



# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

APRIL 2018

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS .....	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	2
PART 1: INTRODUCTION .....	8
PART 2: VISION.....	18
PART 3: AIMS.....	19
PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	20
PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS .....	37
PART 6: ACTION PLAN.....	53
PART 7: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE.....	73
APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT .....	77
APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN .....	82
APPENDIX THREE: GLOSSARY .....	86

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third generation turf
AGP	Artificial grass pitch
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
IOG	Institute of Groundsmanship
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
NGB	National governing body of sport
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non turf pitch (cricket)
MOD	Ministry of Defence
OAN	Objectively Assessed Need
ONS	Office for National Statistics
WCC	Winchester City Council
WDGFL	Winchester & District Girls Football League
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
SDNP	South Downs National Park
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the executive summary for Winchester's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). Both the Strategy and the preceding Assessment Report have been produced in accordance with Sport England guidance and both have achieved sign off from National Governing Bodies (NGBs). The study covers the period up to 2031 (in line with the adopted Local Plan Part 1 and 2).

**Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities can be protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by sports organisations, education establishments and parish/town councils. In many instances, the Council will not be a key partner in delivering these actions or recommendations, meaning the PPS is not just for the Council to act upon, but for all the stakeholders and partners involved within the project.**

## Scope

The project provides guidance and support in order to understand and assess the need for playing pitches. It provides a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing provision and covers the following sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Third generation artificial grass (3G) pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches (for hockey)

Pitch sports were assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS.

In addition, outdoor bowling greens were also agreed for inclusion within the PPS. For non-pitch sports, the supply and demand principles of Sport England methodology: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) were followed to ensure the process is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

## Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the PPS. It seeks to support the Council and its partners.

*'An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports facilities that provides and promotes local opportunities for participation by all residents at all levels of play from grassroots to elite'*

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings relating to the main pitch sports from the Playing Pitch Assessment Report.

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (2018)	Future demand (2031) <sup>1</sup>
Football (grass pitches)	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 15 adult, 4.5 youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and five mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 12.5 adult and two mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 10.5 youth 11v11, four youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.</li> </ul>
Football (3G pitches) <sup>2</sup>	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ A shortfall of three full size 3G pitches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ A shortfall of four full size 3G pitches.</li> </ul>
Cricket	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 330 match equivalent sessions per season</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 294 match equivalent sessions per season</li> </ul>
Rugby union	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 6.75 match equivalent sessions at Winchester Rugby Club.</li> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 3.75 match equivalent sessions at Alresford Rugby Club.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of seven match equivalent sessions at Winchester Rugby Club.</li> <li>◀ Spare capacity of three match equivalent sessions at Alresford Rugby Club.</li> </ul>
Hockey	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Current demand is being met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of one hockey suitable AGP</li> </ul>
Bowls	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Current demand is being met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Future demand can be met.</li> </ul>

## Summary

In the main, grass pitch provision in Winchester is meeting the current needs of the District's population, although shortfalls at Winchester Rugby Club (a result of dual use from both the Club and the University of Winchester) are identified. This shortfall can be alleviated through a range of options which are detailed in the Winchester PPS strategy; it should be noted that improvements to the site will not be a requirement of the Council.

When taking into consideration population growth, shortfalls are considered to exist for grass football pitches; however, this does not mean that there is a need for increased provision. Instead, such shortfalls can be alleviated via improving the quality of the existing stock of

<sup>1</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

<sup>2</sup> Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training. The figures for the analysis areas do not equate to the figure for Winchester as a whole as it assumes that no migration takes place.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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pitches and through gaining access to provision that is not currently available to the community, such as at school sites.

For 3G pitches there are identified shortfalls, both now and in the future, which can only be alleviated through increasing provision. Enabling this will also reduce pressures on grass pitches. It should be noted that although these shortfalls are apparent, there is no requirement for WCC to provide these as, generally, both the FA and Football Foundation will work to deliver increased stock.

For hockey suitable AGPs, it is anticipated that significant growth from Winchester HC will generate a need for an additional AGP. Similarly, there is not a requirement for this to be provided by WCC.

## **Scenarios**

### *Scenario 1 – The Garrison*

Proposals to develop a new leisure facility at the Garrison Ground will result in the loss of one standard quality adult pitch and two overmarked mini 7v7 pitches (two mini pitches are overmarked on each adult pitch).

In order to meet NPPF Paragraph 74 requirements, the leisure centre development will be adjudged against Sport England's Playing Fields Policy - 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' Policy Exception E5 which states that 'the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields'.

If successful on this basis, it is recommended that there is still a need to mitigate the loss of playing field land through the improvement and upgrade of ancillary provision at King George V Playing Fields (to the latest FA specifications) which should include both changing facilities and toilets. Additionally, pitch improvements should be made to the site to increase capacity of pitches for match play. Lastly, and as part of the wider facility offering, there will also be a need to better manage parking and improve maintenance of grassed areas where parking currently takes place.

The intention is for the League to move to the site before the start of the 2018/2019 season. As such, King George V Playing Fields need to be brought up to an appropriate standard for female activity before September 2018.

### *Scenario 2 – housing development*

Across the Winchester District and adjoining the District there are three large housing developments which are going to create dedicated playing pitch provision. The three developments are:

- ◀ Barton Farm – Will create one adult and two youth 11v11 pitches.
- ◀ North Whiteley– Will create ten adult pitches, (two unavailable for community use) and two full size AGPs.
- ◀ Berewood North of Fareham in Fareham Borough Council area – Will create one mini 7v7 pitch.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The table below highlights what impact this provision will have on the future picture for playing pitches using the headline findings noted above.

*Table 1.2: Likely impact of future pitch provision*

Sport	Analysis area	Future demand (2031)	Impact of new pitch provision
Football (grass pitches)	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 12.5 adult and seven mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 8.5 youth 11v11, four youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 21.5 and eight mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 6.5 youth 11v11, four youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.</li> </ul>
Football (3G pitches) <sup>3</sup>	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ A shortfall of four full size 3G pitches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ A shortfall of two full size 3G pitches</li> </ul>

As can be seen, there is an increase in spare capacity for adult and mini 7v7 pitches across the District, as well as reductions in youth 11v11 shortfalls. Furthermore, the requirement for 3G pitches is significantly reduced.

Given that there is substantial future spare capacity on adult pitches, there is scope to reconfigure these to better suit the needs of the Winchester District. If pitch configuration takes place moving forward, it is likely that this will result in shortfalls being mainly alleviated.

As previously stated, remaining 3G shortfalls are not the responsibility of WCC to address.

## **Sport-by-sport recommendations**

A number of relevant scenarios have been tested against key issues for each sport, resulting in the following recommendations.

### **Football**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Seek to increase use of 3G pitches in order to increase capacity available on grass pitches to address future shortfalls (where suitable).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality (first and foremost via the FA's Pitch Improvement Programme).
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities at key sites that are currently serviced by poor provision (e.g. Durley Recreation Ground, Eversley Park, HCC Sports and Social Club, King George V Recreation Ground and Owlesbury Recreation Ground)
- ◀ Ensure appropriate mitigation should the pitches at the Garrison Ground be permanently lost.

<sup>3</sup> Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training, rounded to the nearest whole number. The figures for the analysis areas do not equate to the figure for Winchester as a whole as it assumes that no migration takes place.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## ***3G pitches (NB demand for 3G pitches derives from the FA training model)***

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Consider resurface of the pitch at Perins Community School given quality issues.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- ◀ Identify feasible sites to increase provision of full size 3G pitches to meet training and competitive demand, particularly in North Winchester.
- ◀ Through a partnership between the FA and the RFU, consider making one of the additional 3G pitches World Rugby compliant given rugby grass pitch shortfalls.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.

## ***Cricket***

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on pitches to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining.
- ◀ Work with key stakeholders and clubs to improve ancillary provision where issues are identified, notably at North Walls Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Address overplay via the transfer of play to NTPs (where suitable) and through rigorous maintenance regimes.

## ***Rugby union***

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Reduce overplay of Winchester Rugby Club through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems.
- ◀ Consider providing additional floodlighting at Winchester Rugby Club to spread out training demand.
- ◀ Explore feasibility of installing floodlights at Alresbury Park to allow for midweek training demand from Alresford RFC.
- ◀ Support Winchester RFC in its aspirations to provide improved quality changing facilities.
- ◀ Ensure any transfer of demand by Locksheath Pumas RFC provides an adequate number of pitches that are a suitable quality.

## ***Hockey***

- ◀ As a minimum, protect the two pitches currently in use by hockey clubs for hockey.
- ◀ Seek to accommodate current and expressed future demand on the current pitch stock and then explore opportunities to develop and add to the pitch stock in a suitable location.
- ◀ If feasible, look to work with Winchester HC as part of any new development to offer ancillary provision at new or preferential sites including Winchester Sports Stadium and Kings School.
- ◀ Support Winchester HC to adopt a coherent approach to facility usage, factoring in the need to develop an additional pitch to meet junior demand.
- ◀ Ensure that current and future providers have sinking funds in place at all sites to ensure pitches can improve when required and to guarantee long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Pursue long-term security of tenure for all clubs through community use agreements.



# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey.

## ***Bowls***

- ◀ Protect all bowling greens unless a club begins operating with less than 20 members.
- ◀ Improve green quality at sites assessed as standard quality and sustain quality of greens assessed as good.
- ◀ Pursue clubhouse improvements servicing Colden Common BC and Twyford BC.

## **Delivering the Strategy**

The PPS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across the Winchester District. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in the Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Winchester District can be satisfied.

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 the steering group. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years, Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Winchester City Council (WCC) and its partners. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities up to 2031 (in line with the adopted Local Plan Part 1 and 2).

A PPS provides the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements. Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning, local policies and sport development criteria can be implemented efficiently and effectively. The strategy is capable of the following in Winchester:

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

**Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities can be protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by sports organisations, education establishments and parish/town councils. In many instances, the Council will not be a key partner in delivering these actions or recommendations, meaning the PPS is not just for the Council to act upon, but for all the stakeholders and partners involved within the project.**

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

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision
- ◀ A range of sport by sport and local authority wide scenarios to help inform policy recommendations and prioritisation of actions.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for the Winchester District over a ten year time frame.. It provides a framework for improvement and, although

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding (see Appendix Four: Funding Plan<sup>4</sup>).

## Monitoring and updating

A Steering Group has led and will continue to lead the PPS to ensure the delivery and implementation of its recommendations and actions. It is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England and pitch sport National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). This includes the Football Foundation, the Hampshire County Football Association, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), the Hampshire Cricket Board, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and England Hockey (EH).

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 Council and supported by the Steering Group. 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. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document, and kept up to date, the time frame can be extended to five years.

The PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is adopted by Winchester City Council. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that would have been built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. Part 7 of this strategy report contains a suggested process for carrying out the update and monitoring. The Steering Group will need to set out the process prior to adoption of this strategy.

## Study area

The study area is the Winchester District (including the SDNP), which is divided into 16 distinct wards. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. For this reason, the Winchester District is divided into the following two analysis areas based on ward boundaries (as seen in Figure 1 overleaf):

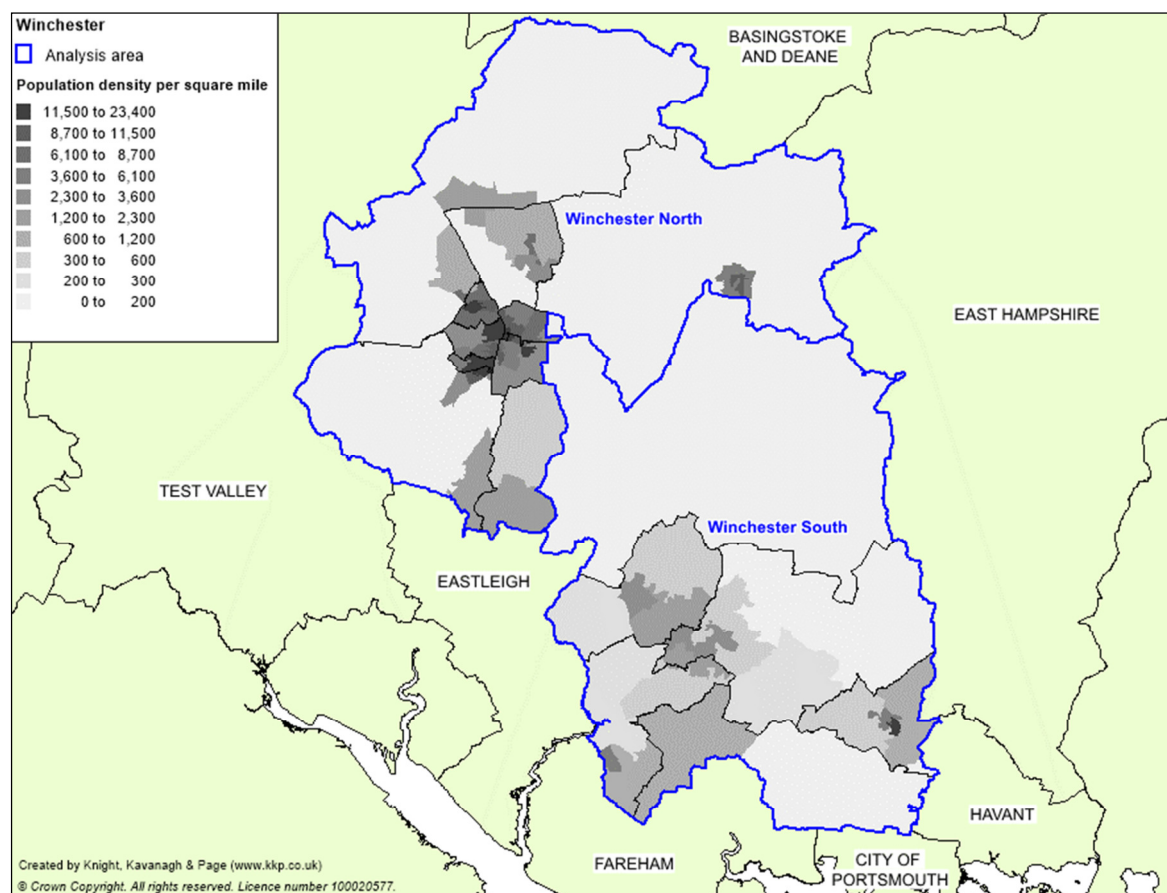
- ◀ **North** – Alresford & Itchen Valley, Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery, Colden Common & Twyford, St Barnabas, St Bartholomew, St Luke, St Michael, St Paul, The Worthys, Wonston & Micheldever.
- ◀ **South** – Bishop's Waltham, Central Meon Valley, Denmead, Southwich & Wickham, Upper Meon Valley, Whiteley & Shedfield.

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<sup>4</sup> Please note that Sport England funding streams will be subject to change throughout 2017/18.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



## Scope

The following pitch sports were agreed for inclusion in the Assessment and Strategy:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Third generation artificial grass (3G) pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches (for hockey)

Pitch sports were assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS.

Rugby league is not known to be played within the Winchester District itself and no activity was identified through the PPS process and therefore the sport has not been included.

In addition, outdoor bowling greens were also agreed for inclusion within the PPS. For non-pitch sports, the supply and demand principles of Sport England methodology: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) were followed to ensure the process is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

## Context

The primary purpose of a PPS is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor sports facilities meet the local needs of existing and future residents across the Winchester District. The Strategy is produced in accordance with Sport England PPS Guidance (October 2013 and updated in March 2014) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and provides robust and objective justification for future outdoor sports provision throughout the District.

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. Paragraph 73 discusses 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.

The Winchester District Local Plan needs to be based upon a robust evidence base and as such, this document should inform any forthcoming review of the Local Plan. Paragraph 73 of the NPPF requires “planning policies to be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of needs. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.” Paragraph 74 of the NPPF require assessments to be used to inform the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.”

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively. A Playing Pitch Strategy will complement the objectives and action plan associated with other corporate strategies:

### Corporate and strategic:

- ◀ It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. The PPS will act as a tool for Winchester City Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for pitch sports in the future.
- ◀ It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities a playing pitch strategy can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants. Current funding examples include the Sport England Funding Programmes, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery.

### Planning:

- ◀ The Playing Pitch Strategy will provide important evidence to support the Winchester District Local Plan Review.
- ◀ It will support strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being.
- ◀ Evidence for provision within new developments, collection of contributions from development and use of CIL funding.

### Operational:

- ◀ It can help improve management of assets management, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ◀ The Action Plan will identify sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ An assessment of all pitches (in use and lapsed) will be undertaken to understand how pitches are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

Sports development:

- ◀ It helps identify which sites have community use and whether that use is secure or not.
- ◀ It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed to address any identified deficits in pitch provision.
- ◀ It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use.

This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids as well as background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation (it is noted that this will not be the case until the next review of the Local Plan). 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).

## ***Local context***

Winchester is the County Town of Hampshire, but the District is extensive covering over 160,000 acres and part of the South Downs National Park (SDNP), which is England's newest National Park having been fully operational since April 2011. As such, there is a variety of pitch ownership and management across the District ranging from WCC to parish councils such as Bishops Waltham Parish Council and private sports and social clubs such as Winchester Rugby Club. The majority of sporting clubs do not own their own facilities and this creates some issues around security of tenure.

The University of Winchester offers a sporting hub within the City of Winchester. The University opened the Winchester Sports Stadium in 2008 which now provides high quality facilities for both hockey and football. The University also enters numerous teams into various competitions in a variety of sports on a weekly basis.

In general, football is the dominant sport across the City with many senior teams competing in the competitive leagues such as the Winchester & District Football League, whilst youth football is predominately played in the Southampton & District Youth League and the Winchester & District Girls League. Winchester City Football Club competes at the highest level, competing at Step 4 in the football pyramid.

## ***Local planning context***

Local Plan Part 1 for the Winchester District including that part within SDNP was adopted in March 2013 and provides a spatial planning framework for managing change as well as strategic development allocations. SDNP has since produced its own Local Plan, which it intends to adopt in the next couple of years. Local Plan Part 1 sets out a development strategy and strategic allocations for 12,500 new dwellings over the plan period (2011-2031). Local Plan Part 2 – site allocations and development management policies adopted in April 2017, identifies a number of smaller sites for housing purposes.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The Winchester Open Space Strategy (2015) provides a local assessment of open spaces within the District. This looked at quantity and accessibility of all open space types including sports grounds against the standard in Policy CP7. It found a mixture of deficits and surpluses across the District, with a significant 11 ha shortfall of sports grounds in Winchester town, but an overall surplus of 13 ha.

## Headline findings

The following table highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all sports included in the preceding PPS Assessment Report. For pitch sports, this is shown area-by-area as well as District; for non-pitch sports, it is shown for Winchester as a whole. Please note that there is expected to be an increase in playing pitch provision provided in the future on back of large scale housing developments in the Winchester District. This will directly impact on the headline findings below and therefore; a separate scenario has been created to reflect this in Part 4.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (2018)	Future demand (2031) <sup>5</sup>
Football (grass pitches)	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 15 adult, 4.5 youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and five mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 12.5 adult and two mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 10.5 youth 11v11, four youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.</li> </ul>
	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of seven adult, 0.5 youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 match equivalent session.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 0.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 5.5 match adult and 3.5 mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 8.5 youth 11v11, three youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 match equivalent session.</li> </ul>
	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of eight adult, four youth 11v11, 1.5 youth 9v9 and four mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of seven adult and 4.5 mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 match equivalent session.</li> </ul>
Football (3G pitches) <sup>6</sup>	Winchester District	◀ A shortfall of three full size 3G pitches.	◀ A shortfall of four full size 3G pitches.
	North	◀ Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches.	◀ Shortfall of three full size 3G pitches.
	South	◀ Shortfall of two full size 3G	◀ Shortfall of two full size 3G

<sup>5</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

<sup>6</sup> Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training. The figures for the analysis areas do not equate to the figure for Winchester as a whole as it assumes that no migration takes place.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (2018)	Future demand (2031) <sup>5</sup>
		pitches.	pitches.
Cricket	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 330 match equivalent sessions per season</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 294 match equivalent sessions per season</li> </ul>
	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 127 match equivalent session per season</li> <li>◀ Overplay identified at Easton &amp; Martyr Worthy, Compton &amp; Chandler Ford and Sparsholt cricket clubs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 91 match equivalent sessions per season.</li> <li>◀ Overplay identified at Easton &amp; Martyr Worthy, Compton &amp; Chandler Ford and Sparsholt cricket clubs.</li> </ul>
	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 187 matches per season</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 187 match sessions per season</li> </ul>
Rugby union	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 6.75 match equivalent sessions at Winchester Rugby Club.</li> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 3.75 match equivalent sessions at Alresford Rugby Club.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of seven match equivalent sessions at Winchester Rugby Club.</li> <li>◀ Spare capacity of three match equivalent sessions at Alresford Rugby Club.</li> </ul>
	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 6.75 match equivalent sessions at Winchester Rugby Club.</li> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 3.75 match equivalent sessions at Alresford Rugby Club.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of seven match equivalent sessions at Winchester Rugby Club.</li> <li>◀ Spare capacity of three match equivalent sessions at Alresford Rugby Club.</li> </ul>
	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No existing demand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No future demand.</li> </ul>
Hockey	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Current demand is being met for senior hockey</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of provision for junior hockey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of one hockey suitable AGP</li> </ul>
	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Current demand is being met for senior hockey</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of provision for junior hockey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of one hockey suitable AGP</li> </ul>
	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No existing demand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No future demand.</li> </ul>
Bowls	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Current demand is being met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Future demand can be met.</li> </ul>

## Scenario

In the Winchester District there are three large housing developments which are going to create dedicated playing pitch provision. The three developments are:

- ◀ Barton Farm (North Analysis Area) – Will create one adult and two youth 11v11 pitches.
- ◀ North Whiteley (South Analysis Area) – Will create ten adult pitches, (two unavailable for community use) and two full size AGPs.
- ◀ Berewood (South Analysis Area) – Will create one mini 7v7 pitch.



## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The table overleaf highlights what impact this provision will have on the future picture for playing pitches using the headline findings noted above.

*Table 1.2: Likely impact of future pitch provision*

Sport	Analysis area	Future demand (2031)	Impact of new pitch provision
Football (grass pitches)	Winchester District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 12.5 adult and seven mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 8.5 youth 11v11, four youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 21.5 and eight mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 6.5 youth 11v11, four youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.</li> </ul>
	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 5.5 match adult and 4.5 mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 6.5 youth 11v11, three youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 match equivalent session.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 6.5 match adult and 4.5 mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 4.5 youth 11v11, three youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 match equivalent session.</li> </ul>
	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of seven adult and 4.5 mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 match equivalent session.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 15 adult and 5.5 mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 match equivalent session.</li> </ul>
Football (3G pitches) <sup>7</sup>	Winchester District	◀ A shortfall of four full size 3G pitches.	◀ A shortfall of two full size 3G pitches
	North	◀ Shortfall of three full size 3G pitches.	◀ A shortfall of three full size 3G pitches
	South	◀ Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches.	◀ No identified shortfall

As can be seen in the table above, there is an increase in spare capacity for adult and mini 7v7 pitches across the District, as well as reductions in youth 11v11 shortfalls. Furthermore, the requirement for 3G pitches is significantly reduced, with shortfalls in the South Analysis Area alleviated entirely. That being said, this is based on the surface type of the AGPs created both being 3G, whereas, at present, the surface types are unspecified (although 3G is recommended given the lack of hockey demand in the locality of North Whiteley).

Given that spare capacity exists overall for adult pitches, and given the shortfalls evident for youth 11v11 pitches, consideration should be given to re-configuring the design of the sites to provide more youth 11v11 pitches and less adult pitches.

<sup>7</sup> Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training, rounded to the nearest whole number. The figures for the analysis areas do not equate to the figure for Winchester as a whole as it assumes that no migration takes place.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## **Summary**

The assessment report identifies that the existing position for all sports is either that demand is broadly being met with some spare capacity or that there is a shortfall. In terms of the future position, current shortfalls are shown as exacerbating and new shortfalls emerge in respect of some facility types in some areas. For example, increased demand for football and rugby union is predicted to exacerbate current shortfalls and to significantly reduce any pockets of already limited spare capacity. The new developments will meet some of the demand going forward but there is still a need to protect all existing outdoor sports facilities, or to deliver an equal or better quantity and quality of provision to offset any loss of provision prior to the loss taking place.

Theoretically, surpluses and shortfalls expressed for pitch sports could be largely addressed by improving pitch quality improvements at existing operational sites; however, the extent of increased capacity achievable through this route would clearly be dependent upon practical opportunities arising and funding being identified for delivering and sustaining enhancements. Given current budget restraints, significant quality improvements are considered to be unlikely, meaning other opportunities need to be explored such as greater use of sites currently unavailable for community use and pitch re-configuration.

Notwithstanding the above, for sand-based and 3G AGPs, there are clear shortfalls identified which cannot be alleviated unless new provision is created. Given this, there is a distinct need to explore the feasibility of future provision at strategic sites in Winchester to meet this demand. For the purposes of a PPS, a strategic site can be considered to be a pre-existing site which already provides a sport offering such as a school or leisure centre, and as such, there is not an express requirement to allocate new land to alleviate identified 3G and sand-based AGP shortfalls. 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.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## PART 2: VISION

### Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Winchester PPS. It seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of:

*'An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports facilities that provides and promotes local opportunities and a healthy, active lifestyle for Winchester District residents at all levels of play from grassroots to elite'*

To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy has the following aims:

- ◀ 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 facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer term aspirations.
- ◀ Ensure that the facility stock enables residents of the Winchester District to live a healthy, active lifestyle.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see Figure 1 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all stakeholders.

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs up to 2031.

### AIM 2

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

### AIM 3

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

Figure 1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England 2015

## 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 each playing pitch sport; resulting in sport specific recommendations. Please note that these recommendations are not just for the Council, but also for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

### Football – grass pitches

#### Summary

- ◀ The audit identifies a current total of 150 grass football pitches in Winchester across 59 sites. Of these, 111 pitches are available for community use across 46 sites.
- ◀ There are plans to develop a leisure centre at the Garrison Ground (Bar End) on existing football pitches.
- ◀ In total, 13 community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 85 as standard quality and 13 as poor quality.
- ◀ Poor quality pitches are located at Eversley Park, Whiteley Recreation Ground (Meadowside Leisure Centre) and Oakwood Park Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Issues with ancillary provision are identified at Durley Recreation Ground, Eversley Park, HCC Sports and Social Club, King George V Recreation Ground and Owlesbury Recreation Ground.
- ◀ There are five clubs in Winchester which play in the football pyramid, with Winchester City FC playing at the highest level (Step 4).
- ◀ A total of 211 teams were identified as playing within Winchester consisting of 71 men's, five women's, 82 youth boys', 20 youth girls' and 33 mini teams.
- ◀ There is latent demand identified by four clubs equating to three match equivalent sessions on youth pitches.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict a future increase of three senior men's teams, 11 junior boys' teams, and one junior girls team.
- ◀ Of the clubs which quantify their potential future demand, there is a predicted growth of 39 teams amounting to three adult, 26 youth and ten mini teams.
- ◀ In total, 38 match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity exists across Winchester.
- ◀ There are ten pitches overplayed across two sites by a total of nine match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There are no current shortfalls of any pitch type; however, future demand predicts a shortfall of youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches.

#### Scenarios

##### *Improving pitch quality*

Improving pitch quality on overplayed pitches (i.e. through increased maintenance or drainage improvements) to either standard or good quality will increase capacity and therefore help to accommodate expressed overplay.

The table below identifies pitches that are currently overplayed and indicates what the capacity rating would be if quality at these sites improved to good. Currently, all ten overplayed pitches are assessed as poor, meaning overplay would be alleviated and spare capacity created if quality improved.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating (match sessions)	Good quality capacity rating (match sessions)
20	Eversley Park	Adult	2	Poor	3.5	0.5
		Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	0.5
39	Whiteley Recreation Ground (Meadowside Leisure Centre)	Adult	3	Poor	3.5	2.5
		Youth (11v11)	4	Poor	0.5	7.5

To improve quality, the FA's Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) should be used in order to provide recommendations and improvements to the pitches at Eversley Park and Whiteley Recreation Ground (Meadowside Leisure Centre).

Given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for matches. Not only can this alleviate overplay of grass pitches but it can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use.

### *Loss of access to unsecure sites*

There are currently five match equivalent sessions per week taking place on pitches with unsecure tenure. These pitches are located at both education and MOD sites, with no form of community use agreements in place. A loss of access to these pitches would therefore generate the need to re-accommodate ten football teams across Winchester.

### *Loss of grass football provision*

Proposals to develop a new leisure facility at the Garrison Ground will result in the loss of one standard quality adult pitch and two overmarked mini 7v7 pitches (two mini pitches are overmarked on each adult pitch). Presently, the site contains three standard quality pitches with six overmarked mini 7v7 pitches, with the aforementioned development currently proposing two adult pitches being left on site.

In order to meet NPPF Paragraph 74 requirements, the leisure centre development will be adjudged against Sport England's Playing Fields Policy - 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' Policy Exception E5 which states that 'the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields'.

If successful on this basis, it is recommended that there is still a need to mitigate the loss of playing field through the improvement and upgrade of ancillary provision at King George V Playing Fields (to the latest FA specifications) which should include both changing facilities and toilets. Additionally, pitch improvements should be made to the site to increase capacity of pitches for match play. Lastly and as part of the wider facility offering, suitable car parking should be made available to accommodate increased levels of demand as the park and ride facility at Bar End is an impractical distance away from pitches.

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### *Accommodating Winchester & District Girls Football League*

Regardless of whether provision at the Garrison Ground is mitigated on a like for like basis or not, it is clear the site will become unsuitable as a central venue for the Winchester & District Girls Football League due to it losing some of its pitches. A total of 20 teams play competitive football on Saturday mornings in the League, with nine teams playing youth 11v11 football (on adult pitches) and the remaining 11 teams playing on the overmarked mini 7v7 pitches.

Given the identified loss of provision, a suitable option to ensure the League can continue to operate from a single site is necessary. One option would be to therefore move demand to King George V Playing Fields, which is also managed by the Council and based in the immediate locality (adjacent to the Garrison Ground).

At present, four teams access King George V Playing Fields on a Saturday meaning there is a requirement for access to two pitches (based on teams playing home and away). As such, there are four pitches available during Saturday mornings when the Winchester & District Girls Football League operates. As this is deemed to be actual spare capacity as none of the pitches are overplayed and none are adjudged to be poor quality, scope exists for it to be utilised instead of the Garrison Ground.

Alternatively, given the limited demand exhibited at King George V Playing Fields on a Saturday (when the Winchester & District Girls Football League operates), it is possible to transfer current demand elsewhere to avoid adult males and youth/mini girls using the site at the same time. This could therefore be via the two adult pitches remaining at the Garrison Ground as sufficient spare capacity will exist at the site when the Winchester & District Girls Football League transfers.

Should the Winchester & District Girls Football League relocate to King George V Playing Fields, there is a requirement for the changing facilities at the site to be upgraded to meet the latest FA specification to better accommodate site users and be provided as part of the mitigation package from the loss of a pitch at the Garrison. In addition, given that the site will accommodate a higher level of demand, it is crucial that quality of the pitches is improved. At present the pitches are rated as standard, but an improvement to good will create a higher capacity on the site for match play and therefore, working in partnership with Hampshire FA and the IOG, qualitative improvements to all pitches as informed by an assessment of ground conditions should be made. Lastly, and as part of the wider facility offering, there will also be a need to better manage parking and improve maintenance of grassed areas where parking currently takes place.

Should the above be feasible, the intention is for the transfer of demand to take place ahead of the 2018/2019 season, meaning King George V Playing Fields should be brought up to an appropriate standard for female football before September 2018. A legal agreement is therefore required to ensure this can occur.

### *Housing growth*

Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator, the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if, as planned, 12,500 new homes are built across Winchester from now up to 2031 (with 2,206 already completed since 2011) and converts this into the required demand for pitches. The calculations presume that a population growth of 23,676 will be derived from the remaining planned housing growth.



# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.4: Housing growth scenario for football

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitches required
Adult football	7.85	7
Youth football	9.42	9
Mini soccer	3.33	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>19</b>

The table shows that over the local plan period, significant demand arising from housing growth will be generated for each pitch type. This position is, however, indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to.

As such, the calculator should be used on a case-by-case basis to determine the level of increased pitch demand arising from each individual future development and the contribution required to accommodate that demand.

Sport England's experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand in their own right for new provision to be created. Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, contributions should be used to enhance existing provision in the locality through, for example, improving quality or providing new or improved ancillary provision. The Action Plan in this document, as well as consultation with appropriate NGBs, should be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore reconfiguration to accommodate more youth 11v11 pitches where possible.
- ◀ Seek to increase use of 3G pitches in order to increase capacity available on grass pitches to address future shortfalls.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality (first and foremost via the FA's Pitch Improvement Programme).
- ◀ Work to accommodate latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities at key sites that are currently serviced by poor provision (e.g. Durley Recreation Ground, Eversley Park, HCC Sports and Social Club, King George V Recreation Ground and Owlesbury Recreation Ground)
- ◀ Aim to provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure clubs in the football pyramid can progress by being compliant to FA ground grading regulations.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Ensure appropriate mitigation should the pitches at the Garrison Ground be permanently lost.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Ensure adequate provision for increased demand generated by housing developments, secured through appropriately calculated developer contributions by using the Sport England demand calculator.

## 3G pitches

### **Summary**

- ◀ There are two full size 3G pitches in Winchester; Swanmore College and Perins Community School.
- ◀ In addition, there are six small sized 3G pitches, five of which are floodlit and available for community use
- ◀ The smaller sized pitch at Henry Beaufort School is particularly key given its larger size (measuring 90 x 46 metres, with the minimum dimensions of a full size pitch considered to be 100 x 60 metres).
- ◀ The full size pitch at Swanmore College and the smaller sized pitch at Henry Beaufort School are on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ◀ No pitches are World Rugby compliant and Winchester is not a target area at this time.
- ◀ Perins Community School is assessed as poor quality due to its age, whereas Swanmore College is assessed as good quality having been installed in 2016.
- ◀ Both full size 3G pitches are nearing midweek capacity, whilst Swanmore College is also close to capacity at weekends due to match play demand.
- ◀ In order to satisfy current training demand, there is a need for five full size 3G pitches meaning a current shortfall of three.
- ◀ Taking into account future demand, the shortfall of full size 3G pitches increases to four.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches in order to reduce shortfalls.

### **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 42 teams) there is a need for five full size 3G pitches in Winchester, meaning that there is a current shortfall of three pitches. When considering future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is a demand of six full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of four pitches.<sup>8</sup>

Alternatively, if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area in which they play their matches in, a current shortfall of four full size 3G pitches is identified. This equates to two pitches in the North Analysis Area, and two in the South Analysis Area. When taking into account future demand, the overall shortfall increases to five full size 3G pitches, which can be attributed to an increased shortfall in the North Analysis Area.

To alleviate shortfalls, consideration should be given to the rural characteristics of Winchester, meaning the creation of full size 3G pitches in more isolated towns/villages may not be a strategically feasible approach. Instead, the creation of hubs in areas of high population density is considered to be the preferred approach. That being said, the creation of smaller sided 3G facilities can provide both a solution for midweek training for isolated

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<sup>8</sup> All figures are rounded down as it is considered that smaller size 3G pitches already in place can accommodate excess demand.

## **WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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clubs/teams and also provide a pitch for competitive youth and mini matches (subject to FA testing).

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### *Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches*

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA. 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 Winchester for each pitch type at peak time.

*Table 4.5: Number of teams currently using council pitches*

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	10
Youth	11v11	Saturday AM	12
Youth	9v9	Saturday AM	-
Mini	7v7	Saturday AM	11
Mini	5v5	Saturday AM	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>33</b>

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

*Table 4.6: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand*

Format	No teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y) = x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
Adult	10	5	32	160	2.5
11v11	12	6	32	192	3
9v9	-	-	10	-	-
7v7	11	5.5	8	44	0.7
5v5	-	-	4	-	-

Given that peak time for the youth and mini pitch types (Saturday AM) is different to peak time for adult football (Sunday AM), transferring all matches currently on council pitches would equate for the need for four full size 3G pitches. This is calculated through adding the demand for youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches together (as peak time is the same) but not adult (as peak time is different and the demand is less).

The FA also has an aspiration to move 50% of mini soccer and youth 9v9 matches to 3G. A programme of play has therefore been created in Winchester to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this, given that peak time for each format is Saturday AM.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.7: Full size 3G pitches required for transfer of mini soccer demand

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 9v9	2/4

Given that there are currently 35 youth 9v9, 23 mini 7v7 teams and ten mini 5v5 teams in Winchester, there is a requirement for three 3G pitches to accommodate 50% of demand based on the above programme of play. Five mini 5v5 teams could be accommodated on one pitch, whilst 12 mini 7v7 teams and 18 youth 9v9 teams could be accommodated on three pitches.

### *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 currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Winchester and it is not considered to be a target area for the RFU; however, it recognised that there is a potential need for such a facility with substantial demand existing particularly from Winchester RFC and the University of Winchester. As such, whilst no dedicated pitch is likely to be created, a partnership approach could be developed between the RFU and the FA to create a pitch that can be used for both sports.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Encourage all current and future providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Consider resurfacing of the pitch at Perins Community School given quality issues.
- ◀ Ensure that the pitch at Swanmore College remains on the FA register via re-testing every three years.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- ◀ Investigate potential sites for new 3G pitches in the relevant sub areas to meet training and competitive demand. This should include exploring the impact of sites being developed in bordering authorities (i.e. triple 3G pitch site at Monks Brook in Eastleigh opening season 2019/2020) as this may impact upon some Winchester demand.
- ◀ Through a partnership between the FA and the RFU, consider making one of the additional 3G pitches World Rugby compliant given rugby grass pitch shortfalls.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.

## Cricket pitches

### *Summary*

- ◀ In total, there are 37 grass cricket squares in Winchester, with 31 available for community use.
- ◀ In addition, there are 15 non-turf pitches accompanying grass wicket squares as well as six standalone NTPs.
- ◀ There are plans to create a new cricket square as part of a larger community sport offering at Berewood Park, whereas Bishops Waltham CC has aspirations to develop a secondary cricket square to use as an overspill for both its senior and junior teams.
- ◀ Of the community available grass wicket squares, six are assessed as good quality, 15 as standard quality and ten as poor quality.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities at North Walls Recreation Ground and Tichborne Cricket Club are identified as being of a particularly poor quality.
- ◀ Five clubs highlight the requirement for improved or additional training facilities.
- ◀ IBM South Hants CC has security of tenure issues in that it rents its square from a private landowner and as such is not guaranteed long-term access.
- ◀ In total, there are 25 affiliated cricket clubs in Winchester generating 147 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of 57 men's, eight women's and 82 junior teams.
- ◀ Team generation rates (2031) predict an increase of seven junior boy's teams.
- ◀ Four clubs have ambitions to increase the number of teams they currently operate.
- ◀ In total, 23 squares have potential spare capacity amounting to 518 match equivalent sessions, with 14 of these having actual spare capacity for increased play on a Saturday.
- ◀ There are three squares overplayed with a total of 25 match equivalent sessions per season.
- ◀ It is identified that there is sufficient provision to accommodate both senior and junior demand currently and when accounting for future demand.

### *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 Winchester, overplay is identified at Easton & Martyr Worthy, Compton & Chandler Ford and Sparsholt cricket clubs.

Compton & Chandler Ford Cricket Club is overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per season. The Club operates six junior teams of which three are identified as using grass wickets for competitive fixtures. A transfer of some of this play to the onsite NTP would alleviate the overplay; or, alternatively, expanding the cricket square by one grass wicket would achieve the same outcome.

The highest level of overplay is identified at Sparsholt Cricket Club, equating to ten match equivalent sessions per season. A transfer of play from the two junior U13s teams and U15s team to the onsite NTP would alleviate this (younger junior teams are already identified as using the onsite NTP). Similarly, Easton & Martyr Worthy is also overplayed by ten matches per season. Similar to Sparsholt Cricket Club, transfer of play from the clubs three U13s teams (including one girls team) will alleviate all identified overplay.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## *Accommodating future demand*

It is considered that all clubs expressing future demand for an increase in junior teams can do so on the current facility stock. This can either be done through maximising usage of grass wickets with spare capacity, on NTPs that accompany grass wicket squares, or via standalone NTPs that exist at school sites.

Similarly, all clubs which aspire to grow senior teams are able to do so on either their respective home site or on secondary grounds which each already accesses.

## *Housing growth*

Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator, the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if, as planned, 12,500 new homes are built across Winchester from now up to 2031 (with 2,206 already completed since 2011) and converts this into the required demand for pitches. The calculations presume that a population growth of 23,676 will be derived from the predicted housing growth.

*Table 4.8: Housing growth scenario for cricket*

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions (per season)	Pitches required <sup>9</sup>
Cricket	213	4

The table shows that over the local plan period, significant demand arising from housing growth will be generated for four cricket squares. This position is, however, indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to. As such, the calculator should be used on a case-by-case basis to determine the level of increased pitch demand arising from each individual development and the contribution required to accommodate that demand.

Sport England's experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand in their own right for new provision to be created. Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, contributions should be used to enhance existing provision in the locality through, for example, improving quality or providing new or improved ancillary provision. The Action Plan in this document, as well as consultation with appropriate NGBs, should be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on pitches to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining.
- ◀ Work with clubs which are identified as not having a secure lease arrangement to provide longer term security.

<sup>9</sup> Based on a standard cricket square containing 12 wickets (capacity of 60 matches each season).

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Work with key stakeholders and clubs to improve ancillary provision where issues are identified, notably at North Walls Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities, particularly those servicing Crawley Crows, Droxford, The Racqueteers, Bishops Waltham and Tichborne cricket clubs.
- ◀ Address overplay via the transfer of play to NTPs (where suitable) and through rigorous maintenance regimes.
- ◀ Alternatively, if space allows, explore feasibility of extending grass wicket squares with additional wickets at overplayed sites.
- ◀ Explore options to provide for casual cricket formats i.e. through LMS.

### **Rugby union - grass pitches**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There are 13 sites containing 24 rugby union pitches in Winchester consisting of 20 senior pitches and four mini pitches, with 14 senior and no mini pitches available for community use.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, no pitches are assessed as good quality, three are assessed as standard quality and 11 are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ There are three rugby clubs in Winchester providing 29 teams, which as a breakdown consists of eight senior men's, two senior women's, three colts, six junior and ten mini teams.
- ◀ Winchester RFC considers six of its changing rooms to be inadequate due to their age and size.
- ◀ Winchester RFC trains at its home site either on a dedicated floodlit area or on its floodlit first team pitch, whereas Alresford RFC is without its own floodlighting meaning it instead uses a 3G pitch for training demand at Perins Community School.
- ◀ Locksheath Pumas RFC is exploring the feasibility of relocating to a site within Winchester from Fareham via land located at Hunts Pond Road.
- ◀ Team generation rates (2031) predict the creation of one junior boys team.
- ◀ Winchester RFC does not have future aspirations to grow its number of teams, whereas Alresford RFC has future demand for one junior boys team and one additional mini team.
- ◀ Spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist at Arlesbury Park totalling 3.75 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a total of 6.75 match equivalent sessions of overplay identified at Winchester Rugby Club
- ◀ There is a clear shortfall of provision to accommodate Winchester RFC and the University of Winchester, whereas supply is considered sufficient to meet the needs of Alresford RFC.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Improving pitch quality*

Pitch improvements via qualitative enhancements to both maintenance and drainage on overplayed pitches at Winchester Rugby Club are explored in tables 4.8 and 4.9 overleaf. As can be seen, improvements to both maintenance and drainage would not fully alleviate overplay at so therefore an alternative (or additional) solution is required.



## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- Increasing maintenance to M2 at Winchester Rugby Club would not eliminate overplay, with five match sessions of overplay still remaining.

Table 4.9: Maintenance improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Floodlighting	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved quality	Capacity effect
81	Winchester Rugby Club	Senior	Standard (M1/D2)	1	Yes	6.25	2.5	3.75	Good (M2/D2)	3
			Poor (M1/D0)	2	No	6	3	3	Standard (M2/D0)	2

- Increasing maintenance to M2 and increasing drainage by one increment at Winchester Rugby Club would not eliminate overplay, with 2.75 match sessions of overplay still remaining on the site.

Table 4.10: Maintenance and drainage improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Quality rating <sup>10</sup>	No. of pitches	Floodlighting	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved quality	Capacity effect
81	Winchester Rugby Club	Senior	Standard (M1/D2)	1	Yes	6.25	2.5	3.75	Good (M2/D3)	2.75
			Poor (M1/D0)	1	No	6	3	3	Good (M2/D1)	

<sup>10</sup> RFU capacity rating explanations can be found in the accompanying assessment report document.

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### *Removal of training demand from match pitches*

Removing midweek training demand off pitches at Winchester Rugby Club would remove three match equivalent sessions of demand and will, thus, alleviate all overplay if improvements to pitch maintenance and drainage are also implanted.

Removing the training demand can be achieved if alternative floodlit provision is provided, either via grass space away from the pitches (or at an alternative site), or through the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

### *Increasing access to floodlit training provision*

Floodlighting one of the grass pitches at Arlebury Park would allow the transfer of midweek training demand from Alresford RFC from the unsuitable 3G pitch at Perins School. In turn, this would allow the Club to undertake full contact training, rucking and mauling drills and therefore provide an enhanced training offering.

Alternatively, if a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch was provided, this could be utilised by Alresford RFC as well as by Winchester RFC.

### *Housing growth*

Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator, the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if, as planned, 12,500 new homes are built across Winchester from now up to 2031 (with 2,206 already completed since 2011) and converts this into the required demand for pitches. The calculations presume that a population growth of 23,676 will be derived from the predicted housing growth.

*Table 4.11: Housing growth scenario for rugby union*

<b>Pitch type</b>	<b>Match equivalent sessions (per week)</b>	<b>Pitches required</b>
Rugby union	2.11	2

The table shows that over the local plan period, demand arising from housing growth equates to the need for two rugby union pitches. This position is, however, indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to.

As such, the calculator should be used on a case-by-case basis to determine the level of increased pitch demand arising from each individual development and the contribution required to accommodate that demand.

Sport England's experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand in their own right for the creation of new provision. Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, contributions should be used to enhance existing provision in the locality through, for example, improving quality or providing new or improved ancillary provision. The Action Plan in this document, as well as consultation with appropriate NGBs, should be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Reduce overplay of Winchester Rugby Club through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems.
- ◀ Consider providing additional floodlighting at Winchester Rugby Club to spread out training demand.
- ◀ Explore feasibility of installing floodlights at Alrebury Park to allow for midweek training demand from Alresford RFC.
- ◀ Alternatively, in partnership with the FA, explore the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch that can accommodate both clubs as well as demand from the University of Winchester.
- ◀ Support Winchester RFC in its aspirations to provide improved quality changing facilities.
- ◀ Ensure any transfer of demand by Locksheath Pumas RFC provides an adequate number of pitches that are a suitable quality.

## **Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)**

### **Summary**

- ◀ There are currently four full size hockey suitable AGPs in Winchester, two of which are available for community use and require protection (Kings School and Winchester Sports Stadium).
- ◀ In addition, there are four smaller sized hockey suitable surfaces, although none are large enough to accommodate significant hockey demand.
- ◀ Both Kings School and Winchester Sports Stadium are assessed as standard quality, with the latter nearing the end of its estimated lifespan.
- ◀ There are two community clubs in Winchester; Winchester HC is a significantly large club with numerous senior and junior teams for both males and females, whereas West Meon HC consists of just one team.
- ◀ In addition, Winchester University fields two teams.
- ◀ Both Winchester HC and West Meon HC book AGPs on a short term basis and therefore are considered have unsecure tenure.
- ◀ Winchester HC has aspirations to develop a clubhouse and changing rooms to improve its social offering.
- ◀ Winchester HC reports latent demand equating to 40 junior members and exports some of its existing junior demand into Eastleigh due to a lack of pitch capacity. It also expresses future demand amounting to two senior men's teams and one senior women's team.
- ◀ Current senior demand is met through provision at Kings School and Winchester Sport Stadium; however, future demand will result in capacity issues if realised.
- ◀ Junior demand cannot be accommodated on the current supply of AGPs suggesting that there is a need for an additional pitch to be provided.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Accommodating future demand*

It is expected that over the next five years that large growth from the Winchester HC's junior section will create additional senior teams. At present, both the AGP at Kings School and Winchester Sports Stadium are able to accommodate an additional competitive match per week but any demand over this will result in capacity being reached. As such, there will be demand for an additional AGP to be created in the North Analysis Area.

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Preference for Winchester HC would be for a second AGP to be provided at one of the sites already with provision (i.e. Winchester Sports Stadium or Kings School), thus creating a hub site for hockey.

Another option would be utilisation of the AGPs at Worthy Down, which the Council reports that it is potentially acquiring in the future. This would, however, require quality improvements to take place on the pitch as well as with accompanying floodlighting and is not the preferred option for England Hockey.

### *Loss of access to unsecure sites*

At present, both Winchester and West Meon hockey clubs rent the AGP at Winchester Sports Stadium on a weekly basis, whilst Winchester HC also rents the AGP at Kings School on a monthly basis. If access to these pitches was lost, there would be a requirement to re-accommodate 14 senior teams and ten junior teams which would therefore require full access to an additional two AGPs.

To avoid this happening, discussions are required between the providers and the clubs to safeguard future access, preferably via community use agreements.

### *Housing growth*

Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator, the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if, as planned, 12,500 new homes are built across Winchester from now up to 2031 (with 2,206 already completed since 2011) and converts this into the required demand for pitches. The calculations presume that a population growth of 23,676 will be derived from the predicted housing growth.

*Table 4.12: Housing growth scenario for hockey*

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitches required <sup>11</sup>
Hockey	2.26	1

The table shows that over the local plan period, demand arising from housing growth equates to the need for one additional sand-based hockey suitable AGPs. This position is, however, indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to. As such, the calculator should be used on a case-by-case basis to determine the level of increased pitch demand arising from each individual development and the contribution required to accommodate that demand.

Sport England's experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand in their own right for the creation of new provision. Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, contributions should be used to enhance existing provision in the locality through, for example, improving quality or providing new or improved ancillary provision. The Action Plan in this document, as well as consultation with appropriate NGBs, should be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

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<sup>11</sup> Based on one pitch accommodating four match equivalent sessions on one day.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## ***Recommendations***

- ◀ As a minimum, protect the two pitches currently in use by hockey clubs for hockey.
- ◀ Seek to accommodate current and expressed future demand on the current pitch stock and then explore opportunities to develop and add to the pitch stock in a suitable location.
- ◀ If feasible, look to work with Winchester HC as part of any new development to offer ancillary provision at new or preferential sites including Winchester Sports Stadium and Kings School.
- ◀ Support Winchester HC to adopt a coherent approach to facility usage, factoring in the need to develop an additional pitch to meet junior demand.
- ◀ Ensure that current and future providers have sinking funds in place at all sites to ensure pitches can improve when required and to guarantee long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Pursue long-term security of tenure for all clubs through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey.

## **Bowls**

### ***Summary***

- ◀ There are nine flat bowling greens in the Winchester District provided across the same number of sites.
- ◀ Quality ratings identify that there are no poor quality bowling greens in the Winchester District, with four greens assessed as standard quality and five greens assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Colden Common BC and Twyford BC report issues with ancillary provision.
- ◀ There are nine bowling clubs in Winchester with a combined membership totalling 528, all of which are senior members given that no junior members were identified.
- ◀ Each club has access to its own green, meaning that all nine greens are in use by one club.
- ◀ All clubs that responded to consultation requests report an aspiration to grow with combined growth amounting to 55 senior members and 20 junior members.
- ◀ There is sufficient supply of outdoor bowling greens to accommodate current demand across Winchester.
- ◀ Given that no clubs are operating below a membership of 20, protecting all provision is advised.

### ***Scenarios***

#### ***Amalgamating clubs***

Bowls England also suggests that consideration should be given to the sustainability of greens that operate with a playing membership of less than 20. As this is not the case for any sites within Winchester and with each bowling green currently in use by a club operating above this threshold, protecting all provision is advised.

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect all bowling greens unless a club begins operating with less than 20 members.
- ◀ Improve green quality at sites assessed as standard quality and sustain quality of greens assessed as good.
- ◀ Pursue clubhouse improvements servicing Colden Common BC and Twyford BC.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

### **AIM 1**

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

#### **Recommendations:**

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

**Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used outdoor sports sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. 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 meet the identified shortfalls. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.

The above particularly relates to The Garrison Ground given the current proposal to develop a new leisure facility on dedicated football pitches. Should any provision be permanently lost at the site, replacement provision of an equal or better quantity and quality should be provided. For provision catering for sports such as football and cricket, where shortfalls are identified, this should come in the form of a direct replacement. For other sports, such as hockey and bowls, where current demand is being met, the replacement should instead focus on sports that have shortfalls.

NPPF paragraph 74 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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**Lapsed and disused** – playing field sites that formerly accommodated outdoor sports facilities but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use within the last five years (lapsed) or longer (disused).

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 an annual review of the PPS), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most demand is currently being met and most shortfalls are likely to be addressed through quality improvements. Including the need for additional facilities in the Local Plan is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches where there is a discrete need for additional provision, or where there is significant housing growth.

**New housing development** - where proposed housing development is located within access of a high-quality outdoor sports facilities, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvements to existing provision in that area in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. 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.

The PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

Sport England's playing field policy exception E1 only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPS shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all playing pitch sports types and sizes.

*Policy Exception E1:*

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

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with Sport England policy exception E4.



### *Policy Exception E4:*

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

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

Any disused/lapsed sites are included within the action plan together with a recommendation in relation to the need to bring the site back into use or mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified within the Assessment.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of some existing outdoor sport sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger better quality sites (Hub Sites) to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e). It is imperative, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that any replacement provision is made available before existing provision is lost.

### **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 Winchester for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should, thus, seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of activity, such as The Kings School and the Winchester Sports Stadium.

NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as 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 (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs 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>12</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.

Each club interested in leasing a 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.

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

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</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 'Club Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a City-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>

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 an example, outcomes may include:

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

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

## **WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site, to some degree, remains available for other purposes or for other users.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## ***Community asset transfer***

The Council should adopt a policy that supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and NGBs with opportunities to take ownership of facilities and it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building. The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit provides a step-by-step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/community-asset-transfer/about/>

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

To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. A key issue in Winchester is a lack of access to high quality provision located at several private educational establishments.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs. It is, however, common for school stock not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites. The table below outlines the following schools in Winchester which currently do not allow community use of some or all of their outdoor sports facilities.

*Table 5.2: School sporting provision availability*

<b>School</b>	<b>Sporting provision available for community use</b>	<b>Sporting provision unavailable for community use</b>
Bishops Waltham Junior School	-	One youth 9v9 football pitch.
Denmead Junior School	One youth 9v9 and a mini 7v7 football pitch.	-
Droxford Junior School	-	One youth 9v9 football pitch.
Henry Beaufort School	Small sided 3G pitch Artificial cricket wicket Senior rugby union pitch	-
Kings School Sports Centre	Full sized hockey AGP	Two senior rugby union pitches Adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch.
Kings Worthy Primary School	Mini 5v5 pitch.	-
Peter Symonds College	Two adult football pitches Small sided AGP One senior rugby union pitch	-
Princes Mead School	Two mini 5v5 pitches Two mini 7v7 pitches	One senior rugby union pitch
South Wonston Primary School	A mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch.	-
Sparsholt College Hampshire	-	Three adult football pitches.
St Swithuns School	-	A youth 11v11 football pitch

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

School	Sporting provision available for community use	Sporting provision unavailable for community use
Swanmore College	Full size 3G pitch Small sided AGP Artificial cricket wicket	Two junior rugby union pitches One adult football pitch
The Pilgrims School	-	Two mini 7v7 pitches Two mini 5v5 pitches
Twyford School	-	Two grass cricket squares Two mini 5v5 football pitches Six mini 7v7 football pitches Three youth 9v9 football pitches One youth 11v11 football pitch Small sided AGP
Westgate Secondary School Hall & Badminton Centre	-	One adult football pitch One youth 9v9 football pitch One senior rugby union pitch
Winchester College (Ridding Meads Playing Fields)	-	Seven grass cricket squares Four adult football pitches Five youth 11v11 football pitches Three youth 9v9 football pitches
Winchester Sports Stadium	Full sized AGP	-
Wickham Primary School	-	Mini 7v7 football pitch Mini 5v5 football pitch
Compton All Saints Primary	-	Mini 5v5 football pitch
St Faiths Primary School	-	Mini 5v5 football pitch
Stanmore Primary School	-	Mini 5v5 football pitch

In some instances, outdoors sports facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these pitches 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. As aforementioned, in Winchester there is a number of schools which are privately operated. These schools, such as, Winchester College and Twyford School have a significant amount of provision which is unavailable for community use.

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

## **AIM 2**

To **enhance** outdoor sports facilities 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, installing drainage systems 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).

With such pressures on budgets, however, any direct investment into pitch quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should therefore be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Objective 1 or through other means such as reducing unofficial use, addressing overplay and/or creating equipment banks for the pooling of maintenance resources.

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

Quality in the Winchester District is variable but generally pitches are assessed as standard quality. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or 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 pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer facilities tend to become, especially if no drainage systems are in place or if existing drainage systems are inadequate. 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). The Strategy approach to outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. For example, some good quality sites 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 provision with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces, that are free from vandalism and litter. For rugby, 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.

Standard quality refers to provision with, 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, 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, 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. 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 sites 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 Winchester, to provide a steer on this. It is the responsibility of the whole steering group to agree and to attend regular subsequent update meetings.

For improvement/replacement of AGPs 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/)

### ***Addressing overlay***

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

The FA, the RFU, the ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that a good quality pitch should take, 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.

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 5.3: Carrying capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		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>13</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
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	Four matches per day	N/A	N/A

For all remaining non-pitch sports (e.g. bowls) there are no capacity recommendations set out by NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play 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.

A cost-effective way to reduce unofficial use (and therefore overplay), particularly for football, could be to remove goalposts in between match days, principally at open access, high traffic sites that are managed by clubs. This will, however, require adequate, secured storage to be provided.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of 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 playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares. In Winchester, just one Club with junior teams does not have an onsite NTP; Twyford CC. That being said, the Club has 15 grass wickets and is not identified as being overplayed.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting will mitigate some of the overplay at Winchester Rugby Club as it will allow training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative, as is the installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. As aforementioned in Part 4, the creation of a World Rugby Compliant pitch would heavily help in reducing overplay in Winchester.

<sup>13</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.



# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## ***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 capacity. Each NGB can provide assistance with reviewing maintenance regimes.

The FA and ECB are part of the Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) which has been developed in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) 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.

All local authority sites in the Winchester District receive a comparatively good level of maintenance through an external company. This regime consists of regular cutting and lining as well as fertilising the pitches. In addition, the pitches are aerated three or more times per playing season to ensure quality remains adequate for all users.

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 IoG.

## **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 playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitches and 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 Playing Pitch Strategy 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 whilst avoiding duplication of provision.

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

### **Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions**

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

Where development is located within access of a high-quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision in the locality in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. The PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity or if new provision is required.

For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's new Playing Pitch Demand Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. This uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. This is then converted into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs.

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

A number of planning policy objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Most new developments which create net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more, or create a new dwelling.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106/CIL Agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. 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 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.

## **AIM 3**

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

### **Recommendations:**

- h. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.
- i. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current 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 outdoor sports facilities 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 current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that 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 NTPs where there is a discrete need, or where there is significant housing growth.

Notwithstanding the above, there 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 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 3) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports the current and future demand for provision identified in Winchester can be overcome through maximising use of existing stock through a combination of:

- ◀ 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.
- ◀ 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 playing pitches.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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 are not necessarily area specific.

Table 5.4: 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 based on TGRs and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G AGP's.	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's strategy for Women's and Girls' football: 2017 – 2020 was released in March 2017. One of the major goals of the new the new strategy will be to double participation.	Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase.
3G pitches	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches. 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 community use agreements 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	Demand is likely to remain static for grass wickets for both junior and adult participation.	Sustain current pitch stock. Isolated pockets of demand for access to additional facilities where pitches are operating at capacity. A need to install NTPs and encourage greater use for junior cricket.
	An increase in non-club based play, especially from South Asian communities.	Develop cricket within communities that more commonly play informal formats of the game.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
	All Stars Cricket initiative is likely to result in increased junior demand.	An increase stock of NTPs required to accommodate demand.

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Rugby union	The RFU work towards achieving the stated outcomes of its National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017), the RFU National Women and Girls Strategy and the RFU National Male XV-a-side Strategy. Locally the RFU want to ensure access to pitches that satisfies the existing demand and predicted growth. Further, the RFU is aiming to protect and improve pitch quality plus that of ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights as current and future demand requires.	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.
	The RFU investment strategy into 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 sites. To achieve this, the RFU is keen to work locally with partners such as the Council and the FA to look at sites of mutual interest.	Consider requirement for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch given shortfalls identified on grass pitches and level of training demand on grass pitches.
Hockey	Current playing level is likely to increase with a 15% growth rate predicted by England Hockey.	Ensure continued use of at least two sand-based AGPs to accommodate current demand and ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. Explore access and/or creation of additional sand-based AGP to meet future demand. 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 the subjected pitch is not required.
	High profile events (Hockey World Cup 2018)	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.
	Play Hockey	The launch of Play Hockey and its subsequent website ensures that those wishing to play the game are able to find their local facility and club.
Bowls	No expected net increase in memberships.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## 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. Recommendation e below explains the hierarchy of priorities on the list. It is imperative that action plans for priority projects should be developed through the implementation of the strategy.

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 City-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 Council area as a whole.

*Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria*

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
<b>Site location</b>	Strategically located in the City. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
<b>Site layout</b>	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
<b>Type of sport</b>	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.
<b>Management</b>	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.
<b>Maintenance regime</b>	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
<b>Ancillary facilities</b>	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	No changing room access on site or appropriate access to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).

**Hub sites** are of strategic City-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.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalization of some existing playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub sites) in order to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e). Identification of these potential sites should be carried out in partnership with the Steering Group and, in particular, the NGB for that particular sport.

**Key centres** although these sites are more community focused, 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.

From a football perspective, these sites already seek to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for youth football (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for mini and youth football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for mini and youth football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both youth and mini-football matches could be played on these sites. Initial investment could be required in the short term and identified in the Action Plan.

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

**Local sites** refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. Primarily they are sites with one facilities or a low number of facilities that service just one sport. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the provision. NGBs would expect the facility to be transferred in an adequate condition that the club can maintain. In the longer term, the Club should be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the facilities.

## Management and development



# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private hub sites.
- ◀ Football investment programme/3G pitches development with the FA.

## Action plan columns

### *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. The Council is considered to a partner within each action so is therefore not referenced.

### *Site hierarchy tier*

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 be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

The majority of Key centres are a **medium** priority and 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.

**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.

### *Costs*

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

(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*

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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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 included relate to delivery times and are not priority based.

Timescales: (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.**

**To reiterate, the action plan is not solely for the purposes of the Council, but for all the stakeholders and partners involved within the project.**

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (2018) <sup>14</sup>	Future demand (2031) <sup>15 16</sup>
Football	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of seven adult, 2.5 on youth 11v11 and six mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 0.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 5.5 adult and 4.5 mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 6.5 youth 11v11, three youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.</li> </ul>
3G pitches	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of three full size 3G pitches.</li> </ul>
Cricket	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 127 match equivalent sessions per season</li> <li>◀ Slight overplay identified at Easton and Martyr Worthy, Compton and Chandler Ford and Sparsholt cricket clubs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 91 match equivalent sessions per season.</li> <li>◀ Overplay at Easton and Martyr Worthy, Compton and Chandler Ford and Sparsholt cricket clubs.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 6.75 match equivalent sessions at Winchester Rugby Club.</li> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 3.75 match equivalent sessions at Alresford RFC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of seven match equivalent sessions at Winchester Rugby Club.</li> <li>◀ Spare capacity of three match equivalent sessions at Alresford RFC.</li> </ul>
Hockey	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Current demand is being met for senior hockey</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of provision for junior hockey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of one hockey suitable AGP</li> </ul>
Bowls	Winchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Current demand is being met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Future demand can be met.</li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> Figures based on match equivalent sessions (MES)

<sup>15</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

<sup>16</sup> Figures based on match equivalent sessions (MES)

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescale <sup>17</sup>	Cost <sup>18</sup>	Aim
1	Arlesbury Park	SO24 9EP	Football	Parish Council	A good standard adult football pitch and a youth 9v9 football pitch. Each pitch has spare capacity, but not in the peak period. Site user Alresford Town FC play at Step 5 on the football pyramid. The Club states latent demand in that it would field three additional teams if more playing pitch provision was available.	Ensure quality of both pitches is sustained and maximise use. Ensure that the Club can meet FA grounding regulations is promoted.	Parish Council Sports Club FA	Key site	Medium	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
						If feasible, explore opportunities to resurface the AGP at Perins School so it can gain FA accreditation so it will be able to absorb latent demand identified by Alresford Town Juniors FC.			Low	M	H	
			Rugby union		Two standard quality (M1/D2) senior rugby union pitches. Neither pitch has floodlighting and cannot be utilised for any midweek winter activity.	Explore opportunities to provide floodlighting at the site to remove the requirement for Alresford RFC to train off site.	Parish Council Sports Club RFU		High	S	M	
2	Army Training Regiment Winchester	SO22 6NQ	Hockey	MOD	Small sided hockey suitable AGP with no floodlighting. Pitch not available for community use.	Ensure quality is sustained for private use.	MOD	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
			Rugby union		A standard quality senior rugby union pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Ensure quality is sustained for private use.			Low	L	L	
10	Colden Common Park	SO21 1TA	Football	Parish Council	Two adult and two youth 11v11 pitches which each have spare capacity, but not in the peak period. First team pitch is used by Colden Common FC which play at Step 7 on the football pyramid. The Club cannot gain promotion because of grounding regulations. The site requires floodlighting, hard standing area for spectators, dugouts and spectator toilets.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained to accommodate current levels of demand through continuation of the rigorous maintenance regime on the site.	Parish Council Sports Club FA	Key site	Medium	M	L	Protect Enhance
						In partnership with Colden Common FC explore if promotion to Step 6 is an aspiration and if this could be facilitated within Winchester at a suitable site.			Medium	M	L	
			Cricket		A standard quality grass wicket square with eight wickets. Site also has an NTP accompanying the square. Home site of Otterbourne CC. Site has minimal spare capacity.	Ensure quality of the square is sustained. Work with Club to obtain a PQS assessment to make gradual improvements to square quality.	Parish Council Sports Club ECB		Medium	M	L	
	Bowls	A standard quality bowling green used by Colden Common BC.	As a minimum, ensure quality of the bowling green is sustained. Look to make slight improvements to maintenance regime to improve overall quality.	Parish Council Sports Club	Medium	M	L					
12	David Roth Memorial Cricket Ground	SO21 1EN	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality grass wicket square with six wickets. Site also has an NTP accompanying the square. Home site of Easton & Martyr Worthy CC. Site is overplayed by four matches per season.	Ensure that the quality of the green is sustained as a minimum through the implantation of a rigorous maintenance regime. Look to make gradual improvements to quality to sustained current levels of overplay. Look to transfer junior demand from grass wickets to NTP as an option to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	M	L	Protect

<sup>17</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>18</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescale <sup>17</sup>	Cost <sup>18</sup>	Aim
20	Eversley Park	SO23 7TF	Football	Parish Council	Two poor quality adult pitches and a poor-quality youth 11v11 pitch. Pitches cumulatively overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per week.	Explore opportunities to work with Headbourne Worthy Parish Council to improve quality of the site through improvements to current maintenance regime.	Parish Council Sports Club FA	Local site	High	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
					Worthy Youth FC states that it accesses Worthies Sport & Social Club for changing facilities with no formal agreement in place. Club has further aspirations to develop its own ancillary provision with accompanying social space.	If feasible, work with Worthy Youth FC to provide and create ancillary provision, providing the Club has an adequate infrastructure in place and can obtain long term tenure on the site.			Low	L	H	
21	Evolution Health and Fitness (Perins Community School)	SO24 9BS	Football	School	A poor-quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use due to quality issues.	Look to improve quality for curricular use. Look to link with Alresford Town Juniors FC for a potential solution to meet identified latent demand.	School FA	Key site	Medium	M	L	Protect Enhance
			3G		A poor quality full sized 3G pitch. The pitch is not on the FA register/World Rugby register and cannot accommodate competitive football/rugby use. Used heavily midweek for both football and rugby union.	Look to work with key stakeholders to secure funding for resurfacing the pitch. Getting the pitch on both the FA/World Rugby register will allow competitive weekend usage and a potential solution for Alresford Town Juniors FCs latent demand issue as well as providing an adequate surface to undertake contact training for Alresford RFC is floodlighting cannot be secured on the Clubs grass pitches.	School FA RFU		High	S	H	
			Rugby union		Three poor quality (M0/D0) senior rugby union pitches. Pitches are available for community use but are unused.	Look to improve quality of the pitches through enhanced maintenance for curricular use.	School RFU		Low	L	L	
22	Green Jackets Ground	SO23 9RX	Cricket	Sports Club	A two square cricket site. The first square has 11 good quality grass wickets. Site used and managed by St Cross Symondians CC. The second has eight standard quality wickets and an on site NTP. Site has a cumulative spare capacity of two match sessions per season.	Given high levels of demand across the site there is a requirement to sustain high levels of maintenance levels currently undertake. Explore opportunities to undertake a PQS to continue to improve maintenance standards.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	M	L	Protect
23	Harestock Field	SO22 6NS	Football	Parish Council	An adult football pitch with no recorded use.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained for future use and current recreational use.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Enhance
25	Henry Beaufort School	SO22 6JJ	3G	School	A small sided 3G pitch which is on the FA register. Pitch is fully available for community use, but cannot be used for competitive weekend matches due to planning restraints. Pitch not open on Sundays due to staffing issues.	Ensure the pitch remains on the FA register through keeping the pitch well maintained. Explore options in line with planning to allow the pitch to be used for competitive matches on weekends to reduce future shortfalls. Look to open the pitch on Sundays by working with the School if demand exists.	School FA	Key site	Medium	M	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		Standard quality on site NTP. Available for community use but unused.	Ensure NTP is sustained for curricular use.	School ECB		Low	L	L	
			Rugby union		A poor quality (M0/D1) senior rugby union pitch, available for community use but	Look to improve quality of maintenance undertaken for curricular activity.	School RFU		Low	L	L	

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescale <sup>17</sup>	Cost <sup>18</sup>	Aim
					unused.							
27	Hunter Park	SO21 1QU	Football	Sports Club/Parish Council	A standard quality adult and mini 7v7 pitch. Adult pitch has spare capacity, but not in the peak period. Mini 7v7 pitch has no recorded use.	Ensure quality is sustained to accommodate current demand.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		A standard quality grass cricket square with 15 wickets. Site used and managed by Twyford CC. Site has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week in the peak period.	Ensure quality is sustained to accommodate current demand. Explore future opportunities to accommodate clubs which has aspirations to field additional Saturday senior teams.	Sports Club ECB		Low	L	L	
			Bowls		A good quality bowling green utilised by Twyford BC.	Ensure quality is sustained to accommodate current use.	Parish Council		Low	L	L	
28	IBM Hursley Club	SO21 2JN	Football	Private	An adult football pitch with no recorded community use.	Sustain quality for private use.	Private FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		A good quality grass wicket square with ten wickets and an accompanying NTP. Site has actual spare capacity in the peak period of 0.5 match sessions.	Sustain the quality of the cricket square to accommodate current levels of demand.	Private ECB		Low	L	L	
29	King George V Playing Field	SO23 0QA	Football	Local Authority	Six standard quality adult pitches with an actual spare capacity of four match sessions per week. Pitches are utilised by youth 11v11 teams.	On the basis an adult pitch is lost at the Garrison this can be mitigated at this site through the improvement and upgrade of ancillary provision (to the latest FA specifications) before September 2018 for utilisation for female football.	Local Authority FA	Key site	High	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
					The site preferential for improvement (due to required mitigation) given the anticipated loss of an adult pitch at the adjacent Garrison site.	Pitch improvements should be made to the site to increase capacity of pitches for match play before September 2018 for utilisation for female football.						
					Better manage parking and improve maintenance of grassed areas where parking currently takes place before September 2018 for utilisation for female football.							
			Cricket	Two standard quality squares, each with six wickets. Site currently used by Oakamount CC, with spare capacity equating to 1.5 match sessions per week.	Sustain quality of both cricket squares to accommodate both current and future demand.	Local Authority ECB	Low	L	L			
			Football /Cricket		Ancillary provision identified as being of an overall poor quality. Facility requires modernization.	Link refurbishment to the aforementioned need for improvement.	Local Authority FA/ECB		High	S	H	
30	King George V Recreation Ground	SO21 1EA	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult and youth 11v11 pitch. Pitches receive minimal use.	Ensure quality of pitches is sustained through continuation of current maintenance regime.	Parish Council FA		Low	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Bowling		A standard quality bowling green used by Hyde Abbey BC.	As a minimum, ensure quality of the bowling green is sustained. Look to make slight improvements to maintenance regime to improve overall quality.	Parish Council Sports Club		Medium	M	L	
32	Kings School	SO22 5PN	Football	School	A standard quality adult, youth 9v9 and a	Look to sustained quality for curricular	School	Key site	Low	L	L	Protect

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescale <sup>17</sup>	Cost <sup>18</sup>	Aim
	Sports Centre				mini 7v7 pitch which are unavailable for community use due to the School wishing to protect quality.	use. Look to secure future use of the site in the future is shortfalls within the North analysis area become apparently.	FA					Provide
			AGP		Standard quality hockey AGP which was resurfaced in 2012. Pitch is operating close to capacity. School has a sinking fund in place. Winchester HC has aspirations to develop ancillary provision on site.	Ensure that the pitch is maintained to a high standard. Explore future opportunities to secure funding for an ancillary facility on the site for Winchester HC. Consider installation of second AGP to accommodate future demand.	School England Hockey		Low	L	L	
						Look to create a community use agreement on the site to secure long-term tenure for Winchester HC.			High	S	L	
			3G/AGP	N/A	Explore the feasibility of creating either a full sized 3G pitch or hockey AGP on the site to reduce identified shortfalls in the District.	School FA England Hockey	Medium		Medium	H		
33	Kings Worthy Primary School	SO23 7QS	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Ensure quality is sustained for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
36	Littleton & Harestock Playing Fields	SO22 6QL	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch. Both the adult and youth 11v11 pitch are played to capacity. Youth 9v9 pitch has minimal spare capacity in the peak period. Site contains overmarked pitches with burnt in lines, which can be dangerous to potential users.	Ensure quality of the all pitches is sustained and that where possible, improvements to the maintenance regime are implemented to improve quality, especially of pitches which are played to capacity. Look to work with Littleton Juniors FC so they adhere to FA guidelines for line marking.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Medium	M	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		A standard quality cricket square with nine grass wickets and an NTP. Site used by Littleton and West Hill CC. Site has high levels of spare capacity, but not in the peak period.	Ensure quality of the cricket square is sustained through rigorous maintenance. Look to improve quality by undertaking a PQS assessment and making gradual improvements.	Parish Council ECB		Low	L	L	
37	Lord Rank Playing Field	SO21 3DF	Football	Parish Council	An adult football pitch with no recorded use.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained for future use and current recreational use.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
40	Memorial Playing Field	SO21 2AD	Football	Parish Council/Sports Club	Two adult football pitches used by 0.5 match sessions per week.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained for current and future use.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		A standard quality grass cricket square with ten wickets and an NTP used and managed by Compton & Chandlers Ford CC. Site is overplayed by five match sessions per season.	Ensure that the quality of the green is sustained as a minimum through a rigorous maintenance regime. Look to make gradual improvements to quality to sustain current levels of overplay. Look to transfer junior demand from grass wickets to NTP as an option to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club ECB		Medium	M	L	
43	North Walls Recreation Ground	SO23 7DD	3G		A smaller sized 3G pitch with floodlighting that is available for community use.	Protect for continued small sided and recreational use.	Local Authority		Low	L	L	Protect

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescale <sup>17</sup>	Cost <sup>18</sup>	Aim
			Cricket		Two poor quality cricket squares. One square has 12 grass wickets and the remaining has eight wickets. Maintenance is of a general low standard which impacts on quality. Site is used by Ram CC, Sparsholt CC and The Racqueteers CC.	Work with the Hampshire Cricket Board to deliver ways of improving overall quality on the site.	Local Authority HCB ECB		Medium	M	M	Enhance Provide
			Rugby Union		Two poor quality (M0/D1) senior rugby union pitches used as an overspill by Winchester RFC.	Protect pitches to accommodate current level of use from Winchester RFC. Seek to make incremental improvements to quality.	Local Authority RFU		Low	L	L	
			Football /Cricket		Highlighted by several stakeholders as being unfit for purpose. The pavilion accommodates senior men's and ladies and other user groups including disability cricket and therefore there is a need for quality improvements to be made.	Explore opportunities for funding for an improved ancillary facility offering on the site by working with each identified stakeholder.	Local Authority FA ECB		High	S	H	
44	Oakwood Park Recreation Ground	SO21 2ED	Football	Parish Council	Two poor quality adult pitches with no recorded use.	Look to improve quality of the grass pitches through improvements to the on-site maintenance regime. Look to better utilise pitches.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance
48	Peter Symonds College	SO22 6RX	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches. Pitches used by one community team as well as curricular use.	Ensure quality is sustained for community use. Look to better utilise provision in the future to address shortfalls. Pitch reconfiguration may be required.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance
			AGP		Small sided hockey AGP. Pitch of an overall pitch quality.	Sustain quality for curricular use.	School		Low	L	L	
			Rugby union		A poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch which available for community use but unused.	Look to improve quality of maintenance undertaken for curricular activity.	School RFU		Low	L	L	
49	Princes Mead School	SO21 1AN	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Available for community use but unused.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained for curricular use. Explore opportunities to utilise if future shortfalls appear.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
52	Recreation Ground	SO21 1RP	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult and youth 11v11 pitch. Pitches both have actual spare capacity in the peak period.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained for current and future use.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		Standard quality standalone NTP.	Protect quality of NTP for recreational use.	Parish Council ECB		Low	L	L	
54	River Park Leisure Centre	SO23 7DD	3G	Commercial	Small sided 3G pitch used to mainly accommodate recreational football.	Ensure quality is protected and that the pitch is resurfaced in the future.	Commercial FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
58	South Wonston Primary School	SO21 3EH	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch. Pitches utilised by South Wonston Swifts FC to accommodate mini demand.	Look to protect pitch quality to accommodate external community use. Seek to provide security of tenure for South Wonston Swifts FC for continued future use.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
59	South Wonston Recreation Ground	SO21 3HR	Football	Parish Council	Two standard quality adult pitches and a mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch. Site is utilised	Ensure that the quality of the pitches on site are sustained as a minimal. Look to	Parish Council	Local site	High	S	L	Protect



**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescale <sup>17</sup>	Cost <sup>18</sup>	Aim
			Cricket		for midweek training because the Club cannot access 3G provision within its locality and therefore spare capacity on the site has been discounted. Standard quality standalone NTP.	improve pitch quality where possible by improving overall quality of the maintenance regime undertaken to compensate for midweek training use. Protect quality of NTP for recreational use.	Sports Club FA Parish Council ECB		Low	L	L	Enhance
60	Southern Water	SO21 2DL	Cricket	Private	A standard quality cricket square with nine grass wickets and an NTP. Site used privately by employees of Southern Water.	Ensure quality is sustained for private use.	Private	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
61	Sparsholt College Hampshire	SO21 2NF	Football	School	Three standard quality adult pitches which are unavailable for community use. Site is used by Bournemouth FC.	Seek to sustain quality for curricular and professional use.	School	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
62	Sparsholt Field	SO21 2LU	Cricket	Sports Club	A good quality grass wicket square with a NTP. Site is cumulatively overplayed by ten match sessions per season.	Given high levels of demand across the site there is a requirement to sustain high levels of maintenance levels currently undertake. Explore opportunities to undertake a PQS to continue to improve maintenance standards. Look to transfer higher levels of junior play to the on site NTP as an option to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	M	L	Protect
63	St Swithuns School	SO21 1HA	Football	School	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Protect quality for curricular use.	School	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
64	Stratten Bates	SO24 9HF	Football	Parish Council	Two standard quality adult pitches which have actual peak time capacity. Pitches are used solely by youth 11v11 teams.	Protect pitch quality through continuation of the current maintenance regime. Look to reconfigure pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 teams.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
66	The City Ground	SO23 7SR	Football	Sports Club	A good quality adult pitch used and managed by Winchester FC. Winchester FC play football at the highest level in Winchester at Step 4. Pitch is operating within its capacity. Club has aspirations to replace its grass pitch with a stadia 3G.	Protect pitch quality to sustain current quality levels. Ensure that the Club can meet FA grounding regulations if it is to achieve promotion to Step 3. Explore funding opportunities to deliver a 3G pitch, potentially in partnership with Winchester RFC. Link any funding with community use agreements so it can be an aid to accommodate midweek training demand across Winchester.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	M	H	Protect

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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67	The Garrison Ground	SO23 9NR	Football	Local Authority	Three standard quality adult pitches, each overmarked by two mini 7v7 pitches. Site is used as a central venue league for the Winchester Girls & District League on Saturday mornings as well as providing a venue for Sunday league teams on a Sunday. Plans are in place to create an improved leisure offering in Winchester which will result in the loss of one adult pitch.	Ensure that the proposed development affecting the net loss of playing pitches is able to meet National Planning Policy. Ensure central venue league can be accommodated at an alternative site before September 2018 given that the loss of pitches will make this site unable to accommodate the demand. There is a requirement for the changing facilities at the site to be upgraded to meet the latest FA specification to better accommodate site users and be provided as part of the mitigation package. In addition, given that the site will accommodate a higher level of demand, it is crucial that quality of the pitches is improved. Working in partnership with Hampshire FA and the IOG, qualitative improvements to all pitches as informed by an assessment of ground conditions should be made. Lastly, suitable car parking options need to be made available for the site given the significant level of demand which would be exhibited on it if the League is to be relocated.	Local Authority FA	Local site	High	S	H	Provide
68	The Gratton	SO21 3LG	Football	Parish Council	An adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 which are all standard quality. All pitch types have actual spare capacity.	Protect pitch quality through continuation of the current maintenance regime.	Parish Council	Local site	Medium	M	H	Protect
71	The Pilgrims School	SO23 9LT	Rugby union	School	Four standard quality mini rugby union pitches which are unavailable for community use.	Seek to protect quality for curricular use.	School	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
72	The Quarters	SO21 2JL	Cricket	Sports Club	Two good quality cricket squares each with 14 grass wickets and an NTP each. Site has additional capacity for future growth. Home site to Hursley CC.	sustain high levels of maintenance levels currently undertaken. Explore opportunities to undertake a PQS.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	L	L	Protect
76	Twyford School	SO21 1NW	Football	School	The site contains one youth 11v11 pitch, three youth 9v9 pitches, three mini 7v7 pitches and six mini 5v5 pitches. All pitches are unavailable for community use.	Protect quality of the pitches for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		A standard quality five wicket square and a standalone NTP. Unavailable for community use.	Protect quality of provision for curricular use.	School ECB		Low	L	L	
			AGP		Small size sand AGP without floodlighting.	Protect for curricular use.	School		Low	L	L	

<sup>19</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>20</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescale <sup>19</sup>	Cost <sup>20</sup>	Aim
78	Westgate Secondary School Hall & Badminton Centre	SO22 5AZ	Football	School	A standard quality adult and youth 11v11 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Protect quality for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
			AGP		Small sided poor quality AGP. Pitch receives minimal use.	Look to improve quality of the pitch for curricular use if required.	School EH		Low	L	L	Protect
82	Winchester College (Ridding Meads Playing Fields)	SO23 9PG	Football	School	Four adult, five youth 11v11 and three youth 9v9 pitches which are all good quality. Pitches are unavailable for community use to protect quality for the school.	Protect quality for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		The site contains four grass cricket squares and three standalone NTPs. Each cricket square is of an overall good quality.	Protect quality for curricular use.	School ECB		Low	L	L	
83	Winchester Rugby Club	SO23 7SU	Rugby union	Sports Club	One floodlit senior pitch which is standard quality (M1/D2) and two non-floodlit senior pitches which are poor quality (M1/D0). Site is overplayed by a cumulative 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week. Changing room provision is identified as being of an overall poor quality.	Seek to improve quality of all pitches through a combination of maintenance and drainage improvements. Explore opportunities to work with the RFU to deliver a WR compliant 3G pitch, in partnership with Winchester FC, within a strategically suitable location which both the clubs and the University of Winchester could use to remove training demand of the site.	Sports Club RFU	Local site	High	S	M/H	Protect Enhance Provide
						Look for funding opportunities to improve quality of ancillary provision on the site.			Medium	M	H	
84	Winchester Sports Stadium	SO23 0QA	AGP	University	A standard quality full sized AGP. Heavily utilised for competitive hockey. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2008 and is therefore at the end of its anticipated lifespan. External club users Winchester HC and West Meon HC rent the pitch on a weekly basis and therefore have unsecure tenure.	Ensure when pitch quality deteriorates to a standard which is to the detriment of performance hockey that adequate funding is in place to resurface the pitch.	University EH	Local site	High	S	H	Protect Enhance
						Explore opportunities to provide longer tenure at the site.						
						Consider installation of second AGP and ancillary facilities to accommodate current & future demand of Winchester HC.						
95	Worthy Down	SO21 2RG	Football	MOD	A standard quality adult football pitch which is available for community use.	Protect quality for internal and community use.	MOD FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance
			AGP		A full-sized hockey suitable AGP. Pitch receives adhoc community football usage. Floodlights at the site have recently failed therefore further restricting community use.	Explore opportunities to resurface the pitch for either football or hockey. Link any future funding to a secured community use agreement. If resurfaced for hockey, explore usage from Winchester HC.	MOD EH FA		Medium	M	H	
		Rugby union	A standard quality rugby union pitch which is unavailable for community use to protect quality for internal use.		Protect quality for internal use.	MOD RFU	Low		L	L		

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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93	Crawley Cricket Ground	SO21 2PX	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality eight wicket cricket square. Site unused during the peak period. Club states it has a requirement for additional non turf practice nets.	Explore opportunities to further utilise the site. Ensure quality is sustained for all current and future use.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Provide
						Work with the Club to secure funding for new practise facilities.			Medium	M	L	
97	Compton All Saints Primary	SO21 2AS	Football	School	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Seek to enhance quality of the grass pitch for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance
98	St Faiths Primary School	SO23 9QB	Football	School	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Seek to enhance quality of the grass pitch for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance
99	Stanmore Primary School	SO22 4AJ	Football	School	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Seek to enhance quality of the grass pitch for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance
-	Barton Farm	SO22 6AX	-	-	Plans to create an adult and two youth 11v11 pitches as part of significant housing development.	Ensure that pitches are created to an adequate quality and that they are fully accessible to the community.	Local Authority FA	Local site	-	-	-	Provide

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (2018) <sup>21</sup>	Future demand (2031) <sup>22 23</sup>
Football	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of eight adult, four youth 11v11, 1.5 youth 9v9 and four mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of seven adult and 4.5 mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 match equivalent session.</li> </ul>
3G pitches	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches.</li> </ul>
Cricket	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 187 match equivalent sessions per season</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Spare capacity of 187 match equivalent sessions per season</li> </ul>
Rugby Union	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No existing demand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No future demand.</li> </ul>
Hockey	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No existing demand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No future demand.</li> </ul>
Bowls	Winchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Current demand is being met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Future demand can be met.</li> </ul>

<sup>21</sup> Figures based on match equivalent sessions (MES)

<sup>22</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

<sup>23</sup> Figures based on match equivalent sessions (MES)

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescale <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
4	Bishop Waltham Cricket Club	SO32 1BY	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality cricket square with 14 wickets and an NTP. Site has capacity to accommodate additional demand but none in the peak period.	Ensure that the quality of the square is sustained to accommodate current use. Explore opportunities to undertake a PQS to continue to improve maintenance standards.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	M	L	Protect Enhance
5	Bishops Waltham Junior School	SO32 1EP	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Seek to sustain quality of the grass pitch for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
7	Broad Lane Recreation Ground	SO32 2PD	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult football pitch. Pitch receives minimal community use and has spare capacity in the peak period.	Sustain quality of the pitch for current levels of use.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		Standard quality standalone NTP	Sustain quality of the NTP for recreational use.			Parish Council ECB	Low	L	
9	Cheriton Recreation Ground	SO24 0QQ	Football	Parish Council	Standard quality adult pitch which is available for community use, but unused.	Seek to ensure that the quality of the pitch does not deteriorate so it can be utilised in the future.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		A poor quality cricket square with seven wickets used by Cheriton CC. Square has actual spare capacity in the peak period.	Look to improve the quality of the square through implementing an enhanced maintenance regime at the site.			Parish Council ECB	Medium	M	
11	Curdridge Cricket Club	SO32 2HE	Football	Sports Club	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch marked on the cricket outfield. No recorded community use.	Look to protect the quality of the pitch on the outfield. Look to better utilise pitch in the future given identified shortfalls.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		A standard quality cricket square with eight grass wickets. Site has spare capacity to accommodate future growth and has capacity in the peak period.	Ensure quality of the cricket square is sustained. Look to better utilise provision given high levels of spare capacity.			Parish Council ECB	Low	L	
13	Denmead Junior School	PO7 6PH	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch. Both pitches are played to capacity at peak times.	Protect quality of both pitches to sustain levels of current use.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
15	Droxford Junior School	SO32 3QR	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain current quality for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
16	Droxford Recreation Ground	SO32 3QR	Cricket	Parish Council	A standard quality cricket square with eight wickets. Site has actual spare capacity in the peak period. Home of Droxford CC.	Sustain quality of the cricket square to accommodate current levels of demand. Explore future opportunities to improve overall quality of the square through incremental enhancements to the maintenance regime.	Parish Council ECB	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Provide
					Club has expressed need for a mobile cage to accommodate training demand.	Explore funding opportunities to provide additional training facilities.			Medium	M	L	
17	Durley Cricket Club	SO32 2AN	Cricket	Parish Council	A poor-quality cricket square which is current unused since Durley CC could not field a registered team in the 2017 season. Pitch likely to be utilised in the 2018 season.	Look to improve the quality of the cricket square through improvements to the current maintenance regime in preparation for the 2018 cricket season.	Parish Council ECB	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance

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

<sup>25</sup> (L) -Low55 - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescale <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
18	Durley Recreation Ground	SO32 2AE	Football	Parish Council	A good quality adult pitch with spare capacity in the peak period. Site user Durley FC has aspirations to play at Step 7 and is one league below entry to this level. Ancillary provision at the site is identified as being of an overall poor quality.	Protect the quality of the pitch through continuation of the current maintenance regime. Look to provide improvements to grass site to Step 7 standards if the Club is promoted.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance
						Explore funding opportunities to improve ancillary provision.			Medium	M	M/H	
24	HCC Sports and Social Club	SO21 1HU	Football	Sports Club	Three standard quality adult football pitches with one youth 9v9 overmarked in one pitch. Lines to overmark the youth 9v9 pitch have been burnt in which can be dangerous for users.	Site played to capacity during the peak period. As a minimum, sustain currently quality of grass pitches through continuation of the current maintenance regime. Work with the Club to better overmark pitches, in line with FA guidance.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	M	L	Protect Provide Enhance
						Site user Winchester Castle FC plays at Step 7. Work with the Club if it has aspirations to enter into Step 6 in the football pyramid to make ground improvements in line with FA ground grading regulations. If this is not possible due to floodlight restrictions, explore transfer of play to a more suitable site.			Medium	M	H	
						Overall quality of ancillary provision on site is poor. Site is outdated and needs modernisation			Medium	M	H	
26	Hoe Road Recreation Ground	SO32 1DS	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult and mini 7v7 pitch. Pitches both have actual spare capacity in the peak period.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained through continuation of the current maintenance regime to continue to accommodate current demand.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
31	Ashling Park	PO7 6EH	Football	Parish Council	Two standard quality adult and youth 11v11 pitches. Adult pitches played to capacity in the peak period, youth 11v11 pitches each have actual spare capacity for further use.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained through continuation of the current maintenance regime to continue to accommodate current demand.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
			Bowls		A good quality bowling green used by Denmead BC.	Seek to ensure continuation of the current maintenance regime on the site to protect good quality.			Parish Council	Low	L	
34	Knowle Community Centre/Village Green	PO17 5LU	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult pitch and two youth 9v9 pitches. Adult pitch is played to capacity in the peak period, youth 9v9 pitches current unused.	Look to sustain overall quality on the site through the current maintenance regime. Look to better utilise youth 9v9 pitches given identified future shortfalls.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
39	Whiteley Recreation Ground (Meadowside Leisure Centre)	PO15 7JL	Football	Commercial	Three adult pitches and four youth 11v11 pitches (some overmarked). All pitches on the site are poor quality and each suffers from drainage issues. Site is cumulatively overplayed by four match equivalent sessions per week.	Seek to improve quality of the grass pitches on site through a combination of improvements to both drainage and maintenance. If not feasible, look to transfer demand off site to alternate pitches.	Commercial FA	Local site	Medium	M	L	Protect Enhance
41	MOD Southwick Park	PO17 6EJ	Football	MOD	Two standard quality adult pitches played to capacity at peak times.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained to accommodate current	MOD FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescale <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
			AGP		A full size sand-based AGP with no community use. Poor quality has resulted in the pitch being condemned.	usage levels. Sustain quality for private use.	MOD EH		Low	L	L	
42	New Road Playing Field	SO32 2RB	Football	Parish Council	An adult pitch with two mini 7v7 pitches overmarked. Overmarked lines have been burnt into the pitch which is dangerous for potential users. Site has no recorded community use at present.	Ensure quality of the site is sustained. Look to change the way overmarking is carried out as to adhere to FA guidelines.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
47	Owslebury Recreation Ground	SO21 1LL	Football	Parish Council	Standard quality adult pitch with no capacity during the peak period.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained through continuation of the current maintenance regime.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		A poor quality six wicket cricket square with no recorded community use.	Look to improve quality of the cricket square if linked to future use. Explore opportunities to work with clubs with capacity issues to use this site as a secondary venue.	Parish Council ECB	Local site	Low	L	L	
50	Priory Park	SO32 1SQ	Football	Sports Club/Parish Council	Three adult, two youth 11v11 and three mini 5v5 pitches which are all standard quality. Home site of Bishop Waltham Dynamos FC. Peak time capacity available on adult and mini pitches.	As a minimum, seek to sustain current levels of maintenance undertaken on the site to preserve quality. Explore opportunities to increase the quality of the site through incremental improvements to the maintenance regime.	Sports Club Parish Council FA	Local site	Medium	M	L	Protect Enhance
			Bowls		A good quality bowling green. Home to West Meon BC.	Ensure that the good quality of the green is sustained through continuation of the current maintenance regime.	Sports Club Parish Council		Low	L	L	
51	Rays Farm Playing Field	SO32 1JJ	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult football pitch. Peak time capacity available.	Sustain pitch quality through continuation of the current maintenance regime.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
53	Ridge Meadow	PO7 4TH	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality grass cricket square with 13 wickets and an NTP. Site is played to capacity. Home of Hambledon CC.	Ensure quality of the square is sustained to sustain current use. Explore opportunities to undertake a PQS to continue to improve maintenance standards.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	M	L	Protect Enhance
55	Shedfield Recreation Ground	SO32 2JB	Football	Parish Council	Three standard quality adult football pitches with capacity available in the peak period.	Ensure quality of all pitches on site is sustained to accommodate current levels of demand.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		Standalone standard quality NTP.	Look to protect quality of the NTP for recreational use.	Parish Council ECB		Low	L	L	
57	Soberton Recreation Ground	SO32 3LS	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult football pitch with spare capacity in the peak period.	Ensure quality is sustained to accommodate both current and future use.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
65	Swanmore College	SO32 2RB	Football	School	Poor quality adult football pitch. Available for community use but unused.	Look to improve quality of pitch for curricular use.	School FA	Hub site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance
			3G		A good quality full sized 3G pitch which is on the FA register. Pitch close to capacity both during the week and on weekends.	Ensure that the pitch is adequately maintained and that a suitable sinking fund is in place for future use.	School FA		High	M	L	
			AGP		Small sided poor quality AGP. Pitch	Look to improve quality of the pitch	School		Low	L	L	



**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescale <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
			Rugby union		receives minimal use.	for curricular use if required.	England Hockey					
			Cricket		Two poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitches. Available for community use but unused.	Look to improve quality of pitch for curricular use as required.	School RFU		Low	L	L	
					Standalone poor quality NTP.	Look to resurface NTP for curricular use as required.	School ECB		Low	L	L	
69	The Holt Cricket Ground	SO32 1HQ	Cricket	Sports Club	A poor quality cricket square with seven wickets and an NTP. Home venue to Bishops Waltham CC. Site has minimal spare capacity remaining.	Explore opportunities to increase quality of the maintenance undertaken on the site to improve overall quality of the cricket square.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Medium	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
					Club states a demand for non turf practice nets.	Explore funding opportunities to purchase training equipment.			Medium	M	L	
70	The Meon Hall	SO32 3NP	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult football pitch with spare capacity in the peak period.	Ensure quality is sustained to accommodate both current and future use.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
73	The Rec	GU32 1LH	Football	Parish Council	Two standard quality adult football pitch with spare capacity in the peak period.	Ensure quality is sustained to accommodate both current and future use.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		A poor quality five wicket cricket square with no recorded community use.	Look to improve quality of the cricket square if linked to future use. Explore opportunities to work with clubs with capacity issues to use this site as a secondary venue.	Parish Council ECB		Low	L	L	
75	Tichborne Park	SO24 0PN	Cricket	Sports Club	A good quality cricket square with ten wickets and an NTP. Site has additional capacity midweek to accommodate growth.	Ensure that the quality of the square is sustained through continuation of the current maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
					Tichborne Park CC is actively trying to raise capital in addition to applying for match funding to create a new pavilion on its site. Aside from financial challenges, the Club highlights that it is on a privately-owned ground which has restrictions to its lease agreement about the type of building materials which can be used to create permanent structures.	Explore funding opportunities to work with the Club to provide funding to develop enhanced ancillary provision.			Medium	M	H	
					Tichborne Park CC has a requirement for non turf practice nets and a mobile cage to enhance its training facilities.	Work to secure funding to purchase for training facilities.			Medium	M	L/M	
79	Wickham Community Centre	PO17 5AL	3G	Community	A small sided floodlit 3G pitch which is available for community use. Predominately used for recreational football.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained and that an adequate sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing.	Community FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
80	Wickham Cricket Club	PO17 6HX	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality cricket square with ten wickets. Site has actual spare capacity in the peak period.	Sustain quality of the cricket square to accommodate both current and future demand on the site.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
81	Wickham Recreation Ground	PO17 5DE	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult football pitch with spare capacity in the peak period.	Ensure quality is sustained to accommodate both current and future use.	Parish Council FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescale <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
94	Hampshire Hogs Cricket Ground	SO32 3LG	Cricket	Sports Club	A standard quality cricket square with 14 wickets. Site has actual spare capacity but not in the peak period.	Sustain quality of the cricket square to accommodate both current and future demand on the site.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
95	New Place Hotel	SO32 2JY	Cricket	Private	A standard quality cricket square with nine grass wickets. Site unsuitable to accommodate competitive league cricket due to the distance away from changing/toilet facilities.	Sustain quality for current use. Seek to better utilise for recreational cricket.	Private ECB	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
96	Wickham Primary School	PO17 5HU	Football	School	A mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch which are both poor quality. Pitches unavailable for community use.	Seek to improve quality through improved maintenance for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	Low	L	L	Protect
-	North Whiteley	-	-	-	Plans to create ten pitches with accompanying pavilion and two AGPs as part of significant housing development.	Ensure that pitches are created to an adequate quality and that they are fully accessible to the community. If the AGPs created on site have a 3G surface. Ensure they are built to FA specifications and can be placed on the FA register. Review the potential of transferring Locksheath Pumas RFC to newly created pitches as part of the North Whiteley development.	Local Authority FA RFU	Local site	-	-	-	Provide
-	Berewood	-	-	-	A secondary school and two primary schools will be created as part of the housing develop.	Ensure community use agreements are in place to guarantee access at the secondary school.	Local Authority FA ECB	Local site	-	-	-	Provide
-	Hunts Pond Road	-	Rugby union	-	Plans to create a cricket square and mini football pitch as part of significant housing development.	Ensure that pitches are created to an adequate quality and that they are fully accessible to the community.	Local Authority FA ECB	Local site	-	-	-	Provide
-					A potential site for the transfer of Locksheath Pumas RFC.	If the relocation goes ahead, ensure the Club is provided with the required number of pitches and that they are of a sufficient quality.	Local Authority RFU	Local site	-	-	-	Provide

## **PART 7: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE**

### ***Delivery***

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across the Winchester District. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Winchester District can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach.

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. The role of the steering group should not end with the completion of the PPS document

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 the how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved the steering group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

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.

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.

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for outdoor sports facilities will 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.

Ideally the PPS could be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that would have been built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

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 outdoor sports 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 outdoor sports 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 a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships may be to hold annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings could 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.

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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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 sites in the future.


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

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## 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/>

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?		

## APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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

### **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.

### ***Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)***

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

### ***National Planning Policy Framework***

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

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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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 Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)***

The main aims of the National Game Strategy are summarised below:

- ◀ Sustain and Increase Participation
- ◀ Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- ◀ Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite
- ◀ Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees
- ◀ Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- ◀ Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
- ◀ Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms
- ◀ Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
- ◀ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches

### **England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan**

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Clubs and leagues*
  - ◀ *Kids*
  - ◀ *Communities*
  - ◀ *Casual*
- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Pathway*
  - ◀ *Support*
  - ◀ *Elite Teams*



- ◀ *England Teams*
- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Fan focus*
  - ◀ *New audiences*
  - ◀ *Global stage*
  - ◀ *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Integrity*
  - ◀ *Community programmes*
  - ◀ *Our environments*
  - ◀ *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
  - ◀ *People*
  - ◀ *Revenue and reach*
  - ◀ *Insight*
  - ◀ *Operations*

### ***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

## ***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)***

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

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

### *Vision*

Helping every hockey club in England to work towards having appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

### *Mission*

More, better, happier players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.

There will be three key objectives for the facilities strategy to help to retain existing players and attract new players into the game:

- ◀ Protect: To safeguard existing hockey provision.
- ◀ Improve: To improve the existing facilities stock both at grassroots and elite level.
- ◀ 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.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

EH's new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

- ◀ Having great leadership
- ◀ Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
- ◀ Inspired and Effective People
- ◀ Different Ways to Play
- ◀ Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
- ◀ Being Local with Strong Community Connections
- ◀ Stretching and developing those who want it

## ***Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017***

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

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

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

### Funding opportunities<sup>26</sup>

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

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund <a href="http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/">http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/</a>	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment. For example, Awards for All which is for small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000.
Sport England The current funding streams will change throughout 2016/17 so refer to the website for the latest information: <a href="http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/">http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/</a>	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation <a href="http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/">http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</a>	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation <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 Grant Match Scheme in particular provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers). Other loan schemes are also available.
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>	Interest Free Loan Scheme provides finance to clubs for capital projects and the Small Grant Scheme is also open to applications from affiliated cricket clubs.
EU Life Fund <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</a>	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
National Hockey Foundation <a href="http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/">http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</a>	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: Young people and hockey, Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

<sup>26</sup> Up to date as of April 2017.

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## Protecting Playing Fields

Sport England's Strategy: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021) will simplify the funding reducing the number of investment programmes from 30 to 7:

- ◀ Tackling Inactivity
- ◀ Children and Young People
- ◀ Volunteering
- ◀ Taking sport and activity into the mass market
- ◀ Supporting sports core markets
- ◀ Local delivery
- ◀ Creating welcoming sports facilities

The current funding streams listed below will remain operational during 2016/17 but will be phased out and replaced by one or more of the seven listed above.

It launched Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects.

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

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

The programmes three priorities are:

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

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also provide opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces. For further up to date information please go to: <http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/protecting-playing-fields/>

## Strategic Facilities Fund

Facilities are fundamental in providing more people with the opportunity to play sport. The supply of the right facilities in the right areas is key to getting more people to play sport. Sport England recognises the considerable financial pressures that local authorities are currently under and the need to strategically review and rationalise leisure stock so that cost effective and financially sustainable provision is available in the long-term. Sport England has a key role to play in the sector, from influencing the local strategic planning and review of sports facility provision to investing in major capital projects of strategic importance.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will direct capital investment into a number of key local authority projects that are identified through a strategic needs assessment and that have maximum impact on growing and sustaining community sport participation. These projects will be promoted as best practice in the delivery of quality and affordable facilities, whilst demonstrating long-term operational efficiencies. The fund will support projects that bring together multiple partners, including input from the public and private sectors and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). The fund is also designed to encourage applicants and their partners to invest further capital and revenue funding to ensure sustainability. Sport England has allocated a budget of circa £30m of Lottery funding to award through this fund (2013-17).

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

- ◀ A robust needs and evidence base which illustrates the need for the project and the proposed facility mix
- ◀ Strong partnerships which will last beyond the initial development of the project and underpin the long-term sustainability of the facility
- ◀ Multi-sport provision and activity that demonstrates delivery against NGB local priorities
- ◀ A robust project plan from inception to completion with achievable milestones and timescales.

Lottery applications will be invited on a solicited-only basis and grants of between £500,000 and £2,000,000 will be considered.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

- ◀ Are large-scale capital developments identified as part of a local authority sports facility strategic needs assessment/rationalisation programme and that will drive a significant increase in community sports participation
- ◀ Demonstrate consultation/support from two or more NGBs and delivery against their local priorities
- ◀ Are multi-sport facilities providing opportunities to drive high participant numbers
- ◀ Are a mix of facility provision (indoor and/or outdoor) to encourage regular and sustained use by a large number of people
- ◀ Offer an enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build facilities
- ◀ Have a long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Show quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Have effective and efficient operating models, combined with a commitment to development programmes which will increase participation and provide talent pathways.

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Projects will need to demonstrate how the grant will deliver against Sport England's strategic priorities. The funding available is for the development of the capital infrastructure, which can contribute to the costs of new build, modernisation or refurbishment and purchasing of major fixed equipment as part of the facility development.

### **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/>

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 THREE: GLOSSARY

**Exported 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**.



## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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**Match equivalent sessions** is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football and rugby union, 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.