to form a community use agreement for the pitches as part of any development.	Improve pitch quality for university use and re-assess community use options.	University FA	Local	L	S	L-M	Enhance Provide Protect
		Rugby union		A poor quality senior pitch unavailable to the community. The site is subject to a planning application although the pitches fall outside of the development area. The Council is looking to form a community use agreement for the pitches as part of any development.	Improve pitch quality for internal use.	University RFU		L	S	L	
114	University of Chester (Parkgate Campus)	3G	University	One standard quality full-size, floodlit 3G which is available for community use. The pitch is World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary. Sustain World Rugby certification via regular retesting.	University FA	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect
		Sand AGP		A full size, floodlit, sand based AGP, which is of standard quality. Available to the community and running at capacity through curricular and club demand.	Protect surface type to retain hockey use. Encourage sinking fund for future refurbishment.	University EH		L	S	L	

# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – CHESTER ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>18</sup>	Cost <sup>19</sup>	Aim
118	Wealstone Lane Playing Field	Football	Parish Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 2.5 MES per week. Protected by Fields in Trust and has outstanding contributions for pitch improvements.	Improve pitch quality with outstanding contributions to reduce overplay. Consider re-allocating some demand away from the site to alleviate overplay.	Council FA	Local	H	S	L-M	Enhance Protect
124	Westminster Park	Football	Council	Protected by Fields in Trust. Three youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9, all of poor quality. Youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by one MES per week whilst the 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES per week. Pitches are said to drain poorly, Westminster Park FC have taken on maintenance and have been awarded a FF grant for pitch improvements. Ancillary provision on site is said to be in poor condition.	Improve pitch quality in order to alleviate overplay. Explore feasibility of improving ancillary provision and rectifying drainage issues on site.	Council FA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		A standard quality square with five grass wickets and one NTP. Actual spare capacity for 25 match sessions. Site suffers from vandalism and ancillary facilities are still not fully developed for cricket. Westminster Park CC reports demand for a mobile cage.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Look to provide suitable ancillary facilities on site.	Council ECB		L	M	L-M	
144	Deva Stadium (Chester FC)	Football	Club	A good quality stadia adult pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
147	Coronation Playing Fields	Football	Council	Three poor quality adult pitches that have discounted spare capacity. Planning permission for new changing rooms was granted in February 2021 and a Football Foundation funding application has been approved, with work to commence in November 2021. Council have planned grass pitch works over the summer to bring the pitches to a good standard.	Improve pitch quality in order to provide actual spare capacity. Implement planning permission for changing rooms.	Council FA	Local	M	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide LFFP
149	Eaton Road Playing Pitches	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult football pitches that are currently unused.	Ensure utilisation of spare capacity on site to support local shortfalls.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect
154	King Georges Field (Blacon)	Football	Trust	A poor quality adult pitch that is unused. Spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site previously hosted two pitches. Listed in the LFFP for clubhouse improvements.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Support plans to improve changing facilities on site. Seek to maximise usage.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L-M	Protect Enhance LFFP



# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – CHESTER ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>18</sup>	Cost <sup>19</sup>	Aim
170	Queens Park Road Playing Pitches	Football	School	One adult and one 9v9 pitch of poor quality. Available to the community, however, unused. Managed by Queen's Park High School.	Improve pitch quality and look to provide potential users with security of tenure to activate spare capacity.	School FA	Local	M	S	L-M	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Two disused standalone NTPs.	Consider replacement of wicket for school use and explore community use options for potential transfer of junior teams.	School ECB		L	S	L	
171	Saughall Colts JFC	Football	Sports Club	Pitches are compacted causing drainage issues. Location next to the River Dee can cause flooding. Club has ambitions to develop a facility at its site. Three youth 11v11, two mini 7v7 and three 5v5 pitches. Four of the five mini pitches are of poor quality, just one mini 5v5 pitch is standard quality. Two 11v11 pitches are food quality, with the remaining pitch standard quality. All pitches are at capacity or at capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality to provide further spare capacity. Explore options to accommodate latent and future demand on site.	Sports Club FA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
172	Saughall Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with nine grass wickets. The square is played to capacity during peak time. Saughall CC will vacate the site from the 2021 season onwards due to vandalism and heavy unofficial use.	Ensure that the site is retained as a strategic reserve for cricket due to local shortfalls	Club ECB	Local	H	S	L	Protect
185	The Arches Community Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch available to the community but played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to sustain usage. Pursue security of tenure for club users via community use agreements.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
196	Oldfield Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch available to the community and used to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to sustain usage. Pursue security of tenure for club users via community use agreements.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
197	Dee Point Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch available to the community but unused. The school has a community use agreement in place.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
206	Cherry Grove Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch available to the community but has discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
207	Belgrave Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect



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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>18</sup>	Cost <sup>19</sup>	Aim
210	St Clares Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
211	Acresfield Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
213	Christleton Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
227	Mickle Trafford Village School	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch unavailable to the community.	Improve pitch quality for school use and re-assess community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Provide Protect
229	Mill View Primary School	Football	School	One 7v7 pitch assessed as poor quality. The pitch is unused by the community despite being available.	Improve pitch quality for school use and re-assess community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
230	Boughton Heath Academy	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
232	Guilden Sutton Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
237	Dodleston Sports Ground	Football	Parish Council	One good quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available to the community but unused.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Parish Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect
		Cricket		One standalone NTP which is available for community use.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Parish Council ECB		L	S	L	
240	Limewood Playing Fields	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches. Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality in order to provide actual spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L-M	Enhance Protect
247	Waverton Primary School	Football	School	Two 7v7 pitches assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used to capacity at peak time.	Pursue security of tenure for club users via community use agreements. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
250	Saighton Playing Fields	Football	Private	A standard quality adult pitch that is unused by the community. Previously had the interest of Boughton Athletic FC for Step 7 purposes.	Explore lack of community demand and communicate with Boughton Athletic FC to understand if interest still exists.	Council Club FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
252	Upton Heath C of E Primary School	Football	School	A 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. Used by the community but has discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.	Pursue security of tenure for club users via community use agreements.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>18</sup>	Cost <sup>19</sup>	Aim
264	Huntington CP School	Football	Education	One pitch with changing facilities is provided on site, with another pitch provided on adjacent land. An additional pitch is to be provided on the adjacent land in Spring 2022. The School operates only the pitch within its grounds. Chester Nomads FC is hoping to agree a long-term arrangement for access.	Ensure the additional pitch comes online as planned. Support clubs to agree long-term access arrangements.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – ELLESMERE PORT & NESTON ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

### ELLESMERE PORT & NESTON AREA

#### Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/ demand balance <sup>20</sup>
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 10 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 11.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 8.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 7v7	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity 2.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
	3G	1 pitch	1 pitch
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 30 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity of 20 match equivalent sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 40 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity of 35 match equivalent session
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	Senior	Shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions
Hockey	AGP	Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)	Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)

<sup>20</sup> Up to 2037 in line with Local Plan

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – ELLESMERE PORT & NESTON ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>21</sup>	Cost <sup>22</sup>	Aim
18	Capenhurst Electricity Sports and Social Club	Football	Club	Two poor quality adult football pitches that have discounted spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality in order to provide actual spare capacity.	Club FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		A poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch which has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Explore options to improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and potential installation of a formal drainage system.	Club RFU		M	S	L	
32	Ellesmere Port Catholic High School	Football	School	Three adult, one 9v9 and five mini 5v5 pitches, all of standard quality. All pitches have discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.	Pursue security of tenure for club users via community use agreements. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	School FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Two disused standalone NTPs.	Look to replace for curricular use.	School ECB		L	L	L	
		Rugby union		A poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch unavailable to the community due to poor drainage.	Improve pitch quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	School RFU		L	S	L-M	
33	Ellesmere Port Sports Village	3G AGP	Brio	A full size 3G pitch built in 2015 and assessed as good quality. FA tested to host competitive matches.	Sustain quality and encourage a sinking fund to be put into place for long-term sustainability. Re-test every three years so that competitive matches can continue to be hosted and seek to maximise match play usage.	FA Brio Leisure	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect
35	Festival Park	Football	Council	Poor quality adult pitch unused by the community.	Consider rationalisation of site given its low value providing that contributions go towards replacing the provision at an improved site in the locality, in accordance with national, local and Sport England Policy requirements	Council FA	Local	L	S	L-M	Enhance
51	John Street	Football	Council	Poor quality adult pitch unused by the community.	Consider rationalisation of site given its low value providing that contributions go towards replacing the provision at an improved site in the locality, in accordance with national, local and Sport England Policy requirements	Council FA	Local	L	S	L-M	Enhance
52	Johnston Recreation Grounds	Football	Trust	Two standard quality adult pitches that are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Enhance Protect
63	Luton Road	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity discounted.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect

<sup>21</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

<sup>22</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER  
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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>21</sup>	Cost <sup>22</sup>	Aim
70	Ness Playing Fields	Football	Council	Poor quality adult pitch which is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
71	Neston Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	Two good quality grass wicket squares, one of which is accompanied by an NTP. No spare capacity exists on Saturdays but there is on Sundays and midweek.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club ECB	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
		Hockey		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP, of good quality. Played to capacity by Neston HC.	Protect surface type to retain hockey use. Encourage sinking fund for long-term sustainability.	Club EH		L	L	L	
72	Neston Primary School	Football	School	Poor quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Improve quality for school use and then re-examine community use aspects given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
73	Neston Recreation Centre (Neston High School)	Football	Brio Leisure	One adult pitch assessed as standard and two adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as poor quality. The standard adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by one MES per week. The poor adult pitches are played to capacity.	Improve quality in order to alleviate overplay.	Brio Leisure School FA	Key Centre	M	S	L-M	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G		One good quality full-size 3G pitch which is floodlit and available for community use.	Sustain quality and encourage a sinking fund to be put into place for long-term sustainability.	Brio Leisure School FA		L	L	L	
		Cricket		A disused standalone NTP.	Look to re-provide the wicket for curricular and extra-curricular Demand.	Brio Leisure School ECB		L	S	L	
		Hockey		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP of good quality. The pitch is used as an overspill venue by Neston HC.	Protect surface type to retain hockey use. Encourage sinking fund for long-term sustainability.	Brio Leisure School EH		L	L	L	
74	Netherpool Road (Naylor Close)	Football	Council	Pitches are currently offline but have been invested heavily. There will be four good quality adult pitches ready for the 21/22 season. Ancillary improvements have also taken place as part of this work. The site is listed for pitch and ancillary improvements in the LFFP. Outstanding contributions are available for pitch improvements at this site or at Seymour Drive.	Ensure pitches come online as planned and ancillary facilities on site are suitable for the upcoming season.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L-M	Enhance Protect Provide LFFP

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>21</sup>	Cost <sup>22</sup>	Aim
86	Seacombe Drive Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches that are played to capacity. The site is listed in the LFFP for pitch and ancillary improvements. Pitch improvements, in line with recommendations from the LFFP, are said to have been recently completed with a club interested in returning to the site.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L-M	Enhance Protect LFFP
88	Seymour Drive	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches with discounted spare capacity. Outstanding contributions are available for pitch improvements at this site or at Netherpool Road.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Enhance Protect
91	St Saviours Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A 9v9 and a 7v7 pitch both assessed as standard. Unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use and explore community use aspects to support local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
92	Stanney Grange (Thornton Road)	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult football pitches that are overplayed by two MES per week. Listed in the LFFP for pitch and ancillary improvements.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or seek the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L-M	Enhance Protect LFFP
105	The Groves Sports and Social Club	Football	Club	Two adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as poor quality. The adult pitches are overplayed by six match equivalent sessions; the 9v9 pitch is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay. Seek the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity to alleviate overplay.	Club FA	Key Centre	H	S	L-M	Enhance Protect
		Cricket		A good quality square with eight grass wickets and an NTP. Spare capacity exists during peak time.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club ECB		L	L	L	
112	The Ellesmere Port CE College (previously University Church of England Academy)	Football	School	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches that are overplayed by two MES per week.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	School FA	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
		3G		A floodlit 3G pitch provided in 2012 and available to the community. The pitch is of standard quality.	Sustain quality and encourage a sinking fund to be put into place for long-term sustainability.	School FA		L	S	L	
113	Former Sutton High School	Football	School	One 11v11, one 9v9, two 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches, all of standard quality. The pitches are currently unused by the community and are listed in the LFFP for pitch and ancillary improvements. Princes Villa have recently formalised a lease agreement for the site and are expected to begin utilising the pitches in the upcoming season.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	School FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect LFFP

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>21</sup>	Cost <sup>22</sup>	Aim
115	Vauxhall Sports & Social Club	Football	Club	Two adult pitches, two 11v11, one 9v9 and two 7v7 pitches. The adult pitches are of good quality whilst the remaining pitches are of standard quality. The 11v11 and 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 2.5 and 1.5 MES per week respectively whilst the 7v7 pitches are played to capacity at peak time. The adult pitches have 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay.	Club FA	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G AGP		Two full size floodlit 3G pitches which are assessed as good quality having been resurfaced in 2018. Available to the community, however, the majority of use is taken up by the Club itself. Club wishes to install an additional 3G pitch to also accommodate rugby use.	Sustain quality and encourage a sinking fund to be put into place for long-term sustainability. Re-test every three years so that matches can continue to be hosted. Explore creation of additional 3G pitch, especially if can satisfy rugby demand (including from Wirral-based clubs).	School FA		L	L	L	
125	Whetstone Hey	Football	Trust	An adult and a youth 11v11 football pitch, both of which are overplayed by 0.5 and one MES per week respectively.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay. Seek the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity to alleviate overplay.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L-M	Protect Enhance
126	Whitby High School	Football	School	Two adult pitches of standard quality. Unavailable to the community due to drainage issues.	Correct drainage issues and explore community use options with the School to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		Two standard (M1/D1) quality senior rugby union pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options in order to reduce local shortfalls.	School RFU		M	S	L	
127	Whitby Park	Football	Council	Three poor quality adult football pitches that are currently unused. Protected by Fields in Trust. Identified in the LFFP for pitch and ancillary improvements	Improve pitch and ancillary quality to attract usage and provide actual spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance LFFP
128	Whitby Sports and Social Club	Football	Club	Three adult, one 7v7 and three 5v5 pitches assessed as standard quality. The adult and 5v5 pitches have actual spare capacity whilst the 7v7 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club FA	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance



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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>21</sup>	Cost <sup>22</sup>	Aim
		Rugby union		Two senior pitches assessed as poor (M0/D0) quality. The pitches are overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions combined.	Improve pitch quality in order to reduce overplay through installation of drainage system and/or improved maintenance. Seek the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity to alleviate overplay.	Club RFU		H	S	M	
136	Wolverham Park	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch with 0.5 MES of discounted spare capacity.	Consider rationalisation of site given its low value providing that contributions go towards replacing the provision at an improved site in the locality, in accordance with national, local and Sport England Policy requirements	Council FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
138	Woodlands Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch which is played to capacity.	Pursue security of tenure for club users through a community use agreement. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
140	Burton County Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with 10 grass wickets. Actual spare capacity of 22 match sessions exists at peak time.	Review quality issues in an attempt to improve quality to good. Utilise spare capacity to accommodate any future demand and explore opportunities for other clubs to gain access if required.	Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
167	Parks Field	Football	Council	One adult and one 9v9 pitch, both of poor quality and unused. Only one goalpost exists for the adult pitch. Additional pitches are proposed at Parks Field after a loss of playing fields at Mostyn House School.	Improve pitch quality to attract usage and consider asset transfer.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L-M	Enhance Provide Protect
190	Meadow Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches which are unused by the community despite being available.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
203	Christ Church C of E Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch which is unused by the community despite being available.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
205	St Winefride's Catholic Primary	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 and a poor quality 7v7 pitch unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for school use and examine community aspects.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect Provide
209	Brookside Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch unavailable for community use.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
216	St Oswalds C of E Aided Primary School	Football	School	A good quality 5v5 pitch unused by the community despite being available.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>21</sup>	Cost <sup>22</sup>	Aim
219	The Acorns Primary and Nursery School	Football	School	A 7v7 and a 5v5 pitch of standard quality. Unavailable to the community.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Provide Protect
221	Sutton Green Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
225	St Mary of the Angels Primary	Football	School	Two poor quality 7v7 pitches unavailable to the community.	Improve pitch quality and then further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect Provide
234	Rivacre Valley Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
238	Thornton Science Park	3G AGP	University	A small size, floodlit 3G pitch measuring 30 x 20 metres and unavailable for community.	Retain for continued university use.	University FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
253	Ellesmere Port Sea Cadets	Football	Community	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch which is overplayed by two MES per week.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Community FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – NORTHWICH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

### NORTHWICH AREA

Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/ demand balance <sup>23</sup>
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity 3.5 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity 1 match equivalent session
	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity 3 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity 1.5 match equivalent sessions
	3G	4 pitches	5 pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 8 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 28 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity of 23 match equivalent sessions
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 9 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 9 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	Senior	Shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions
Hockey	AGP	Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)	Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)

<sup>23</sup> Up to 2037 in line with Local Plan

# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – NORTHWICH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
6	Barnton Cricket Club	Football	Club	One 9v9, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch, all of standard quality. The pitches are overmarked on a cricket outfield. The youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time whilst the mini pitches each have 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to protect cricket outfield and sustain usage.	Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
		Cricket		A good quality square with nine grass wickets. Played to capacity during peak time. Training facilities are said to be in need of refurbishment.	Consider installation of a non-turf wicket for the transfer of junior teams. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club ECB		L	M	L	
7	Barnton Football Club	Football	Club	A standard quality adult stadia pitch used for Step 6 football. Unavailable for wider community use.	Ensure users can progress through the football pyramid.	Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
10	Belmont Road	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch with discounted spare capacity.	Consider rationalisation of site given its low value providing that contributions go towards replacing the provision at an improved site in the locality, in accordance with national, local and Sport England Policy requirements	Council FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
26	Cloughwood Academy	Hockey	School	A small-size, floodlit, sand based AGP which is available for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
27	Davenham Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 11 grass wickets. The square is reported to drain poorly. Parking facilities are said to be inadequate. Davenham CC is renegotiating a lease extension with Davenham Parish Council for the site. The square is overplayed by two match sessions per season.	Explore transfer of junior teams to NTPs in order to alleviate overplay and consider installation of an NTP on site.	Club ECB	Local	M	S	L	Enhance Protect Provide
		Football		A poor quality adult pitch which is currently unused.	Improve pitch quality to attract community use. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to protect cricket outfield.	Club FA		L	L	L	
28	Butchers Stile	Football	Parish Council	One adult, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch all of poor quality. Only the 5v5 is used and all pitches have discounted spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality in order to encourage usage.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L-M	Enhance Protect

<sup>24</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

<sup>25</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – NORTHWICH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
41	Greenbank Playing Fields (Saxons Lane)	Football	Council	A poor quality 9v9 pitch currently unused by the community. Pitch improvement works have been recently undertaken on site.	Ensure pitch quality is improve and then seek to attract usage to the site.	Council FA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
44	Hartford Cricket Club	Cricket	Parish Council	A standard quality square with eight grass wickets and one NTP. The square has actual spare capacity of 21 match sessions.	Review quality issues in an attempt to improve quality to good.	Parish Council ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Football		Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches with actual spare capacity of one MES per week.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to protect cricket outfield and sustain usage.	Parish Council FA		L	S	L	
45	Hartford High School	Football	School	An adult pitch and a 9v9 pitch of good quality as well as a youth 11v11, 7v7 and a 5v5 pitch of standard quality. The 7v7 and 5v5 pitches each have actual spare capacity of one MES per week whilst the adult and 11v11 pitches are played to capacity. The 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	School FA	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect
		3G AGP		A full size 3G pitch assessed as good quality having been built in 2016. The pitch is floodlit and available to the community. The pitch is played to capacity during the week.	Sustain quality and encourage a sinking fund to be put into place for long-term sustainability.	School FA		L	S	L	
		Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch which is available to the community, however, is unused. It is played to capacity through curricular use.	Retain for school use and retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School RFU		L	S	L	
53	Jubilee Field	Football	Town Council	One poor quality adult football pitch which is currently played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to create spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L-M	Protect Enhance
62	Lostock Gralam Football Club	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch which is played to capacity at peak time. The pitch is reported to drain poorly.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
67	Moss Farm Leisure Complex	Football	Brio Leisure	Seven adult pitches of standard quality. The pitches are overplayed by a total of 2.5 MES per week. The site is identified for pitch and ancillary improvements in the LFFP. There are outstanding contributions from three sites earmarked for pitch improvements on site. Subject to wider development/investment proposals.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay on site. Continue to consider how the football provision can be enhanced through wider master-planning of the site and investment.	Brio Leisure FA	Hub Site	L	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide LFFP

**CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – NORTHWICH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
		3G AGP		A full size 3G pitch assessed as good quality having been built in 2015. FA tested to host competitive matches. The pitch is floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is played to capacity throughout peak time. Discussions ongoing regarding the creation of a 'super-size' 3G, in addition to the existing pitch.	Sustain quality and ensure a sinking fund is put into place for long-term sustainability. Re-test every three years so that competitive matches can continue to be hosted and seek to maximise match play usage. Support creation of an additional 3G pitch given local shortfalls, as long as this would not compromise developments for other sports on site e.g. rugby union, cricket and hockey.	Brio Leisure FA		L	S	L	
		Rugby union		Three poor quality senior pitches. One is floodlit and of M0/D1 quality whilst the remaining two are without floodlights and of M0/D0 quality. The pitches are overplayed by a cumulative total of six MES per week. Used by Northwich RUFC which reports that changing facilities on site are inadequate and of poor quality. Subject to wider development/investment proposals.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay through installation of a drainage system and/or improved maintenance. Seek additional floodlighting in order to spread out training demand, or relocate training demand to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch should one be provided in the locality in the future. Improve ancillary provision on site, particularly changing provision which is of a notably poor quality. Continue to consider how the rugby provision can be enhanced through wider master-planning of the site and investment.	Brio Leisure RFU		H	S	M-H	
		Hockey		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP which now lies disused. The pitch was previously used by Winnington Park HC before the pitch fell into a state of disrepair. Changing facilities on site are said to be dated and in poor condition.	Ensure Winnington Park HC is provided with full, secure access to at least one full size pitch, considered in conjunction with provision at Sir John Deane's College and The Grange School. Consider how hockey could be accommodated through wider master-planning of the site and investment. Until an agreement has been reached the AGP should be protected as the wider Master planning and feasibility options of the site may indicate it is refurbished or requires replacement.	Brio Leisure EH		H	S	H	

**CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER**  
**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – NORTHWICH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
76	Norley Road Playing Field	Football	Parish Council	One youth 11v1 and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of poor quality. The 11v11 pitch is overplayed by three MES per week whilst the 9v9 pitch is played to capacity. Pitches are reported to drain poorly and have prominent bare patches. Changing facilities on site are unsuitable for senior football. The site is identified for pitch improvements in the LFFP.	Improve pitch quality, in line with LFFP recommendations, to alleviate overplay. Improve changing facilities.	Council FA	Local	H	S	L-M	Protect Enhance LFFP
84	Rudheath Leisure Centre (UCAN)	Football	Brio Leisure	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch unused by the community despite being available. Outstanding contributions have been earmarked for the site to support with pitch maintenance.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.	Brio Leisure School FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Hockey		A smaller sized, sand based AGP. Available to the community. The surface is significantly over its recommended lifespan.	Resurface to support curricular and community use.	Brio Leisure School EH		M	S	M	
89	Sir John Deane's College	Football	College	Two standard quality adult pitches, which were overplayed by 4.5 MES per week. Lettings have been suspended since the COVID-19 pandemic.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay. Ensure lettings recommence. Look to transfer demand to alternate site(s) with actual spare capacity to alleviate overplay.	College FA	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Provide
		Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch which is unavailable to the community.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	College RFU		L	L	L	
		Hockey		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP which was resurfaced in 2015. Was well used by Winnington Park HC before lettings were suspended. Ancillary provision is said to be dated and in poor condition.	Consider in conjunction with provision at Moss Farm Leisure Complex and The Grange School. Ensure lettings recommence as soon as possible and seek to make this as secure and as long-term as possible for hockey. Protect surface type to retain hockey use, unless Winnington Park HC can be fully accommodated elsewhere. Encourage sinking fund for future refurbishment.	College EH		H	S	L	
90	St Nicholas Catholic High School	Football	School	Two adult and a 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality and a 9v9 pitch assessed as poor. Community use stopped in 2015 due to drainage issues.	Retain for curricular use.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect LFFP



**CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – NORTHWICH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
		Rugby Union		Two poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	School RFU		L	S	L	
100	The County High School Leftwich	Football	School	Two adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as poor quality. Pitches are available but spare capacity has been discounted due to quality.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
		Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use.	School RFU		L	S	L	
		Hockey		A smaller sized (50x40 metres) sand-based AGP which is floodlit.	Retain for continued activity.	School		L	L	M	
104	The Grange School	Hockey	School	A full size sand based AGP of standard quality which is floodlit, available for community use and used by Winnington Park HC. The Club has increased its usage since loss of access to Sir John Deane's College and Moss Farm Leisure Complex. Floodlighting on site is said to be in poor condition. The pitch can only be used from 08:00-21:00 during the week and from 09:00-20:00 on Sundays and Bank Holidays. It cannot be used for community football.	Consider in conjunction with provision at Moss Farm Leisure Complex and Sir John Deane's College. Look to secure increased pitch access and resolve floodlighting quality issues on site. Seek to extend hours that floodlighting can be used. Provide long-term security of tenure to Winnington Park HC. Encourage sinking fund for future refurbishment. Protect surface type to retain hockey use.	School	Local	H	S	L	Provide Protect
111	University Primary Academy Weaverham	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 and a standard quality 9v9 pitch. The pitches are available to the community but suffer from unsecure tenure. The 9v9 pitch is played to capacity whilst the 5v5 pitch has discounted spare capacity.	Pursue security of tenure for users via community use agreements. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
119	Weaverham Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with eight grass wickets. Played to capacity on Saturdays but has capacity on Sundays and mid-week.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
120	Weaverham High School	Football	School	Three adult and one 9v9 pitch of poor quality. Pitches are available for community use but unused.	Pursue security of tenure for users via community use agreements. Improve quality to create actual spare capacity.	School FA	Key Centre	L	S	L-M	Enhance Protect
		Cricket		A standard quality standalone NTP. Unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use and explore community use options for the potential transfer of junior teams.	School ECB		L	S	L	

**CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – NORTHWICH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized (80x50 metres) sand-based AGP which is available to the community but without floodlighting.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Encourage sinking fund for future refurbishment. Protect surface type to retain hockey use.	School EH		L	S	M	
121	Weaverham Road Playing Field	Football	Council	Two 5v5 pitches and one 7v7 pitch assessed as poor quality. The 7v7 pitch is at capacity at peak time whilst spare capacity is discounted on the 5v5 pitch.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
130	Wincham Park (Witton Albion Football Club)	Football	Club	An adult stadia pitch assessed as good quality and played to capacity.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
131	Winnington Park Recreation Club	Football	Club	Two standard quality adult football pitches with 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Cricket		A good quality square with 12 grass wickets and an NTP. Played to capacity on Saturdays but has capacity on Sundays and midweek.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club ECB		L	S	L	
139	Burrows Hill Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult pitch which is currently unused.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Look to utilise actual spare capacity on site.	Parish FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
152	Griffith Park Football Field	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult football pitch which has discounted spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity.	Parish FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
158	Main Road Playing Pitches	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unused by the community.	Consider rationalisation of site given its low value providing that contributions go towards replacing the provision at an improved site in the locality, in accordance with national, local and Sport England Policy requirements	Parish FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
182	Winnington Park Rugby Club	Rugby union	Club	Three senior pitches of poor (M0/D1) quality of which two are floodlit. Pitches are overplayed by a cumulative total of nine MES per week. The RFU indicates the Club has plans to extend the changing rooms and clubhouse on site.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay through installation of drainage system and/or improved maintenance. Seek installation of floodlighting to better accommodate training demand or explore transfer of demand to World Rugby compliant 3G pitch should one be created. Look to support Winnington Park RFC's aspirations to improve ancillary facilities on site.	Club RFU	Local	H	S	M	Enhance Protect
186	Cuddington Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unused by the community.	Pursue security of tenure for potential users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – NORTHWICH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
189	Leftwich Community Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Improve pitch quality and then further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
193	Sandiway Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is unused by the community.	Pursue security of tenure for potential users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
194	Greenbank School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
195	Charles Darwin CP School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch which is played to capacity.	Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
199	Moulton School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch which is played to capacity through curricular demand.	Improve pitch quality to attract usage.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
201	Kingsmead Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch which is played to capacity through curricular demand.	Improve pitch quality to attract usage.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
217	Rudheath Primary Academy	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 and a standard quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
220	Weaverham Forest Primary School	Football	School	A good quality 9v9 pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
222	Byley Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality and then further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
235	St Bede's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
239	Bostock Green	Football	Parish Council	Two 5v5 pitches. Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Parish FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
243	Whalley Road Playing Field	Football	Parish Council	Poor quality adult pitch currently unused by the community.	Consider rationalisation of site given its low value providing that contributions go towards replacing the provision at an improved site in the locality, in accordance with national, local and Sport England Policy requirements	Parish FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
248	Barnton Primary School	Football	School	One adult, one youth 9v9, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. The 9v9 pitch is played to capacity whilst the remaining pitches all have discounted spare capacity.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage. Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
249	Cransley School	Football	School	A 7v7 and a 5v5 pitch of standard quality. Unused by the community but spare capacity is discounted.	Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

**CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – NORTHWICH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
255	Northwich Cricket Club	Cricket	Brio Leisure	A standard quality square with nine grass wickets. Square is overplayed by five match sessions per season.	Review quality issues in an attempt to improve quality to good and remove overplay. Consider installation of an NTP for the transfer of junior teams.	Club ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
258	Laburnum Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality 5v5 pitch with 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage.	Council FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
260	Lavender Drive	Football	Parish Council	Three poor quality adult pitches with discounted spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
262	Cassia Green, Whitegate	Football	Parish Council	An adult pitch and a mini 7v7 pitch, both of standard quality. Both pitches have one MES of actual spare capacity.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Look to utilise actual spare capacity on site.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
263	The Grange School Playing Fields	Cricket	School	A standard quality standalone NTP which is available to the community but unused.	Retain for school use and explore community use options should any community demand exist in the future.	School ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
		Football		Three youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches of standard quality. The pitches are available for community use but spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for school use and retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School FA		L	L	L	
-	The Green, Hartford	Football	Club	Disused football pitches. An area of land leased to Hartford FC but not wanted by the Club.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	Council FA	Local	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – RURAL NORTH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

### RURAL NORTH AREA

#### Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/ demand balance <sup>26</sup>
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 6 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 6 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity 1 match equivalent session	Actual spare capacity 1 match equivalent session
	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
	3G	1 pitch	1 pitch
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 34 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 74 match equivalent sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 29 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 49 match equivalent sessions
Rugby union	Senior	1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity	Shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	Senior	Shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions
Hockey	AGP	Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)	Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)

<sup>26</sup> Up to 2037 in line with Local Plan

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – RURAL NORTH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>27</sup>	Cost <sup>28</sup>	Aim
3	Alvanley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with 10 grass wickets and one NTP. The outfield is reported to be sloped and undulated. The square is overplayed by 16 match sessions per season.	Improve square quality to reduce overplay. Look to better utilise the NTP on site to alleviate overplay, or, relocate some demand to an alternate site.	Club ECB	Local	M	S	L-M	Protect Enhance
5	Aston by Sutton Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch which is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options given future local shortfall.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
8	Barrow Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with nine grass wickets. The square is overplayed by two match sessions per season. Barrow CC aspires to install an NTP on site.	Support the Club's aspirations to install an NTP on site to alleviate overplay. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage.	Club ECB	Local	M	S	L-M	Protect Provide
30	Dog Lane	Football	Commercial	A poor quality adult pitch unused by the community.	Consider rationalisation of site given its low value providing that contributions go towards replacing the provision at an improved site in the locality in accordance with national, local and Sport England Policy requirements	FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
31	Duddon Village Hall	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch which is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. The pitch drains poorly and receives basic maintenance.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Enhance Protect
34	Elton Primary School	Football	School	One adult and one 7v7 pitch assessed as poor quality. Both pitches have discounted spare capacity.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay. Pursue security of tenure for club users via community use agreements.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
37	Frodsham Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with seven grass wickets and one NTP. The square is overplayed by one match session per week.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage. Better utilise the NTP on site to alleviate overplay.	Club ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
38	Frodsham Leisure Centre	Hockey	Brio Leisure	A smaller sized (70x50 metres) sand-based AGP which is floodlit.	Retain for continued use and ensure appropriate quality.	Brio Leisure	Local	L	L	L	Protect
46	Helsby Community Sports Club	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch which is played to capacity at peak time. Ancillary facilities on site are considered to be in good condition.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club FA	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect

<sup>27</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

<sup>28</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.



**CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – RURAL NORTH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>27</sup>	Cost <sup>28</sup>	Aim
		3G		One good quality full-size 3G pitch which is available for community use and floodlit. Helsby RUFC has aspirations for a rugby specific clubhouse to be provided pitch side. The Club also hopes to use the pitch for training demand although it is not World Rugby compliant.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Encourage sinking fund for future refurbishment. Test the pitch on site with the aim of achieving WR certification.	Club FA		L	S	L	
47	Helsby High School	Football	School	Three adult and two 9v9 pitches assessed as poor quality. The 9v9 pitches are played to capacity whilst the adult pitches are overplayed by five MES per week. A full size 3G pitch is being developed on site, due to be completed by Autumn 2021.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay. Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	H	S	L-M	Enhance Protect LFFP
		Rugby union		A senior pitch assessed as poor (M1/D0) quality with drainage issues. Unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality for school activity and then explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School RFU		L	S	L-M	
55	Kelsall Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch available to the community and played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to sustain usage.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
57	King George V Playing Field, Tarvin	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch which is overplayed by 2.5 MES per week. The site is reported to drain poorly.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Council FA	Local	H	S	L	Enhance Protect
66	Middle Lane	Football	Council	Poor quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Enhance Protect
77	Oakmere Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 10 grass wickets. Oakmere CC aspires to install an NTP on site. The square is overplayed by one match session per season.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Support installation of an NTP for the transfer of junior teams.	Club ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
78	Oulton Park Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	Two squares. One good quality with ten grass wickets and a standalone NTP. The grass square is played to capacity on Saturdays but has actual spare capacity on Sundays and midweek.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect



**CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – RURAL NORTH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>27</sup>	Cost <sup>28</sup>	Aim
85	Saltworks Farm	Football	Council	Two adult and two 9v9 pitches assessed as poor quality. The adult pitches are overplayed by 1.5 MES per week whilst spare capacity has been discounted from the 9v9 pitches. Frodsham Veterans Athletic FC is working with the Council to take over management of the site. The site is identified in the LFFP for pitch and ancillary improvements.	Improve pitch and ancillary quality on site, in line with LFFP recommendations, to alleviate overplay. Support asset transfer aspirations.	Parish Club FA	Key Centre	M	S	M	Enhance Protect Provide LFFP
94	Tarporley High School and Sixth Form College	Football	School	Three adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as good quality. Available to the community and both pitch formats have actual spare capacity. This equates to a cumulative total of 3.5 MES per week.	Explore lack of community demand given local shortfalls and seek to maximise access.	School FA	Key Centre	M	S	L	Provide
		Cricket		Two standalone NTPs that are available for community use but unused.	Retain for school use and retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School ECB		L	S	L	
		Rugby union		A senior pitch of standard (M1/D1) quality. Available to the community, however, unused.	Retain for school use and retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School RFU		L	S	L	
		Hockey		A smaller sized sand-based AGP which is available for community use. Minimal community use is recorded due to lack of floodlighting.	Retain for school use and as community available should demand exist in the future.	School EH		L	S	L	
95	Tarporley Wanderers FC	Football	Sports Club	One adult football pitch which has been disused since 2012 after the Club folded.	Site has the potential to alleviate identified shortfalls. Determine future use of the provision based on the following priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and mitigate loss to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements.	Sports Club FA	Local	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
101	The Croft (Kingsley Cricket Club)	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with nine grass wickets and an NTP. The square is overplayed by 14 match sessions per season.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Support installation of an NTP for the transfer of junior teams.	Club ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
150	Great Barrow Field	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult football pitch which is overplayed by 1.5 MES per week.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Parish Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – RURAL NORTH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>27</sup>	Cost <sup>28</sup>	Aim
153	Helsby Rugby Club	Rugby union	Club	Two poor (M0/D1) quality senior pitches. There is a total of 1.5 MES of actual spare capacity across the two pitches. S106 funding is ringfenced for the site.	Improve pitch quality via the installation of a drainage system and/or improved maintenance. Support Helsby RUFC's ambition to provide a clubhouse at Helsby Community Sports Club.	Club RFU	Local	L	S	M	Enhance Protect
169	Profitts Lane, Helsby	Football	Parish Council	A poor quality 5v5 pitch currently unused by the community.	Consider rationalisation of site given its low value providing that contributions go towards replacing the provision at an improved site in the locality in accordance with national, local and Sport England Policy requirements	Parish FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
191	Kingsley Community Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch currently unused by the community.	Improve pitch quality and further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
204	Frodsham Manor House School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch available to the community, however, unused.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
208	Delamere CE Primary Academy	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch and a poor quality 5v5 pitch unused by the community despite being available.	Improve pitch quality to attract usage given local shortfalls.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
212	Barrow CE Primary School	Football	School	A good quality 7v7 pitch available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
214	Eaton Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch unused by the community despite being available.	Improve pitch quality and further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
224	Tarporley C of E Primary School	Football	School	A good quality 5v5 pitch which is used by the community although spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Pursue security of tenure for club users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
228	Weaver Vale Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch and a standard quality 7v7 pitch which are available to the community but unused.	Pursue security of tenure for potential club users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
231	Duddon St Peter's C of E Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch which is available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
244	Ashton Hayes Playing Field	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L-M	Protect Enhance
256	Kinglsey St John School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch which is available to the community but unused.	Pursue security of tenure for club users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – RURAL SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

RURAL SOUTH AREA

Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/ demand balance <sup>29</sup>
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
	Youth 11v11	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Youth 9v9	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Mini 7v7	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
	3G	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity 5 match equivalent sessions	Demand is being met
Rugby union	Senior	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Rugby league	Senior	Shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions
Hockey	AGP	Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)	Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)

<sup>29</sup> Up to 2037 in line with Local Plan

# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – RURAL SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>30</sup>	Cost <sup>31</sup>	Aim
1	Abbey Gate College	Football	School	Three standard quality adult pitches unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use and explore whether demand exists for community use.	School FA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		A standard quality standalone NTP unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use.	School ECB		L	S	L	
		Hockey		A full size sand-based AGP assessed as good quality having been installed in 2017. Used by Chester HC.	Protect for continued hockey use and encourage a sinking fund to be put into place for long-term sustainability.	School EH		L	L	L	
29	Deeside Ramblers Hockey Club	Hockey	Club	A full size sand-based AGP and a smaller sized (40x30 metres) sand-based AGP, both of which are good quality, floodlit and running at capacity. Deeside Ramblers HC aspires to install a second full-size AGP on site.	Protect surface type to retain hockey use. Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability. Further explore options in relation to creating a second full size AGP on site, to be informed via a site master-planning process.	Club EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
64	Malpas and District Sports Club	Football	Club	One adult pitch of standard quality which has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club FA	Key Centre	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
		Cricket		A standard quality square with seven grass wickets. The square is played to capacity on Saturdays but has spare capacity on Sundays and midweek.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Consider installation of an NTP for the transfer of junior teams.	Club ECB		L	S	L	
		Hockey		A smaller sized sand-based AGP which is floodlit. Available to the community and used by football teams for training.	Consider 3G resurface given local shortfalls and lack of hockey use.	Club FA EH		L	S	M	
65	Bishop Heber High School (Malpas Sports Centre)	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch which is unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use and explore whether demand exists for community use.	School FA	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		Two standard (M1/D1) quality senior pitches unavailable to the community.	Improve pitch quality for school activity then re-explore community use options.	School		L	S	L-M	
		Hockey		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP which was provided in 2015. Used by Deeside Ramblers HC. Some spare capacity remains. Goals on site are not official hockey goals and so the pitch is unsuitable for high-level play. Changing facilities on site are reported to be dated and of poor quality.	Protect surface type to retain hockey use. Encourage sinking fund for future refurbishment.	School EH		L	L	L	

<sup>30</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

<sup>31</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

# CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – RURAL SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>30</sup>	Cost <sup>31</sup>	Aim
96	Tattenhall Recreation Club	Football	Club	A poor quality adult football pitch which is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Club FA	Local	M	S	L	Enhance Protect
		Cricket		A good quality square with 14 grass wickets. Played to capacity over the weekend but has actual spare capacity during the week.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Consider installation of an NTP for the transfer of junior teams.	Club ECB		L	S	L	
110	Tilston Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	A poor quality adult pitch which is unused by the community despite being available. Protected by Fields in Trust.	Consider rationalisation of site given its low value providing that contributions go towards replacing the provision at an improved site in the locality, in accordance with national, local and Sport England Policy requirements	Parish FA	Local	L	S	L	N/A
187	Tushingham-with-Grindley C of E Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use (no local demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Enhance Protect
202	Clutton C of E Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch unused by the community despite being available.	Retain for school use (no local demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
215	Farndon Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use (no local demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
218	Tilston Parochial C of E Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Improve pitch quality and then further explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Provide Protect Enhance
226	Saighton C of E Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch unused by the community despite being available.	Retain for school use (no local demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
236	Tattenhall Park Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use (no local demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
246	Carden Park Hotel	Football	Private	One adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as good quality. Available to the community, however, spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain good quality. Pursue security of tenure for potential club users via a community use agreement.	Private FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
257	Farndon Sports and Social Club	Football	Club	A poor quality adult pitch which suffers from poor drainage. The pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Club FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – WINSFORD ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

### WINSFORD AREA

#### Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/ demand balance <sup>32</sup>
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 11v11	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 7v7	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
	3G	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 10 match equivalent sessions	Demand is being met
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 5 match equivalent sessions	Actual spare capacity of 5 match equivalent sessions
Rugby union	Senior	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Rugby league	Senior	Shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 0.75 match equivalent sessions
Hockey	AGP	Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)	Demand being met (if pitch access issues at Winnington Park HC are resolved)

<sup>32</sup> Up to 2037 in line with Local Plan

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – WINSFORD ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>33</sup>	Cost <sup>34</sup>	Aim
9	Barton Stadium (Winsford United Football Club)	Football	Club	One standard quality adult stadia pitch which is played to capacity. The pitch is used for Step 5 football and so is unavailable for wider community use.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect LFFP
59	Knights Grange Sports Complex	Football	Council	14 adult pitches of which one is standard quality and 13 are poor quality. The standard quality pitch is played to capacity whilst the poor pitches are overplayed by two MES per week. The pitches on site suffer from poor drainage. Listed in the LFFP for pitch and ancillary improvements. Proposals exist linked to the creation of a Women's and Girls National Centre for Sports Excellence on site, although community provision will remain.	Improve pitch quality, in line with LFFP recommendations, to create actual spare capacity. Look to improve ancillary facilities on site. Ensure sufficient level of community provision following wider developments.	Council FA	Hub site	M	S	M	Enhance Protect LFFP
79	Over Hall Community School	Football	School	A 9v9 pitch and a 7v7 pitch, both of standard quality. Both pitches are available to the community but unused.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality. Pursue security of tenure for potential club users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
132	Winsford Academy	Football	School	Three adult and one 9v9 pitch. Two adult pitches are poor quality, whilst the remaining pitches are standard. Pitches are unavailable to the community due to access issues and poor quality.	Improve pitch quality and explore options to provide separate community access to the pitches.	School FA	Key Centre	L	S	M	Enhance Provide Protect
		3G AGP		A full size 3G pitch assessed as good quality having been built in 2016. FA tested to host competitive matches. Also, reportedly built with a shock pad, potentially making it suitable for rugby activity.	Sustain quality and encourage a sinking fund to be put into place for long-term sustainability. Re-test every three years so that competitive matches can continue to be hosted and seek to maximise match play usage. Consider World Rugby testing should it be determined that local demand from clubs exists.	School Council FA RFU		L	L	L	
		Rugby union		A poor (M0/D0) quality senior pitch unavailable to the community due to drainage issues.	Improve pitch quality for school activity.	School RFU		L	S	L	

<sup>33</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

<sup>34</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.



## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – WINSFORD ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>33</sup>	Cost <sup>34</sup>	Aim
133	Winsford Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 11 grass wickets. Actual spare capacity of 43 match sessions per season.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	Club ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
135	Winsford High Street Community Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch unused by the community despite being available.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options with the School given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
177	Verdin Exchange	Football	Town Council	Two adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of poor quality. The 9v9 is played to capacity whilst the adult pitches have discounted spare capacity. A housing development will take the pitches on site offline but these will be re-provided once building works are complete. Outstanding funds are ringfenced for the improvement and maintenance of pitches on site. Listed in the LFFP for ancillary improvements. S106 funding has already been allocated for the provision of changing facilities	Ensure pitches are re-provided to a good quality. Ensure ancillary facilities are provided on site.	Town Council FA	Local	H	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide LFFP
180	Whitegate Football Pitch (Plough Playing Fields)	Football	Council	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of poor quality. Despite this, pitch quality is said to have improved following increased maintenance through lockdown. Only the 7v7 pitch on site is used on site although spare capacity is discounted from both pitches.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
188	St Chad's C of E Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use (no local demand).	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
198	Great Budworth CE Primary School	Football	School	A mini 7v7 and a mini 5v5 pitch both assessed as poor. Unused by the community despite being available.	Improve pitch quality to attract usage. Pursue security of tenure for potential club users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
200	Over St Johns CE Primary	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Improve pitch quality and then explore community use options with the School to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Provide Protect Enhance
223	Whitegate CE Primary School	Football	School	A 5v5 and a 7v7 pitch both of which are standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use options with the School in order to maximise use.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Provide Protect
251	Greenfields Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch which is played to capacity.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain quality.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
254	Darnhall Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch which is unused by the community despite being available.	Further explore community use options with the School in order to maximise use.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY – WINSFORD ANALYSIS AREA ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>33</sup>	Cost <sup>34</sup>	Aim
262	Cassia Green Whitegate	Football	Council	An adult and a 7v7 pitch both of standard quality. Both pitch formats have one MES of actual spare capacity each.	Explore options to maximise use of the site.	Council FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
-	Former Handley Hill Primary School	-	Council	Closed as a Community School in 2009. Attached playing field approximately 1.7 hectares. Negotiations underway with a developer for a joint venture development. Six school schemes allocated for funding as replacement provision. Planning approval was provided for 82 dwellings in 2020. It is unknown whether any mitigation has been secured for this development as of yet.	Ensure appropriate mitigation is provided for the loss of the playing fields on site.	Council	Local	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2030 (in line with the Local Plan). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. Sport England's 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. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision. The Calculator splits the total pitch requirement into natural turf pitches to meet peak period demand, artificial grass pitches to meet training demand, and the additional number of changing rooms required to support the new demand.

The scenarios below are examples on how the Playing Pitch Calculator can be used in order to understand the potential additional demand for pitch sports from housing growth in addition to potential associated costs. As part of the PPS, KKP will also update the Developer Contributions Guidance note, which was developed in 2016 by the Council and Sport England, by KKP.

It is recommended that the Council work with Sport England to develop a process and guidance to obtain developer contributions from single or cumulative housing developments.

Please note that the scenarios can be updated as required over the Local Plan period and throughout the lifespan of the PPS to reflect population projections, team generation rates and change in the average household size.

The following scenarios have been provided to estimate the additional demand for pitch sport by type:

- Scenario 1: Allocated housing developments without planning permission across the whole study area
- Scenario 2: Allocated housing developments without planning permission in Winsford
- Scenario 3: Allocated housing developments without planning permission in Northwich

### ***Scenario 1: Allocated housing developments without planning permission***

The Council's housing target set out in its Local Plan is for an additional 22,000 new homes to be provided for the period 2010-2030.

Since the Local Plan was adopted, there have been 14,993 net completions, meaning a remaining requirement of 7,007 dwellings. However, there are 9,709 commitments with extant planning permission and a further 2,011 dwellings that are allocated without planning permission (plus 805 dwellings designated as small site windfall).

This scenario will examine the likely demand for pitch sports generated by providing the further 2,011 dwellings that are allocated without planning permission. The population increase for 2,011 new homes in CW&C is estimated at 4,625 people (based on an average of 2.3 people per household).

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

*Table 7.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing developments without planning permission*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 2,011 dwellings	
	Match demand per week <sup>35</sup>	Training demand <sup>36</sup>
Adult football	0.99	10.89 hours
Youth football	2.44	
Mini soccer	2.01	
Rugby union	0.34	0.37 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00	0.00
Adult hockey	0.31	0.92 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.23	0.32 hours
Cricket	17.9	-

The table below translates demand into new pitch provision required to accommodate the demand, with associated capital and lifecycle costs. The Calculator estimates the total capital cost for the anticipated growth across all pitch types would be £845,030 which would require an annual lifecycle cost of £116,498 per annum.

*Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision*

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>37</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>38</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.99	£96,884	£20,443	1.98	£334,250
Youth football	2.44	£191,673	£40,251	3.01	£508,151
Mini soccer	2.01	£49,260	£10,345	0.00	£0
Rugby union	0.34	£46,740	£10,002	0.68	£115,181
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	0.39	£112,834	£22,792	0.78	£131,958
Sand based AGPs	0.08	£68,243	£2,116	0.17	£28,366
3G	0.29	£279,396	£10,549	0.57	£96,875
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.54</b>	<b>£845,030</b>	<b>£116,498</b>	<b>7.19</b>	<b>£1,214,781</b>

The calculator also estimates that there will be a need to provide 7.19 changing rooms to support the new pitch provision in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is estimated to be £1,214,781.

It should also be noted that whilst additional demand is insufficient to result in new provision, except for football, contributions towards existing sites should be considered.

<sup>35</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>36</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>37</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>38</sup> 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)

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### Scenario 2: Allocated housing developments without planning permission in Winsford

Of the 2,011 dwellings that are allocated without planning permission, 1,594 are located in the Winsford Analysis Area. Therefore, this scenario examines the likely demand for pitch sports generated by providing 1,594 dwellings in the Winsford Analysis Area. The population increase derived from these developments is estimated at 3,666.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing developments without planning permission in Winsford

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 1,594 dwellings	
	Match demand per week <sup>39</sup>	Training demand <sup>40</sup>
Adult football	0.03	0.53 hours
Youth football	0.14	
Mini soccer	0.09	
Rugby union	0.00	0.00
Rugby league	0.00	0.00
Adult hockey	0.00	0.00
Junior & mixed hockey	0.00	0.00
Cricket	0.21	-

The table below translates demand into new pitch provision required to accommodate the demand, with associated capital and lifecycle costs. The Calculator estimates the total capital cost for the anticipated growth across all pitch types would be £31,644 which would require an annual lifecycle cost of £4,296 per annum.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision in Winsford

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>41</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>42</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.03	£3,113	£657	0.06	£10,741
Youth football	0.14	£11,208	£2,354	0.21	£35,803
Mini soccer	0.09	£2,205	£463	0.00	£0
Rugby union	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	0.01	£1,531	£309	0.01	£1,790
Sand based AGPs	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
3G	0.01	£13,587	£513	0.03	£4,711
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>£31,644</b>	<b>£4,296</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>£53,045</b>

<sup>39</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>40</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>41</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>42</sup> 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)

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The calculator also estimates that there will be a need to provide 0.31 changing rooms to support the new pitch provision in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is estimated to be £53,045.

The small amount of additional demand generated suggests improvements to existing sites within the locality may be required rather than new provision.

### **Scenario 3: Allocated housing developments without planning permission in Northwich**

Of the 2,011 dwellings that are allocated without planning permission, 407 are located in the Northwich Analysis Area. Therefore, this scenario examines the likely demand for pitch sports generated by providing 407 dwellings in the Northwich Analysis Area. The population increase derived from these developments is estimated at 936.

*Table 7.5: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing developments without planning permission in Northwich*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 407 dwellings	
	Match demand per week <sup>43</sup>	Training demand <sup>44</sup>
Adult football	0.04	0.63 hours
Youth football	0.17	
Mini soccer	0.10	
Rugby union	0.03	0.04 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00	0.00
Adult hockey	0.01	0.02 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.00	0.01 hours
Cricket	0.89	-

The table below translates demand into new pitch provision required to accommodate the demand, with associated capital and lifestyle costs. The Calculator estimates the total capital cost for the anticipated growth across all pitch types would be £47,736 which would require an annual lifecycle cost of £6,910 per annum.

<sup>43</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>44</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

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Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>45</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>46</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.04	£3,842	£811	0.08	£13,255
Youth football	0.17	£13,672	£2,871	0.19	£32,908
Mini soccer	0.10	£2,517	£529	0.00	£0
Rugby union	0.03	£4,266	£913	0.06	£10,512
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	0.02	£5,555	£1,122	0.04	£6,497
Sand based AGPs	0.00	£1,649	£51	0.00	£686
3G	0.02	£16,235	£613	0.03	£5,629
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>£47,736</b>	<b>£6,910</b>	<b>0.41</b>	<b>£69,487</b>

The calculator also estimates that there will be a need to provide 0.41 changing rooms to support the new pitch provision in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is estimated to be £69,487.

As with Scenario 2, the small amount of additional demand generated suggests improvements to existing sites within the locality may be required rather than new provision.

### Conclusions

Scenario One indicates that, over the remaining course of the Local Plan period, housing developments will result in increased pitch demand in CW&C; however, the total level is now relatively minimal. In reality, the requirements will be staggered, with existing provision able to meet some if not all of the needs when developments are considered on a case-by-case or area-by-area basis. This would be achieved through contributions being directed towards improvements of existing provision rather than through new provision.

Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created in their own right, as evidenced through scenarios two and three, where the increased demand does not equate to a whole pitch for any of the sports. However, the cumulative impact of such developments must also be taken into account.

Based on the above, new pitches should only be considered as a requirement where enough demand exists to warrant 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 offer long-term sustainability. As such, if numerous developments in an area warrant new pitch provision, but not even for multi-pitch provision, consideration should be given to pooling resources to create one larger site, rather than numerous smaller sites.

<sup>45</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>46</sup> 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: KEEP THE STRATEGY 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, as agreed by Sport England and the NGBs, a more tailored approach should be considered for CW&C, aligning with the processes adopted by other local authorities in the North West (see Appendix 1).

### ***Delivery***

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

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner and is engaged 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. A delivery and implementation group is therefore going to be set up, with regular meetings to be scheduled.

The update 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 PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand.

The process of developing the PPS 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 PPS 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 annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should 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 PPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. This should form an on-going role of the steering group. It is possible that in the interim between annual reviews the steering group could operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

It is agreed that the Council will be responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up to date in order that area by area action plans can also be updated. Partnership working is essential in enabling the Council to keep the supply and

demand data up to date. 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 the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches is likely to have changed over the three years, therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period 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 PPS 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.

Once the PPS is complete the role of the steering group should evolve so that it:

- ◀ Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPS and playing pitch provision in the area
- ◀ Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan
- ◀ Shares lessons learnt from how the PPS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances
- ◀ Ensures the PPS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- ◀ Maintains links between all relevant parties with an interest in playing pitch provision in the area;
- ◀ Reviews the need to update the PPS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
  - ◀ Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
  - ◀ Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
  - ◀ Lead a full review and update of the PPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

Alongside the regular steering group meetings, it is recommended that CW&C Council holds annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant organisations. These meetings should 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. Things to consider include formation of new teams or loss of teams, any new formats of the sports that would impact on facilities, changes in quality or creation of new facilities.

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 will also be able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area. Discussion with the league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings which it may be useful to attend to pick up any specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

The steering group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education or other private sites in the future. Updating the action plans will make the task of updating the PPS much easier.


It is important that the Council maintains the data contained within the accompanying PPOSS database. This will enable it to refresh and update the work on a regular basis. The accompanying database is intended to be refreshed on a season-by-season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental work encompassing, for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved. The results should inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans and be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

### ***Checklist***

To help ensure the PPS 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:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

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Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 9: Apply &amp; deliver the strategy</b>		
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?		
<b>Step 10: Keep the strategy robust &amp; up to date</b>		
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?		

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## APPENDIX ONE: TAILORED APPROACH FOR CW&C STAGE E

What?	Who?	When?
<p><b>1. Internal Steering Group Meeting</b></p> <p>Meeting between council officers internal Steering Group members to discuss and log key changes in provision, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ New pitch provision</li> <li>◆ Pitch improvements</li> <li>◆ Pitch re-configuration</li> <li>◆ Pitch loss/threat</li> <li>◆ Community access agreements (e.g. education/private sites)</li> <li>◆ Plans for future provision</li> </ul> <p>The outcomes from the meeting and updates to documents should be recorded.</p>	CW&C Council	Bi-Annually
<p><b>2. Sport England and NGB Update Meetings</b></p> <p>The Council to hold series of update meetings with individual sports NGBs to discuss and log:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Any changes in club and team details</li> <li>◆ Any changes in sport format</li> <li>◆ Any site specific updates</li> <li>◆ Changes to supply and demand data</li> <li>◆ The application and use of the PPOSS e.g. in delivery of new or improved provision, funding opportunities, programmes and initiatives</li> <li>◆ Any new issues and opportunities.</li> </ul>	CW&C Council NGBs Sport England	Annually for each sport, to fit with affiliation process (generally October for winter sports and June for summer sports)

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What?	Who?	When?
<p><b>3. Prepare Annual PPS Progress Paper</b></p> <p>Based on the outcome of actions above, a short Annual PPOSS Progress and Update paper should be produced, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ The delivery of PPOSS recommendations and any changes in priority;</li> <li>✦ Changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area and other supply and demand information with implications for PPOSS's key findings;</li> <li>✦ Details of any developments of a specific sport or particular format;</li> <li>✦ Details of any new or emerging issues and opportunities;</li> <li>✦ Any issues with the application of the PPOSS and lessons learnt;</li> <li>✦ Actions needed to keep the PPOSS 'live' and up to date.</li> </ul> <p>Based on the above, the Annual Progress Paper will also consider if a partial or full update of the PPS is required.</p> <p>Alternatively, both the Assessment Report and the Strategy can be updated to take into account and referencing all of the above.</p>	PPS Steering Group	Annually
<p><b>4. Circulation and Agreement</b></p> <p>Circulate the Annual Progress Paper or updated PPOSS document to the Steering Group for comment and agreement with opportunity to hold a further meeting to discuss findings and issues.</p>	PPS Steering Group	Annually
<p><b>5. Publish Paper</b></p> <p>Make Annual Progress paper or updated documents available online; report any significant findings to appropriate committee if considered necessary.</p>	CW&C Council	Annually – following completion of all of the above

## APPENDIX TWO: 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 Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)***

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

#### ***Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)***

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

### *Tackling inequalities*

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.



Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

### ***National Planning Policy Framework (2019)***

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.

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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 full size 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.

### ***Time for Change: The FA Strategy (2020-2024)***

The new FA strategy aims to take the FA and English football forward with bold leadership and ambitious targets to build on the progress of the last four years. It identifies six Game Changer objectives and eight Serve the Game objectives which demonstrate its determination to substantially change the fabric of the game and address key societal issues.

The Game Changer objectives are:

- ✦ Win a major tournament
- ✦ Serve two million + through a transformed digital platform
- ✦ Equal opportunities for every girl
- ✦ Deliver 5,000 quality pitches
- ✦ A game free from discrimination
- ✦ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and Women’s Super League

These are underpinned by its eight Serve the Game objectives, which are:

- ✦ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ✦ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ✦ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ✦ Maximum investment into the game

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- ◀ Diverse, high performance workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

### ***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

The FA launched its National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ ***Grow and nurture the core***
  - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
  - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
  - ◀ Invest in club facilities
  - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
  - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ ***Inspire through elite teams***
  - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
  - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
  - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
  - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ ***Make cricket accessible***
  - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
  - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
  - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
  - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
  - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition

- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
  - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
  - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
  - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
  - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
  - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
  - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
  - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ **Support our communities**
  - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
  - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
  - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
  - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)***

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.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7's offering

### ***The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy***

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website [www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk](http://www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk) provides further information on:

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 - 2017

### ***Rugby League World Cup ‘Inspired by 2021’ Legacy Programme***

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021’s ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

### ***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters 2013***

The vision is for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’.

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation’s pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

The core objectives are as follows:

1. Grow our Participation
2. Deliver International Success
3. Increase our Visibility
4. Enhance our Infrastructure
5. For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

### *Club participation*

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

### ***England Hockey Strategy***

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

**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.



## APPENDIX THREE: FUNDING PLAN

### Funding opportunities

In order to deliver much of the Action Plan it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated. Below is a list of current funding bodies and relevant website links; further detail is not available at this stage as the funding streams are regularly changing.

Awarding body	Website link
The National Lottery Community Fund	<a href="http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/">http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/</a>
Sport England	<a href="https://www.sportengland.org/funding/">https://www.sportengland.org/funding/</a>
Football Foundation	<a href="https://footballfoundation.org.uk/what-we-do">https://footballfoundation.org.uk/what-we-do</a>
Rugby Football Foundation (RFF)	<a href="http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113">http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113</a>
The England and Wales Cricket Trust	<a href="https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding">https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding</a>
EU Life Fund	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</a>
National Hockey Foundation	<a href="http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/">http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</a>
Rugby Football League	<a href="https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities">https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities</a>

### Funder's requirements

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

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

### Indicative costs

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

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>



## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

## APPENDIX FOUR: GLOSSARY

**Exported/imported demand** generally relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area (i.e. from residents of the study area) which takes place outside of the area. This may be due to issues with the provision of pitches and ancillary facilities in the study area, just reflective of how the sports are played (e.g. at a central venue for the wider area) or due to the most convenient site for the respective users just falling outside of the local authority/study area.

**Unmet demand** is demand that is known to exist but unable to be accommodated on current supply of pitches. This could be in the form of a team with access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. This could also be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have declined applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

**Latent demand** is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.

**Future demand** is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the study area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure.

**Casual use** or other use could take place on natural grass pitches or AGPs and include:

- ✦ Regular play from non-sports club sources (e.g. companies, schools, fitness classes)
- ✦ Infrequent informal/friendly matches
- ✦ Informal training sessions
- ✦ More casual forms of a particular sport organised by sports clubs or other parties
- ✦ Significant public use and informal play, particularly where pitches are located in parks/recreation grounds.

**Carrying capacity** is the amount of play a site can regularly accommodate (in the relevant comparable unit) for community use without adversely affecting its quality and use. This is typically outlined by the NGB.

**Overplay** is when a pitch is used over the amount that the carrying capacity will allow, (i.e. more than the site can accommodate). 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.

**Spare capacity** is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in addition to current activity. There may be reasons why this potential to accommodate additional play should not automatically be regarded as actual spare capacity, for example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below its carrying capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of friendly matches and training activity. This needs to be investigated before the capacity is deemed **actual spare capacity**.

## CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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**Match equivalent sessions** is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football, rugby union and rugby league, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season and one match = one match equivalent session.

## APPENDIX FIVE: CW&C PLACE PLAN

*Cheshire West and Chester- Place Plan 2019-24*

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/policies-and-performance/council-plans-and-strategies/council-plan/priorities/priorities.aspx>

Using insights from our current Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Plan represents our vision for the next five years, highlighting areas where we can do more together to benefit the people of Cheshire West.

The vision: "Reduce inequalities, increase years of healthy life and promote improved mental and physical health and wellbeing for everyone in Cheshire West."

Priorities:

Our focus for the next four years will be to ensure we all play to our part to

- ▶ Support children and young people to make the best start in life and achieve their full potential
- ▶ Enable more adults to live longer, healthier and happier lives
- ▶ Make our neighbourhoods even better places to call home
- ▶ An efficient and empowering Council
- ▶ Healthy lifestyles and preventing ill-health
- ▶ Tackle the Climate Emergency
- ▶ Grow our local economy and deliver good jobs with fair wages for our residents

Emphasis on the wider determinants and a good start in life does not mean that actions at later stages of the life course are unimportant. Adulthood is an important time for maintaining good health, reducing health risks and where necessary, intervening early. Prevention is as much about the kind of communities we live in, the lifestyle choices we make, and the quality of care we receive, as it is the contents of our medicine cabinets. It is also about early detection, intervention and access to services and activities that can help maintain and sustain our good health.

## APPENDIX SIX: PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The draft Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy were taken out to public consultation in 2022/23 to ask for comments on the vision and aims of the strategy.

The consultation received 61 survey responses and 3 participants emailed telling us their views.

### Key messages

The key messages to emerge from the consultation process are provided below.

- The majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the vision and aims of the draft strategy.
- Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the recommendations for football, 3G and cricket pitches.
- Around half of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the recommendations for rugby union, rugby union, rugby league, hockey, and other sports pitches. Around a third of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with the recommendations for these sports.
- Some respondents felt the standard of existing pitches should be improved and have better maintenance schedules.
- Some respondents felt that pitches and green spaces should not be closed or built upon as they are important resources for communities and residents mental and physical health.

The full findings report can be found by following the link below.

[Playing Pitch Strategy Consultation | Participate Now \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](https://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/playing-pitch-strategy-consultation-participate-now)