



BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd

Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF

T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@kcp.co.uk www.kcp.co.uk



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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CSP	County Sports Partnership
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
IOG	Institute of Groundmanship
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PF	Playing Field
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under
ONS	Office for National Statistics
IMS	International Match Standard
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Birmingham. It has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidance and has been prepared by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) under the direction of a steering group led by the City Council and including national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). It builds upon a preceding Assessment Report, which was jointly produced together with an assessment report for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

The Strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities, as appropriate, directing open space contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy.
- ◀ Informing the protection and provision of playing pitches.
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing playing pitch areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches).
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches.
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for playing pitches.
- ◀ Providing the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of playing pitches.

Scope

Pitch sports were assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. The PPS covers the following playing pitches:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ◀ Cricket squares
- ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches (Sand/water based AGPs)
- ◀ Lacrosse pitches
- ◀ Other grass pitch sports (including American football, softball, Gaelic football, ultimate Frisbee, Australian Rules football and Kabaddi).

In addition, tennis courts are also included. Other non pitch, outdoor sports facilities were assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). These require a different methodology to assess demand and supply to that used for playing pitch sports included within the PPS Guidance.

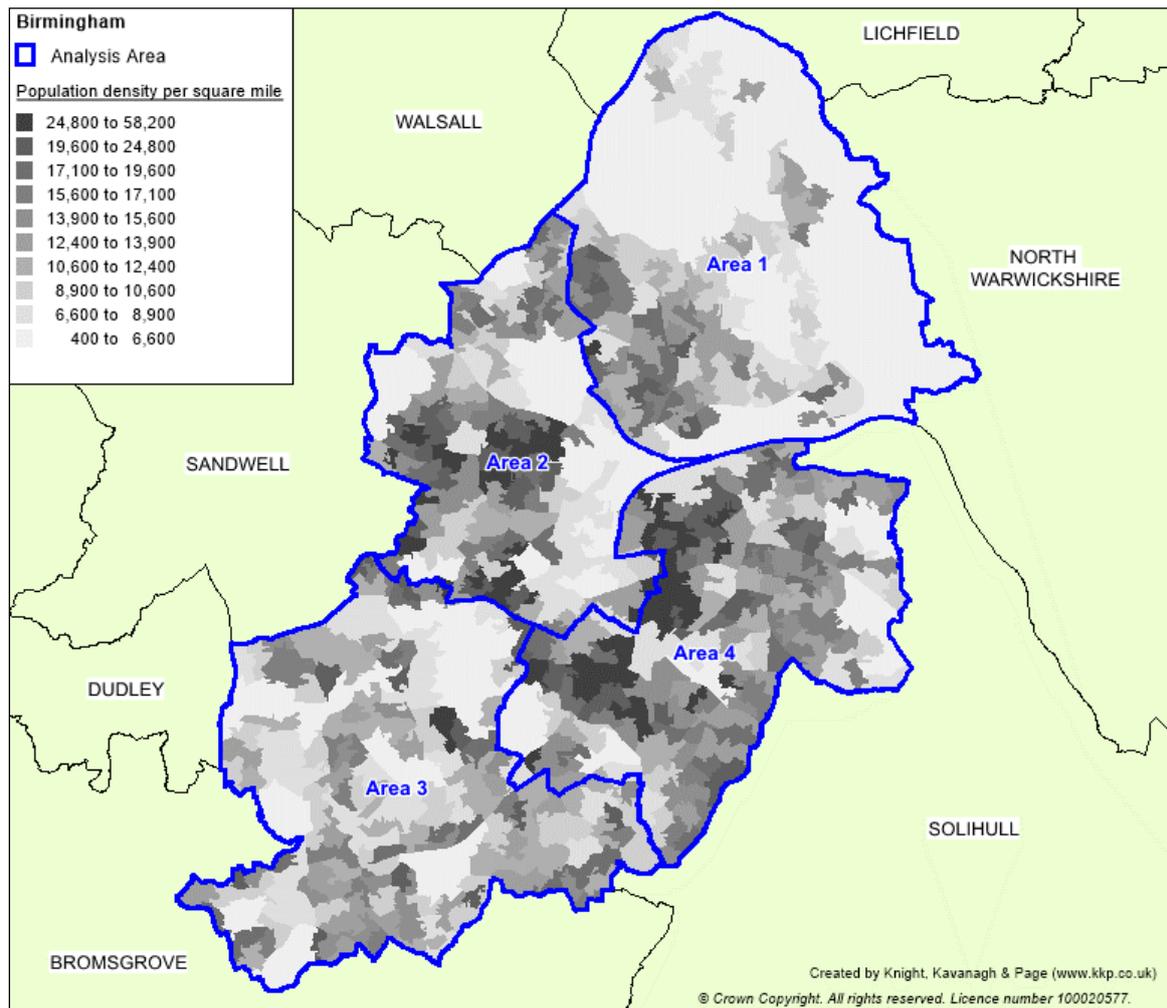
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Study area

This strategy covers the whole City boundary area of Birmingham. Furthermore, the data gathered has been presented in such a way as to be further analysed by smaller analysis areas. For this purpose, the ten districts that comprise of the Council's administrative area have been split to follow the general division of the City to make up four distinct geographical areas:

- ◀ **Area 1** – Sutton Coldfield & Erdington Districts
- ◀ **Area 2** – Ladywood & Perry Barr Districts
- ◀ **Area 3** – Edgbaston, Northfield & Selly Oak Districts
- ◀ **Area 4** – Hall Green, Yardley & Hodge Hill Districts

Figure 1.1: Birmingham analysis area map



1.1: Structure

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

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitch facilities.
- ◀ Evidence to help protect and enhance playing pitch provision.
- ◀ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ◀ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- ◀ The need to provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendation which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, if applicable, the rationalisation of playing pitches.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations that provide a strategic framework for improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends numerous priority projects for Birmingham that should be implemented over the course of its lifespan. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement, with potential partners and possible sources of external funding identified in light of limited council resources.

The recommendations made in this strategy must be translated into local plan policy so that there is a mechanism to support delivery and secure provision and investment into provision where the opportunity arises.

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships between the Council, NGBs, Sport England, education providers, leisure contractors, maintenance contractors, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead can be limited (except in terms of Section 106 agreements and developer contributions). This document will provide clarity with regard to the way forward and will allow organisations to focus on the key issues and objectives that they can directly influence and achieve.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This 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, Sport England and NGBs will consider it to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document and kept up to date, its lifespan can be extended.

The PPS should 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 was built up during its development. 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. To assist this, all information, databases and other tools used to inform the Strategy will be handed over to the Council and full training will be offered to assist in utilisation (see Part: 8).

1.2: Context

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

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

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

This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust, and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹.

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.

Paragraphs 73 and 74 discuss assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraph 76 and 77 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

¹<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/forward-planning/>

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1.3: Headline findings

The following table highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for the main pitch sports in the preceding Assessment Report.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2031) ²
Football (grass pitches)	Birmingham³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 4.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 22.5 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 30.5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 21.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 8.5 match sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 16 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.
	Area 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 5 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 3 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 2 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 12.5 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 12 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 9 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 4 match sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 7 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.
	Area 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 2 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 2 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 1 match session on mini 7v7 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 4.5 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 7 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of four match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 1 match session on mini 5v5 pitches.

² Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

³ Figures for Birmingham as a whole do not equate to a culmination of shortfalls in each analysis area as it also accounts for actual spare capacity of pitch types (which reduces or negates shortfalls).

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2031) ²
	Area 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 1 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 7.5 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 6.5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 8 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 4.5 match sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 6 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.
	Area 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 4 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 2 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.
Football (3G pitches) ⁴	Birmingham⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 5.14 full size 3G pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 9.75 full size 3G pitches. ◀ Pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing.
	Area 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 2.6 full size 3G pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 4.31 full size 3G pitches ◀ Pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing.
	Area 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 2.48 full size 3G pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 3.17 full size 3G pitches. ◀ Pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing.
	Area 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 1.05 full size 3G pitch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 2.64 full size 3G pitches. ◀ Pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing.
	Area 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Current demand is being met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Current demand is being met. ◀ Pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing.

⁴ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training.

⁵ Totals are not a calculation of the analysis areas combined but instead looks at demand in Birmingham as a whole.

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2031) ⁶
Cricket	Birmingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overplay totalling 57 match equivalent sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfalls worsen. Three clubs cannot accommodate future demand on current pitch stock.
	Area 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overplay at Erdington Court Sports Club amounting to five match equivalent sessions. Overplay at Walmley Cricket Ground amounting to 24 match equivalent sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfalls remain without the transfer of play or the creation of additional NTPs.
	Area 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overplay at Holford Drive Community Sports Hub amounting to 11 match equivalent sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfalls remain without the transfer of play or the creation of additional NTPs.
	Area 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current demand is being met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfalls are created. Weoley Hill CC and Harborne CC cannot accommodate future demand on current pitch stock.
	Area 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overplay at Attock Cricket Club amounting to ten match equivalent sessions. Overplay at Ward End Unity Cricket Club amounting to four match equivalent sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfalls worsen. Attock CC cannot accommodate future demand on current pitch stock.
Rugby union	Birmingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfall of 13.25 match equivalent sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfall of 17.75 match equivalent sessions.
	Area 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions.
	Area 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current demand is being met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
	Area 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfall of 1.25 match equivalent sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfall of 1.25 match equivalent sessions.
	Area 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
Rugby league	Birmingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metchley Lane and Moseley Rugby Club are operating over capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortfalls remain.

⁶ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2031) ⁶
	Area 1	◀ No current demand.	◀ No future demand expected.
	Area 2	◀ No current demand.	◀ No future demand expected.
	Area 3	◀ Metchley Lane and Moseley Rugby Club are operating over capacity.	◀ Shortfalls remain.
	Area 4	◀ No current demand.	◀ No future demand expected.
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	Birmingham	◀ Current demand is being met.	◀ Demand from six clubs cannot be met.
	Area 1	◀ Current demand is being met.	◀ Demand identified by Sutton Coldfield Men's HC and Sutton Coldfield Ladies HC cannot be met.
	Area 2	◀ Current demand is being met.	◀ Demand identified by Barford Tigers HC cannot be met.
	Area 3	◀ Current demand is being met.	◀ Demand identified by Bournville HC and Harborne HC cannot be met.
	Area 4	◀ Current demand is being met.	◀ Future demand can be met.

Conclusions

The existing position for all pitch sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of shortfalls for some pitches and for some areas where demand is currently being met. As such, there is a need to protect all existing playing pitch provision until demand is met; or there is a requirement to replace any lost provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost.

The only exception to the above is in the case of sports provision being replaced by a different form of sports provision (e.g. a sand-based AGP being replaced by a 3G AGP) on the assumption that no clubs are left without alternative provision and providing that this is agreed upon by Sport England and the appropriate NGBs.

In the main, there are no pitch surpluses and shortfalls expressed can be met by improving pitch quality to increase capacity. In some instances, however, there may also be a requirement for access to existing unused pitches, such as those located at currently unavailable school sites, pitch re-configuration, the restoration of disused or lapsed pitches (if feasible) or the creation of new provision, particularly in key housing growth areas.

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In relation to football, a shortfall of 3G pitches can only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, thus reducing overplay, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.

For cricket, new provision in the form of NTPs that can be incorporated onto existing sites will help reduce grass wicket shortfalls without the requirement for entirely new squares. The increase in NTPs should be used to transfer junior cricket from grass wickets.

For rugby union, the majority of shortfalls can be alleviated through pitch quality improvements and an increase in floodlit provision, although in isolated cases there may also be a need for an increase in pitch provision. This is evidence in the sport by sport recommendations (Part 4) and the Action Plan (Part 6).

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Definitions

Pitch capacity

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. Pitch quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage but can also be impacted upon by maintenance levels and unofficial use, amongst other factors.

As a guide, the FA, RFU, RFL and the ECB have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). This does not apply to hockey as there is no limit to how often a sand-based AGP can be used, with capacity instead limited by availability and current usage levels. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that similar principles should be followed.

Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	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*	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitch	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	N/A	N/A

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit court can accommodate a membership of up to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members.

Match equivalent sessions

Pitches have a limit in respect of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality and in turn their use is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal play. Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for sport. For cricket pitches, it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season.

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Shortfalls

Shortfalls are expressed in match equivalent sessions rather than converted to pitches. To convert match equivalents into pitches, the number of sessions should generally be halved (to take account of teams playing on a home and away basis) when considering actual match play.

For a full glossary of terms, please refer to Appendix Three.

PART 2: VISION

2.1 Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Birmingham Playing Pitch Strategy. 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 for participation by all residents at all levels of play from grassroots to elite'

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

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

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PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 1.2 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 playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

AIM 2

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

AIM 3

To **provide** new playing pitches 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.

Football – grass pitches

Summary

- ◀ The audit identifies 390 grass football pitches within Birmingham across 143 sites, of which, 305 pitches are available for community use across 97 sites.
- ◀ Future development plans may affect pitch provision at Cadbury Sixth Form College, North Birmingham Academy, Broomhall Playing Fields, North Chamberlain Playing Field and Senneleys Park.
- ◀ There are nine sites that previously contained football pitches in the past five years but no longer do so in addition to various unattached school playing fields. The nine sites are:
 - ◀ Broomhall Playing Fields (two youth pitches)
 - ◀ Co-operative Sports and Social Club (one adult pitch)
 - ◀ Doug Ellis Sports Centre (one adult pitch)
 - ◀ Hamstead Site (two adult pitches)
 - ◀ Long Nuke (one adult pitch)
 - ◀ Perry Park (one adult and one youth pitch)
 - ◀ Rookery Park (one adult pitch)
 - ◀ Summerfield Park (one adult pitch)
 - ◀ Wishaw Lane (three adult, one youth and two mini pitches)
- ◀ Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 48 are serviced by good quality facilities, 120 by standard quality facilities and 40 by poor quality facilities.
- ◀ In total, 17 pitches are assessed as good quality, 259 as standard quality and 29 as poor quality.
- ◀ Various clubs report security of tenure issues as well as those that access Transport Stadium (West Midlands Travel).
- ◀ In addition to Aston Villa FC and Birmingham City FC (and Birmingham City Ladies FC), which are professional clubs, a further six (Sutton Coldfield, Romulus, Boldmere St Michaels, Paget Rangers, Sutton United and Continental Star football clubs) play in the football pyramid.
- ◀ Through the audit, 628 teams from within 219 clubs were identified as playing within Birmingham consisting of 200 adult men's teams, 177 youth 11v11 teams, 102 youth 9v9 teams, 88 mini 7v7 teams and 61 mini 5v5 teams.
- ◀ Eight clubs (Aston Manor Old Boys', Bartley Green Continental, Barley Green Illey, Birmingham Blaze Ladies, Birmingham City Ladies, King's Heath Concorde, SHere Punjab and Sutton Green football clubs) express exported demand that could potentially return to Birmingham should needs be met amounting to 11 adult, five youth and two mini teams.
- ◀ Five clubs express latent demand amounting to three adult, 11 youth and eight mini teams.
- ◀ Of the 31 clubs that quantify their potential future demand, there is a predicted growth of 72 teams.
- ◀ Team generation rates (2031) predict a growth of 26 senior men's, one senior women's, 36 youth boys', two youth girls' and 11 mini soccer teams.

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- ◀ There are 41 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity identified across 27 sites and 62 pitches.
- ◀ There are 35.5 match equivalent sessions of overplay identified across 21 sites and 47 pitches, most of which occurs on adult pitches.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches, with overall spare capacity existing on adult, 7v7 and 5v5 pitches.
- ◀ Taking into account future demand, a shortfall is evident on each pitch type and for adult, youth 11v11, 9v9 and 5v5 pitches the shortfall is substantial.
- ◀ Due to overall shortfalls, the current level of provision needs to be protected or any loss needs to be mitigated through replacement 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 majority of overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality is increased to good, with the only exception being a youth 9v9 pitch at Penn Lane Sports Ground. Some play at this site should be transferred to a site with actual spare capacity.

Please see the table overleaf for a site-by-site breakdown of capacity rating should currently overplayed pitches be improved to good quality. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

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Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Management	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁷	Good quality capacity rating ⁸	Comments
22	Bishop Walsh Catholic School	School	Adult	2	Standard	2		Pitches would be at capacity.
54	Erin Go Bragh Holly Lane Sport	Trust	Adult	2	Standard	1	1	Spare capacity would be created.
93	Jaffray Playing Fields	Sports Club	Adult	1	Standard	1		Adult pitch would be played to capacity; spare capacity would be created on the youth.
			Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1	
			Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	
107	King Georges Field	Council	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity would be created but not actual spare capacity.
			Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	
141	North Birmingham Academy	School	Adult	2	Standard	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity would be created.
150	Penns Lane Sports Ground	Community	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	3	1	Pitch remains overplayed by two teams.
158	Rectory Park	Sports Club	Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	1.5	2.5	Spare capacity would be created.
223	Yenton Playing Fields	Council	Adult	2	Standard	1	1	Spare capacity would be created.
87	Holford Drive Community Sports Hub	Trust	Adult	3	Standard	2.5	0.5	Spare capacity would be created.
135	Nechells Community Sports Centre	Council	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity would be created.

⁷ Match equivalent sessions

⁸ Match equivalent sessions

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Management	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁷	Good quality capacity rating ⁸	Comments
195	The Pavilion	Commercial	Adult	9	Standard	2	7	Spare capacity would be created on the adult pitches; remaining pitches would be played to capacity.
			Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	2		
			Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	2		
			Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	2		
52	Elmdon Playing Field	Council	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity would be created.
72	Grove Road	Council	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity would be created.
109	King's Heath Cricket and Sports Club	Club	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1	Spare capacity would be created.
111	Kings Norton Boys School	School	Adult	2	Standard	0.5	1.5	Spare capacity would be created.
112	Kings Norton Playing Fields	Council	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity would be created.
129	Merrits Brook	School	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	Spare capacity would be created.
168	Shenley Lane Community Association	Community	Adult	1	Standard	1		Spare capacity would be created.
			Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	
368	Rowheath Pavilion	Community	Adult	3	Standard	3		Pitches would be played to capacity.
32	Brockhurst Road Playing Field	Council	Adult	2	Standard	0.5	1.5	Spare capacity would be created.
57	Flaxley Road Playing Fields	Council	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity would be created.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In addition, 12.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are currently discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to poor quality. Improving pitch quality at these sites will provide and increase overall actual spare capacity, which can be used to accommodate demand from currently overplayed sites as well as latent and future demand.

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 competitive matches. Not only can this alleviate over play of grass pitches but it can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use.

Providing security of tenure

Currently 31.5 match equivalent sessions are played on unsecured pitches throughout Birmingham. If such sites were to fall out of use (e.g. Transport Stadium), shortfalls would be exacerbated.

The majority of unsecured use is located at educational sites. Whilst not always possible, creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term. Where there is external investment on school sites, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement.

A total of 24 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity are discounted at education sites that are available for community use but unused. Utilising such sites will therefore reduce shortfalls, particularly in relation to mini and youth pitches. The community use aspects at these sites should therefore be further explored to ensure that they are accessible at peak time and affordable.

Should unsecured provision be permanently lost, replacement provision of an equal or greater quantity and quality at a suitable location is required.

Reconfiguring pitches

If youth 11v11 demand was to be transferred away from adult pitches, the current overall surplus of adult match equivalent sessions would be significantly increased and a future surplus would be created in each analysis area.

Table 4.2: Capacity if youth 11v11 demand was removed from adult pitches

Analysis area	Current adult capacity (match equivalents)	Future adult capacity (match equivalents)	Youth 11v11 demand on adult pitches (match equivalents)	Current adult capacity if removed (match equivalents)	Future adult capacity if removed (match equivalents)
Area 1	5	12.5	14	9	1.5
Area 2	2	4.5	10	12	5.5
Area 3	1.5	7.5	14	12.5	6.5
Area 4	7.5	2	6.5	14	8.5
Birmingham	3	22.5	44.5	47.5	22

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Although some of this spare capacity should be retained as strategic reserve i.e. to help protect/improve quality, there are likely to be opportunities to reconfigure adult pitches to better cater for youth 11v11 demand and to reduce youth pitch shortfalls.

There are currently 113 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing at peak time (Sunday AM) in Birmingham, meaning there is a requirement for 50 pitches to accommodate this demand (based on teams playing on a home and away basis). As there are currently 32 youth 11v11 pitches marked out, a shortfall of 25 pitches is noted. This could be alleviated through re-configuring surplus adult pitches, creating new pitches and/or through the transfer of demand to the 3G pitch stock.

Removing unofficial use

Multiple options are being explored in an attempt to reduce unofficial use grass pitches of. This includes:

- ◀ New light weight goals that are put up and taken down before and after each match by the nominated home team.
- ◀ New yellow goal posts that are permanently fixed in areas away from official pitches in an attempt to attract unofficial use.
- ◀ Sacrificial pitches with permanent, fixed goalposts that allow and encourage unofficial use. Such pitches should receive a basic maintenance schedule, with resources instead focused on official pitches.

By reducing unofficial use, overplay and therefore shortfalls will reduce. Quality will also be protected, with improvement attempts more likely to be successful.

Future developments

To fully understand the impact of proposed future developments, please see the Action Plan (Part 6).

Conclusions

If pitch quality, overplay and security of tenure is addressed and if access to existing pitches is maximised, there would be no current requirement for new grass pitch provision over and above developments already proposed, providing that no pitches are permanently lost. That being said, there remains a need at certain sites for pitches to be reconfigured, particularly in relation to a lack of youth 11v11 pitches. Furthermore, proposed housing growth may result in enough future demand existing for an increase in provision, the need for which should be assessed on an individual basis.

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 pitch reconfiguration to accommodate more youth 11v11 pitches where possible.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity or to sites which are not currently available for community use.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Work to accommodate displaced, latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities at key sites that are currently serviced by poor provision (e.g. Holders Lane Complex and Yardley Wood Playing Field).
- ◀ Explore options to relieve pitches of unofficial use.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ In the longer term, explore opportunities for access to an increased number of 3G pitches to cater for grass pitch shortfalls.

3G pitches

Summary

- ◀ There are currently ten 3G pitches in Birmingham that are considered to be full size, all of which are floodlit and nine of which are available for community use (Wast Hills Training Ground is not).
- ◀ As well as full size 3G pitches, there are also 54 smaller sized pitches servicing Birmingham spread across 16 sites. Such pitches are generally not suitable for adult match play but can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches provided they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with adequate run-off areas (such as at Newman University Sports Centre).
- ◀ Seven of the full size 3G pitches are FA or FIFA approved to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Moseley Rugby Union Club and Metchley Lane are World Rugby compliant and can therefore be used to host competitive rugby union matches.
- ◀ As well as Wast Hills Training Ground, external use is limited at Metchley Lane due to university use and Boldmere St Michaels Football Club and Sutton Coldfield Town Football Club due to internal club use.
- ◀ All full-size pitches are within their lifespan (ten years), with six assessed as good quality and four as standard quality.
- ◀ The University of Birmingham is currently without adequate changing provision at its Metchley Lane Campus, with plans in place to provide a new clubhouse that will be better located to service the 3G pitch.
- ◀ There are ten proposals in place for new full size 3G pitches (discounting those that were linked to Parklife) and six in place for smaller sized pitches. The full-size proposals are at the following sites:
 - ◀ Aston Park
 - ◀ Castle Vale Football Stadium
 - ◀ Lordswood Schools
 - ◀ North Birmingham Academy
 - ◀ Transport Stadium (x2)
 - ◀ University of Birmingham (x3)
 - ◀ Sandon Road
- ◀ All full size 3G pitches are reported as operating at or close to capacity at desirable times, especially during winter months.
- ◀ 53 teams currently use 3G pitches for matches, which is a high amount when compared to other local authorities.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ With limited spare capacity existing on the current stock and a shortfall of grass pitch provision, there is a clear need for more pitches to be developed in strategically suitable locations.
- ◀ For rugby union, the 3G pitch proposals at Sandon Road and the University of Birmingham will further help satisfy demand but further provision may be required given overplay of grass pitches.

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 14 full size 3G pitches in Birmingham. Discounting Wast Hills Training Ground, which is unavailable for community use, there are currently nine full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of five pitches. When considering future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is a demand for 18 full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of nine pitches⁹.

Alternatively, if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area in which they play their matches in, a current shortfall of six full size 3G pitches and a future shortfall of ten full size 3G pitches is identified. This equates to a current shortfall of three pitches in Area 1, two in Area 2 and one in Area 3 and a future shortfall of four pitches in Area 1, three pitches in Area 2 and three pitches in Area 3. No current or future shortfalls are identified in Area 4.

Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA and it is relatively popular within Birmingham already with 53 teams already playing on the surface. 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 (including unattached playing fields) be transferred.

Table 4.3: Number of teams currently using council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	40
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	53
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	33
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	33
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	18
Total			177

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.

⁹ All figures are rounded down.

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Table 4.4: 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	40	20	32	640	10
11v11	53	26.5	32	848	13.25
9v9	33	16.5	10	165	2.58
7v7	33	16.5	8	132	2.06
5v5	18	9	4	36	0.56

Transferring all matches currently played on council pitches would equate to the need for 28 (rounded down from 28.45) full size 3G pitches as the requirements for each pitch type needs to be added together (as peak time is the same). In practice, creating this number of 3G pitches is considered to be unrealistic and it may therefore be more appropriate to consider the requirement for specific formats of play such as mini football or youth 9v9 football.

The table below therefore tests a scenario to enable all 5v5 and 7v7 football currently played at council sites to transfer to 3G pitches based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 4.5: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

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

Based on the above programming and separate start times for 5v5 and 7v7 matches, the overall need is for three full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 18 teams playing 5v5 football requiring three pitches (rounded up from 2.3) and 33 teams playing 7v7 football also requiring three pitches (rounded down from 2.8). As such, it is considered that all mini football could be accommodated on the current supply of 3G pitches.

The table below tests a similar scenario for 9v9 football. This demand could also be accommodated on the current 3G stock as it equates to the need for three (rounded up from 2.1) full size 3G pitches based on 33 teams playing this format on council pitches currently within Birmingham.

Table 4.6: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – 11:30am	2 x 9v9	2/4
11:30am – 1pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
1pm – 2:30pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
2:30pm – 4pm	2 x 9v9	2/4

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It is also worth noting that if all 9v9 football was moved to a Saturday and all mini football was retained on a Sunday (or vice versa), it is feasible that all current demand for mini and 9v9 football could be accommodated on three full size 3G pitches. This would, however, require buy-in from leagues and clubs.

Alternatively, all demand could be met on six full size 3G pitches if peak time demand remained as Sunday AM for all formats of play.

Increases in 3G provision

There are two proposed full size 3G pitches in Area 1 (Castle Vale Football Stadium and North Birmingham Academy), one in Area 2 (Aston Park) and seven in Area 3 (Lordswood Schools, Sandon Road, two at Transport Stadium and three at the University of Birmingham).

Based on training demand, providing all of these would fully alleviate the overall shortfall, with a total of ten additional 3G pitches proposed to cater for a future shortfall of eight pitches. That being said, a shortfall of two full size 3G pitches would still be evident in Area 1 and Area 2 (if every team was to remain within the respective analysis area in which they play). A large oversupply would be evident in Area 3.

It should also be noted that the proposed 3G pitches at Sandon Road and the University of Birmingham will primarily serve rugby union. As such, they should be discounted from the above calculations for the time being as any football activity on the pitches will be unsecure. Once the provision is in place, regularly updates are recommended to fully determine the impact on football based demand. This can occur via annual Stage E update meetings.

Additional potential developments identified in the preceding assessment report at Colmers Community Leisure Centre, Small Heath Leisure Centre and the Pavilion were subject to the FA's Parklife scheme going ahead in Birmingham, which for the time being is not the case. As such, they have not been included in the calculations above.

In addition to the above, there is a potential full-size 3G development at the Hayes. This is owned by the Council and, if it goes ahead, will service some level of demand from Birmingham residents, but sits within Bromsgrove.

The FA Parklife Programme

This is The FA's radical vision to transform the way grassroots football is played in England's towns and cities. The FA, DCMS, Premier League, Football Foundation and Sport England are all working together to significantly improve the provision and quality of football facilities, on a sustainable basis, to drive increased participation levels, quality of experience and more broadly delivering wider social benefits. The main focus of delivery will be around increasing the number of 3G pitches available for competitive play. To be eligible for the project local authorities must have a population of at least 200,000 people.

Birmingham did not declare an interest in the programme, but that is not to say that certain principles cannot be implemented e.g. a football hub model.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.

The proposal at Sandon Road is expected to deliver a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, as could all the developments at the University of Birmingham. The former will cater for Bournville RUFC, freeing up space on the existing 3G pitch at the University of Birmingham and reducing use of the grass rugby pitches.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Encourage all providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that all pitches currently on the FA register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- ◀ Encourage providers with existing 3G pitches that are not on the FA register to undergo testing.
- ◀ 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 areas with identified shortfalls, starting with those already proposed.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Re-examine feasibility of the FA Parklife Programme.

Cricket pitches

Summary

- ◀ There are 73 grass cricket squares in Birmingham across 51 sites, 67 of which are considered to be available for community use.
- ◀ There are non-turf pitches (NTPs) accompanying grass wicket squares at 14 sites and there are standalone NTPs located at ten sites.
- ◀ Cofton Park contains a disused standalone NTP and seven sites previously contained grass wicket squares that could be restored if demand requires.
- ◀ Spring Lane Playing Fields previously contained two grass wicket squares; however, one of these is no longer in use or maintained.
- ◀ A proposal is in place at Lordswood Schools for the development of a 3G football pitch that is expected to be built where the standalone NTP is currently located.
- ◀ The majority of clubs that responded to consultation rent or lease their squares, with only Bridge Trust CC and King's Heath CC owning their home grounds.
- ◀ Sheldon Marlborough, Harborne, Moseley Ashfield, Four Oaks Saints and Attock cricket clubs have less than 25 years remaining on their lease agreements and therefore have limited security of tenure.
- ◀ The assessment of grass wicket squares found eight community available pitches to be good quality, 45 to be standard quality and 13 to be poor quality.
- ◀ Seven sites are considered to be serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Three clubs report demand for practice nets or additional practice nets whilst one (Attock CC) reports demand for an NTP to be provided.
- ◀ Birmingham based clubs also have access to specialised indoor arenas such as at S&S Indoor Cricket Centre and Action Indoor Sports.
- ◀ There are 21 affiliated clubs that generate 87 senior men's, five senior women's and 67 junior teams.
- ◀ The only displaced demand discovered is from Birmingham Avengers CC, which plays all of its matches in Tamworth.
- ◀ Five clubs express future demand totalling an increase of two senior men's, one senior women's and four junior teams, whilst team generation rates predict a growth of eight senior men's, seven junior boys' and one junior girls' team.
- ◀ There are high levels of South Asian league based demand from leagues such as the Birmingham Cricket League, the Al Faisals Cricket League, the LL Cricket League and Last Man Stands.
- ◀ Despite 37 sites showing potential spare capacity, only eight are available for further use on a Saturday totalling 6.5 squares and only ten are available for further use on a Sunday totalling 7.5 squares.
- ◀ Five squares are overplayed by 57 match equivalent sessions combined.
- ◀ As junior teams can play on NTPs and generally play midweek on a variety of days, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future.
- ◀ That said, an increase in NTPs may be required to fully satisfy South Asian league based senior demand as well as for the transfer of junior cricket that would alleviate of overplay on grass wickets.
- ◀ For senior cricket, priority should be placed on retaining the current number of grass wicket squares with consideration also given to restoring some disused provision and creating new provision to account for shortfalls expressed by certain clubs and leagues.

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.

For the majority of overplayed sites, the best solution would be to install an NTP *in situ* as this would allow for the transfer of junior demand away from grass wickets. Erdington Court Sports Club, Walmley Cricket Ground and Ward End Unity Cricket Club are currently overplayed and are not serviced by an NTP, meaning the installation of one would alleviate overplay at these sites.

For the remaining overplayed sites (Holford Drive Community Sports Hub and Attock Cricket Club), greater use of already installed NTPs is required. If overplay persists, demand should be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity, or to sites with a standalone NTP such as currently unavailable school sites.

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.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In contrast, Attock, Harborne and Weoley Hill cricket clubs are unable to accommodate expressed future demand for senior cricket at their current sites, either due to a lack of overall spare capacity or due to no actual spare capacity existing on a Saturday or a Sunday. As such, for growth plans to be realised, demand will need to be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity or new provision will be required.

Increasing stock of NTPs

Due to increasing financial constraints placed on local authorities, it is considered that grass wicket squares on council managed sites is becoming unsustainable. One way to combat this is to increase the provision of standalone NTPs on such sites. This will require less maintenance and also provides opportunities to the local community, especially in relation to South Asian league based demand.

The ECB has created a local authority NTP scheme aiming to create a substantial number of new cricket pitches in areas of need and to facilitate a partnership approach between local authorities and county cricket boards. It is expected that the primary source of identified strategic need will be an up-to-date PPS. The scheme will offer capital grants towards the cost of construction of NTPs, periodic maintenance for a period of five years and equipment to engage new participants.

Birmingham has been approved for the scheme in 2017, with £250,000 secured.

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 poor and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Ensure South Asian league based demand has access to enough provision.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for Sheldon Marlborough, Harborne, Four Oaks Saints, Moseley Ashfield and Attock (Elmdon Road) cricket clubs.
- ◀ Explore options to provide Handsworth CC and Aston CC with lease arrangements.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities that are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities.
- ◀ Address overplay via the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity or through an increase in NTPs accompanying grass wickets.
- ◀ Explore increase of NTPs on council managed sites in line with the ECB's local authority NTP scheme to relieve financial pressures on maintenance.
- ◀ Ensure Attock, Harborne and Weoley Hill cricket clubs can realise future growth plans through access to alternative sites or through new provision.

Rugby union - grass pitches

Summary

- ◀ There are 27 sites containing 56 senior, three junior and 13 mini rugby pitches, of which, 47 senior, all junior and seven mini pitches are available to the community.
- ◀ Bournville RUFC is in the process of relocating much of its demand to a new development at Sandon Road that will contain one full size, floodlit, World Rugby compliant 3G pitch as well as two grass senior pitches.
- ◀ Bournville, Birmingham Bulls, Birmingham Barbarians, Dixonians, Yardley & District and Moseley Oak rugby clubs are all considered to have unsecure tenure.

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- ◀ Of community available pitches, seven are assessed as good quality, 42 as standard and eight as poor.
- ◀ Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club has a drainage system in place (D2), as does the University of Birmingham at its Bournbrook Campus.
- ◀ Bournville and Yardley & District rugby clubs both report ancillary facility issues in that the clubhouse provision servicing the University of Birmingham and Yardley and District Rugby Club is considered to be poor quality.
- ◀ Harborne RUFC is without a clubhouse and reports an issue with shower facilities servicing its changing rooms at West Hills Close.
- ◀ Aston Old Edwardians RUFC has access to two changing blocks, the second of which is considered to be poor quality due to a leaking roof and heating and hot water issues.
- ◀ There are 11 rugby union clubs consisting of 28 senior, 19 junior and 27 mini teams
- ◀ In addition, the University of Birmingham fields seven senior teams that play at Metchley Lane or Bournbrook, whilst Birmingham City University fields one senior team at the Pavilion.
- ◀ Old Saltleians RUFC is designated to Birmingham but is current based in North Warwickshire (displaced demand). The Club is subject to a relocation due to HS2.
- ◀ Aston Old Edwardians, Yardley & District and Sutton Coldfield rugby clubs train on match pitches through the use of floodlighting, whereas Dixonians RUFC has to train at an indoor facility due to a lack of floodlighting.
- ◀ Neither Birmingham Barbarians RUFC nor Birmingham Bulls RUFC have suitable training facilities. The former trains at the Pavilion but not on the match pitches, whereas the latter reports that it does not have a regular training venue.
- ◀ Bournville RUFC, Harborne RUFC and teams fielded by the University of Birmingham train on a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch located at Metchley Lane.
- ◀ Five clubs (Aston Old Edwardians, Birmingham Barbarians, Birmingham Bulls, Yardley & District and Harborne) express future demand amounting to five senior and four junior teams.
- ◀ Despite ten senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity, only three are considered available for further play during the peak period equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There are seven senior pitches overplayed across four sites by a combined 14.75 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overall, there is a shortfall of 13.25 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand and this shortfall worsens to 17.75 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ To alleviate overplay at Aston Old Edwardians Rugby Club, access to a greater number of pitches is required.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

Installing drainage systems at sites would improve pitch quality and therefore increase the carrying capacity of pitches. Improving drainage at all sites used by clubs to good quality (D3 – pipe and slit drained) would result in a further 27.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity on senior pitches, six on junior pitches and eight on mini pitches. This would fully alleviate overplay at Billesley Common as well as reducing overplay at Aston Old Edwardians Rugby Club, Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club and Yardley & District Rugby Club albeit not fully.

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Improving maintenance at all sites used by clubs to good (M2) would result in a further 18 match equivalent sessions of capacity on senior pitches, four on junior pitches and five on mini pitches. This would also fully alleviate overplay Billesley Common as well as reducing overplay at Aston Old Edwardians Rugby Club, Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club and Yardley & District Rugby Club albeit not fully.

Increasing access to floodlit training provision (grass pitches)

Overplay at Aston Old Edwardians Rugby Club, Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club and Yardley & District Rugby Club cannot be fully alleviated through pitch quality improvements. As all three sites are predominately overplayed because of training demand, an increase in the number of floodlit pitches and/or areas available is required.

This will allow training demand to spread across a greater number of pitches/areas and can be achieved either via provision of dedicated, permanent floodlighting or through the use of portable floodlights.

If additional floodlighting cannot be provided, the club's will require access to an increased number of pitches or a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch to alleviate expressed overplay.

Increasing pitch stock

It is determined that overplay cannot be fully alleviated at Aston Old Edwardians Rugby Club through pitch quality improvements or through increased floodlighting. As such, the Club requires access to a greater number of pitches.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Explore community use aspects at currently unused educational sites to fully determine availability and, as a minimum, protect the pitches for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs are provided with adequate training and match play facilities i.e. via full size, floodlit pitches.
- ◀ Support Bournville RUFC in its relocation to Sandon Road and ensure the development caters for the Club's needs (e.g. through adequate car parking and ancillary facilities) to provide an opportunity for it to sustain participation and fulfil its growth potential.
- ◀ Improve security of tenure for Bournville, Birmingham Bulls, Birmingham Barbarians, Dixonians, Yardley & District and Moseley Oak rugby clubs by providing lease arrangements with a minimum term of 25 years.
- ◀ Support aspirations for ancillary facility improvements relating to Aston Old Edwardians, Bournville, Harborne and Yardley & District rugby clubs as well as the University of Birmingham.
- ◀ Explore options to provide Dixonians RUFC with a more suitable training venue, either through an on-site solution after security tenure is provided or via an alternative venue locally.
- ◀ Ensure Old Saltleians RUFC remains provided for if it is relocated due to HS2.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems, particularly at sites containing overplayed pitches.

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- ◀ Increase the floodlit provision available at Aston Old Edwardians Rugby Club, Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club and Yardley & District Rugby Club to alleviate overplay as a result of concentrated training demand.
- ◀ Alternatively, explore options to provide the clubs with access to a greater number of pitches or to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ Support the creation of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches at Sandon Road and the University of Birmingham.

Rugby league pitches

Summary

- ◀ Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC is the only club based in Birmingham, although a team is also fielded by the University of Birmingham.
- ◀ The Club plays on a rugby union grass pitch at Moseley Rugby Union Club and trains on an on-site World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ The University plays on a grass pitch at its Metchley Lane campus whilst training on the site's World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ Both Moseley Rugby Union Club and Metchley Lane are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ No issues were raised regarding the ancillary facilities at Moseley Rugby Union Club, whereas facilities at Metchley Lane are considered poor quality due to their age and size.
- ◀ Both Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC and the University of Birmingham field one senior men's team.
- ◀ Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC reports that it will merge with Solihull based South Birmingham Hawks RLFC ahead of the 2017 season, with matches continuing at Moseley Rugby Union Club.
- ◀ The capacity at Moseley Rugby Union Club will be unaffected by the merger of Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC and South Birmingham Hawks RLFC as there will be no net increase of teams and all training demand will continue to take place on the site's 3G pitch.
- ◀ When rugby union use is factored in, spare capacity amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions remains at Moseley Rugby Club.

Scenarios

The merger between Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC and South Birmingham Hawks RLFC

Should the merger go ahead, the capacity at Moseley Rugby Union Club will be unaffected due to the overall net loss of a senior team and also because all training demand will continue to take place on a 3G pitch.

Recommendations

- ◀ Support Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC in its merger with South Birmingham Hawks RLFC.
- ◀ Support the University of Birmingham in its ancillary facility development plans and ensure its rugby league needs continue to be met.
- ◀ Ensure continued rugby league use of Moseley Rugby Club and Metchley Lane or ensure alternative venues are accessible.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality, where possible, in line with rugby union recommendations and scenarios.

Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Summary

- ◀ There are currently 19 full size hockey suitable AGPs in Birmingham, 18 of which are floodlit and 16 of which are available to the community.
- ◀ There are also 24 smaller sized AGPs, which, although not big enough to accommodate matches, can be used for training demand.
- ◀ Another smaller sized AGP at Castle Vale Football Stadium is now considered disused after it fell out of use in 2013 due to quality issues.
- ◀ King Edward's Camp Hill School for Girls reports an aspiration to develop a full size sand-based AGP in the future.
- ◀ The University of Birmingham reports plans to redevelop and relocate its two water based pitches at its Bournbrook Campus as the current pitches have a dated sub-base, obsolete floodlighting and are the wrong orientation.
- ◀ Full size AGPs at Aston Park, Holyhead School and Holte School are under proposal to be converted to a 3G surface.
- ◀ Colmers Community Leisure Centre, Small Heath Leisure Centre and the Pavilion were also under proposal to be replaced, although these were linked to the FA's Parklife scheme, which for the time being is no longer happening in Birmingham.
- ◀ With the exception of Waverly Studio College and Holyhead School, which are unavailable for community use, the remaining sites are all readily available, with 11 full size pitches currently accessed by hockey clubs.
- ◀ Of the full size AGPs, four are assessed as good quality, nine as standard quality and five as poor quality.
- ◀ Barford Tigers HC rates the quality of the changing facilities at Hamstead Hall Academy as poor quality, whilst Bournville HC and Sutton Coldfield Mens HC also report issues with ancillary provision at King Edward VI High School for Girls and Rectory Park respectively.
- ◀ There are nine affiliated clubs in Birmingham and two unaffiliated clubs consisting of 51 senior men's, 28 senior women's and 26 junior teams.
- ◀ Displaced demand is expressed by King's Heath HC and Birmingham Wasps HC.
- ◀ Old Halesonians HC is imported into Birmingham from Dudley.
- ◀ Barford Tigers, Bournville, Sutton Coldfield Men's and Sutton Coldfield Ladies hockey clubs all express latent demand in that they could increase their number of teams if more pitches were available.
- ◀ Participation has increased over the previous three years with four clubs reporting an increase in senior membership and five clubs reporting an increase in junior membership.
- ◀ Barford Tigers, Bournville, Harborne, Sutton Coldfield Men's and Sutton Coldfield Ladies hockey clubs, as well as the University of Birmingham, all express future demand, although increased access to pitches is required.
- ◀ In addition, team generation rates (2031) predict an increase of five senior men's, one senior women's and five junior teams.
- ◀ Calculations suggest that there is a need for at least ten full size, floodlit hockey suitable AGPs, however, it is not realistic to aggregate the current stock into an oversupply of pitches.
- ◀ The key issues are to protect or mitigate the 11 pitches currently in use by hockey clubs and to find a solution to accommodate remaining expressed displaced, latent and future demand.

Scenarios

Accommodating future, latent and displaced demand

Barford Tigers, Bournville, Harborne, King's Heath, Sutton Coldfield Men's and Sutton Coldfield Ladies hockey clubs cannot accommodate remaining unmet, latent and/or displaced demand on the AGPs that they currently use. As such, if these clubs cannot be accommodated on existing stock, or if they are unwilling to relocate demand, additional provision is required.

Aston Park, Holyhead School, the Pavilion, Holte School, Perry Beeches Academy, Colmers Community Leisure Centre and Waverley Studio College are currently unused by hockey clubs. Of these, Aston Park, Colmers Community Leisure Centre, Holyhead School and the Pavilion are deemed unsuitable due to current or previous 3G proposals. The remaining could be accessed, although Waverley Studio College is currently unavailable for community use whereas Perry Beeches Academy is without floodlighting.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

Aston Park, Holyhead School and the Holte School are currently under proposals to be converted to 3G. In addition, Colmers Community Leisure Centre, Small Heath Leisure Centre and the Pavilion were previously under 3G proposal (as per the FA's Parklife scheme). Should these proposals be reignited in the future, it would be a particular issue at Small Heath Leisure Centre as it is in current use by Yardley HC and would therefore leave the Club homeless.

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a 3G pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling greater distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred local authority.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants will have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted. It is unlikely that any pitch that is currently in use for hockey purposes in Birmingham will gain approval for a 3G conversion.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be taken.

The 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Those proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance 'Selecting the Right Artificial Grass Surface which can be found on Sport England's website:

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

Recommendations

- ◀ As a minimum, protect or mitigate the 11 pitches currently in use by hockey clubs.
- ◀ Seek to accommodate expressed latent, future and displaced demand on the current pitch stock or explore opportunities to add to the pitch stock in suitable locations.
- ◀ Resurface the AGPs that have reached the end of their lifespan and protect those in current use by hockey clubs as a hockey suitable surface.
- ◀ Support the University of Birmingham in its aspiration to redevelop and relocate its two AGPs.
- ◀ Ensure that providers have sinking funds in place at all sites to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Pursue long-term security of tenure for all clubs, particularly those using education sites, through community use agreements.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Hamstead Hall Academy and the University of Birmingham.
- ◀ Seek resolution to displaced demand expressed by King's Heath HC and Birmingham Wasps HC.
- ◀ Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey and revisit hockey demand when and if a conversion is proposed to ensure that the pitch in question is not required.

Lacrosse pitches

Summary

- ◀ There are two grass lacrosse pitches within Birmingham; Lordswood Schools is accessed by Birmingham Lacrosse Club, whereas the University of Birmingham accesses a pitch at its Metchley Lane site.
- ◀ Birmingham Lacrosse Club reports that Lordswood Schools is poor quality, whereas the pitch at Metchley Lane is considered good quality.
- ◀ Birmingham Lacrosse Club has access issues at Lordswood Schools in relation to its changing facilities, whereas the University of Birmingham reports that its provision is too small and outdated.
- ◀ Birmingham Lacrosse Club does not have a community use agreement in place at Lordswood Schools.
- ◀ Birmingham Lacrosse Club fields one senior men's team and one senior women's team as well as a 'development' section of beginner players, whilst the University of Birmingham fields three senior women's and two senior men's teams.
- ◀ Over the previous three years, Birmingham Lacrosse Club reports that its numbers have increased following advertising campaigns and work with local schools.
- ◀ The Club anticipates a potential decrease in demand moving forward as it has recently increased membership fees, with future demand also reliant on the success of the University of Birmingham.
- ◀ Quality improvements are required at Lordswood Schools if Lacrosse demand is to be retained.
- ◀ The grass pitch at Metchley Lane is operating at capacity due to dual rugby union use.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenarios

Transferring demand to 3G pitches

Lacrosse clubs accessing 3G pitches is becoming increasingly common nationally and could offer a viable option for Birmingham Lacrosse Club given its security of tenure and quality issues at Lordwood Schools and for the University of Birmingham given that its grass pitches are operating at capacity.

Birmingham Lacrosse Club has five full size 3G pitches within its vicinity in Area 3. In addition, Lordwood Schools has a proposal in place for the creation of its own 3G pitch, which if successful could provide the ideal solution.

The University of Birmingham has access to a full size 3G pitch at Metchley Lane that could be utilised, as well as proposals for two more to be created should capacity on the current pitch be a deterrent.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality at Lordwood Schools and seek to provide Birmingham Lacrosse Club with secure tenure via a community use agreement.
- ◀ Alternatively, explore the transfer of demand to a 3G pitch.
- ◀ Sustain quality at the University of Birmingham (Metchley Lane) for continued lacrosse use or transfer demand to the onsite 3G pitch to alleviate capacity issues.

Other grass pitch sports

Summary

Ultimate Frisbee

- ◀ Birmingham Ultimate currently fields several teams in mixed, open and women's leagues.
- ◀ As there is no dedicated grass pitch provided in Birmingham matches are instead played in tournaments outside of Birmingham at central venues.
- ◀ Training during the outdoor season occurs every Tuesday evening from March until September at either Cannon Hill Park or Selly Park Recreation Ground.
- ◀ In addition, a team is also fielded by the University of Birmingham, which plays its home matches and trains on the 3G pitch at the University's Metchley Lane Campus.
- ◀ King Edward's High School for Girls has recently started implementing Ultimate into its PE curriculum.

Australian Football

- ◀ Birmingham Bears ARFC is the only club in Birmingham to play the sport.
- ◀ It provides one senior men's team, although a team was not entered in the 2016 season due to a lack of demand.
- ◀ It is expected that the Club will reform ahead of the 2017 season.
- ◀ The Club previously hosted its home fixtures at Aston Old Edwardians on a grass pitch otherwise used for rugby union, whilst training activity took place at Selly Park Recreation Ground.
- ◀ The University of Birmingham also fields a senior men's team that is one of the only university teams in the Country.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Softball

- ◀ The Birmingham Bobcats is the only softball club based in Birmingham.
- ◀ It fields a single senior men's team competitively, however, the team does not host any competitive matches within Birmingham and instead travels to Manchester and Leeds for weekend tournaments.
- ◀ The Club rents pitch space at Hallfield Primary School for training purposes.

American football

- ◀ Birmingham Bulls AFC consists of one senior men's team.
- ◀ Additionally, the Club has a junior section that runs two teams; one for 14-17 year olds and one for 17-19 year olds.
- ◀ All match and training demand takes place at Erin Go Bragh (Holly Lane Sport) on a grass pitch that is dual use with Gaelic football.
- ◀ The Club also has a strong relationship with the University of Birmingham, which also fields teams under the name Birmingham Lions AFC.
- ◀ The team uses a dual use rugby union grass pitch and a 3G pitch at the University's Metchley Lane campus to meet its training and competitive match play demand.

Gaelic football

- ◀ There are three Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) clubs that are playing within Birmingham, all of which are affiliated to the Warwickshire GAA County Board.
- ◀ Erin Go Bragh GAA plays at Erin Go Bragh (Holly Lane Sport), James Connolly's GAA plays at Moor Green Playing Field (Britannic Park) and Sean McDermotts GAA plays at Spring Lane Playing Fields.
- ◀ In addition, two teams are also fielded by the University of Birmingham, both of which share facilities with Erin Go Bragh GAA.

Kabaddi

- ◀ Presently, there are no dedicated Kabaddi pitches in Birmingham.
- ◀ Hilltop Golf Course historically hosted tournaments as well as matches for GNG Kabaddi Club; however, it has not been used for several years due to unknown issues within the UK Kabaddi League.
- ◀ The site used open grass space for these events and it is considered that this could accommodate such demand again in the future, with no other sports pitches affected.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure demand continues to be met.
- ◀ Sustain quality and seek improvements, where possible.

Tennis

Summary

- ◀ A total of 347 tennis courts are identified across 78 sites. Of the courts, 198 are available for community use across 45 sites.
- ◀ In addition to outdoor courts, indoor courts are also provided at Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre and Priory Indoor Tennis Centre.

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- ◀ The University of Birmingham reports an aspiration to develop up to eight tennis courts within its Bournbrook Campus.
- ◀ Courts at Summerfield Park, Pype Hayes Park and Gilberston Recreation Ground are to be redeveloped this year (2017).
- ◀ The majority of courts are managed by clubs, in part due to the large number of clubs serviced and due to club sites generally providing more courts than council, school and private sites.
- ◀ Edgbaston Archery & Lawn Tennis Society reports that the lease of its site expired in 2015 and the Club has been unable to acquire an extension from Calthorpe Estates although it is still granted access.
- ◀ In addition to macadam courts, there are 14 grass, 42 artificial turf and 30 clay courts.
- ◀ There are 89 courts serviced by floodlighting, which is a comparatively high number compared to most other local authorities.
- ◀ Of courts that are available for community use, 119 (60%) are assessed as good quality, 51 (26%) are assessed as standard quality and 28 (14%) are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ There are 26 clubs identified, the majority of which field teams in the Birmingham Area Tennis League, the Metropolitan Summer League the Spring Tennis League and the Warwickshire Tennis League.
- ◀ The Birmingham Parks Tennis League also caters for demand albeit individuals enter rather than teams.

Scenarios

Recommended capacity

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit court can accommodate 60 members. Any club that is exceeding such membership figures may therefore require access to additional courts or additional floodlighting.

Informal tennis

The LTA has recently set up an initiative to change the way in which people access council courts. Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of a control system following payment of an hourly court hire or annual subscription. The LTA is working in partnership with ClubSpark and CIA Fire and Security to provide this, allowing courts to be booked and paid for online. A unique access code is then generated that the user enters at the court gate on a keypad to access the courts. This is a major improvement to the customer journey and provides clear revenue to reinvest into the courts. It also allows official use of courts to be tracked, thus providing data on how often courts are being accessed and by who to build a customer database. Nevertheless, some investment may be required to bring courts up to standard and install the access technology before the initiative can be rolled out.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of tennis courts, particularly those used by clubs and leagues.
- ◀ Review quality issues relating to poor quality courts and seek improvements, where possible.

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- ◀ Support development plans at Summerfield Park, Pype Hayes Park and Gilberstone Recreation Ground and seek to maximise usage.
- ◀ Review membership details at clubs sites and support those that are operating above capacity.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at council sites to improve the casual tennis offer.
- ◀ Explore feasibility of creating a membership scheme at council courts via an access control system.
- ◀ Provide improved security of tenure to Edgbaston Archery & Lawn Tennis Society.
- ◀ Support the University of Birmingham in its aspiration to develop courts.

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 playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, 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 playing pitches are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field 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.

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.

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 playing pitches 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 playing pitches 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 and NTPs 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 playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvements to existing pitches 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. (see Part: 7 for the applied housing growth scenarios).

The PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields, pitches 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 playing field 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 pitches and that any replacement provision is made available before existing provision is lost.

HS2 – Where playing pitches are projected to be lost through the creation of HS2 train lines, replacement provision of an equal or greater quantity and quality should be provided in a suitable location 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).

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 Birmingham 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 North Birmingham Academy and Kings Norton Boys School

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.

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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)¹⁰. 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 and this currently applies to Sheldon Marlborough, Harborne, Four Oaks Saints and Attock cricket clubs as well as Harborne RUFC and Woodlands Northfield Tennis Club.

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. Clubs in Birmingham that expressed an interest in acquiring a lease that do not currently do so include Paget Rangers 2011 FC and Sporting FC.

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>

¹⁰ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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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.

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.

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:

http://archive.sportengland.org/support_advice/asset_transfer.aspx

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. In Birmingham, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from schools, especially some academies, to open up provision is also an issue.

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ◀ Albert Bradbeer Primary Academy | ◀ Ark Boulton Academy |
| ◀ Ark Kings Academy | ◀ Arthur Terry School |
| ◀ Banners Gate Primary School | ◀ Bells Farm Primary School |
| ◀ Boldmere Junior School | ◀ Broadmeadow Junior School |
| ◀ Cadbury Sixth Form College | ◀ Cockshut Hill Technology College |
| ◀ Cofton Primary School | ◀ Colmers Farm Junior School |
| ◀ Fairfax School | ◀ Frankley Community High School |
| ◀ Great Barr School | ◀ Gunter Primary School |
| ◀ Hall Green School | ◀ Hamstead Hall Academy |
| ◀ Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy | ◀ Heathlands Primary School |
| ◀ Hill West Primary School | ◀ Holy Trinity Catholic Media Arts College |
| ◀ King Edward VI Five Ways School | ◀ King Edward VI Handsworth School |

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- ◀ King Edward's School
- ◀ Kingsland Primary School
- ◀ Little Sutton Primary School
- ◀ Mapleden Primary School
- ◀ Maryvale Catholic Primary School
- ◀ Moseley School
- ◀ Penns Primary School
- ◀ Queensbridge School
- ◀ Shenley Academy
- ◀ St Chads Catholic Primary School
- ◀ Stetchford Primary School
- ◀ The Oval Primary School
- ◀ Waverley Studio College
- ◀ Kings Norton Boys School
- ◀ Lea Forest Primary Academy
- ◀ Maney Hill Primary School
- ◀ Marsh Hill Primary School
- ◀ Montgomery Primary Academy
- ◀ Our Lady of Fatima Primary School
- ◀ Plantsbrook School
- ◀ Rednal Hill Junior School
- ◀ South and City College
- ◀ St John Wall Catholic School
- ◀ The Blue Coat School
- ◀ Washwood Heath Academy
- ◀ Yardleys School

In some instances, grass pitches 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.

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

As detailed earlier, NGBs 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.

Sport England has also produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use. These can be found at:

Community Use: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/accessing-schools/>
Use Our Schools Toolkit: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/>

It must also be noted that there are a high number of unattached school playing fields in Birmingham that need to be taken into consideration. Currently, this relates to the following sites:

- ◀ Braemar Road Playing Fields
- ◀ Broomhall Playing Fields
- ◀ Clay Lane
- ◀ Elmdon Playing Field
- ◀ Glenmead
- ◀ Green Lane
- ◀ Hayes
- ◀ Holford Drive Community Sports Hub
- ◀ Jaffray Playing Fields
- ◀ Metchley Lane
- ◀ Shard End No.6 Playing Field
- ◀ Brockhurst Road Playing Field
- ◀ Burford Road
- ◀ Dawberry
- ◀ Flaxley Playing Fields
- ◀ Gospel Lane
- ◀ Greenholm Road
- ◀ Henry Road
- ◀ Spring Lane
- ◀ Stechford Road
- ◀ Twickenham Playing Fields
- ◀ Wood Lane

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◀ Yardley Wood Playing Field

◀ Yenton Playing Fields

Some of these contain playing pitches that are already utilised by the community, whereas others contain unavailable pitches and some do not contain pitches at all. Those that do contain pitches or have pitch proposals in place are identified in the Action Plan. It is considered that full utilisation could greatly reduce shortfalls, particularly in relation to football and cricket.

AIM 2

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

Recommendations:

- d. Improve quality
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Secure developer contributions or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

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 council's 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 Birmingham is variable but generally pitches are assessed as standard quality, with more poor quality pitches in existence than good quality pitches.

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 pitches is also essential.

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on pitch quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the pitches tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that pitch 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 playing pitches achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

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For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches 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 pitches 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 pitches that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. For rugby, 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 pitches 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 pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same applies to women's and girls' demand.

To prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to Birmingham, 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/

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitches stock; it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing pitch quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a weekly match limit to each.

The FA, the RFU, the RFL, 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.

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Table 5.1: 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 ¹¹	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	Four matches per day	N/A	N/A

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit court can accommodate a membership of up to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members.

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 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. Erdington Court Sports Club, Walmley Cricket Ground and Ward End Unity Cricket Club are currently without an NTP and are overplayed.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting will reduce the majority of overplay at club sites as it will allow clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative. Aston Old Edwardians Rugby Club, Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club and Yardley & District Rugby Club would particularly benefit from this.

¹¹ 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.

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

Increasing maintenance

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

The FA 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 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.

At local authority sites in Birmingham, maintenance of grass pitches is deemed to be relatively sophisticated; however, if budget restrictions allow, additional work could still be carried out. This may include weed killing as well as sand dressing the whole pitch area rather than just high traffic areas. The Council should work with users and the relevant NGBs to achieve this and to fully determine the most appropriate pitch improvements on a site-by-site basis.

One method for improving maintenance could be via asset transfer, as highlighted in Objective 1. A common example for cricket is that a club maintains the square and the Council the outfield (rather than the Council maintaining the whole site). Other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

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 or CIL

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.

As previously stated, where such development is located within access of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvement to existing pitches 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.

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. Please contact Sport England for access to the calculator: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/contact-us/> 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.

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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, are potentially liable for CIL.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ 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.

As a reminder, The Birmingham Development Plan proposes an additional 51,100 homes over the period to 2031. The housing requirement will be delivered in accordance with the following indicative average annual rates:

- ◀ 1,650 dwellings per annum (2011/2012-2014/2015)
- ◀ 2,500 dwellings per annum (2015/2016-2017/2018)
- ◀ 2,850 dwellings per annum (2018/2019-2030/2031)

AIM 3

To **provide** new playing pitches 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 pitch 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 playing pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

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 grass pitch 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 Birmingham can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- ◀ Improving pitch quality in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of pitches.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

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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.

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.

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.

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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.
Rugby league	The RFL is working towards growing rugby league participation including through growth at junior clubs, Play Touch rugby league and 9 aside rugby league.	Review the need for dedicated rugby league pitches in the next three years. Seek 3G pitch venues for Play Touch and grass pitches for 9 aside.
Hockey	Current playing level is likely to increase with a 15% growth rate predicted by England Hockey.	Ensure continued use of at least 14 sand-based AGPs to accommodate current and future demand and ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey 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.
Lacrosse	More people participating in lacrosse more often and achieving excellence in lacrosse at all levels and therefore creating a higher profile for lacrosse.	Ensure current facilities are protected and encourage use of 3G pitches, where appropriate.

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Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Tennis	Membership of clubs is expected to increase, whilst casual play is expected to remain static.	Increases in participation can be accommodated through providing additional courts that are floodlit. An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as the access control system.

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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
Site location	Strategically located in the City. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
Type of sport	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.
Management	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.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.

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Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Ancillary facilities	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.

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

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

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 pitch or a low number of pitches 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 pitches or ancillary facilities and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the facilities.

It is also 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. 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

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.

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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. The brackets in which these sit are:

(L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above. These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:

www.sportengland.org/media/198443/facility-costs-4q13.pdf

Timescales

The action plan has been created to be delivered over a ten year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales 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).

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

AREA 1

Football

Summary

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ¹²	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	3	7	1	5	1.5	6	12.5
Youth pitches 11v11	-	2.5	0.5	3	-	9	12
Youth pitches 9v9	2.5	4	0.5	2	1.5	5.5	9
Mini pitches 7v7	1	-	-	1	1	4	4
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		2	5	7

- ◀ There is a current shortfall of five match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and a future shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of three match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and a future shortfall of 12 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of nine match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is minimal current spare capacity on mini 7v7 pitches; however a shortfall exists amounting to four match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches are currently played to capacity; however, a shortfall is evident when accounting for future demand equating to seven match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overplay is evident on pitches at Bishop Walsh Catholic School, Erin Go Bragh Holly Lane Sport, Jaffray Playing Fields, King Georges Field, North Birmingham Academy, Penns Lane Sport Ground, Rectory Park (Sutton United Football Club) and Yenton Playing Fields.
- ◀ There are 28 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ Changing facilities servicing Bishop Walsh Catholic School, Braemar Road Playing Fields, Coleshill Road Nurseries Sports Ground, Hollyfields Sports and Social Club and Jaffray Playing Fields are considered to be poor quality.
- ◀ There are ten providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- ◀ There is current training demand for five full size 3G pitches and future training demand for six full size 3G pitches, of which, there are currently two (Boldmere St Michaels Football Club and Sutton Coldfield Town Football Club).
- ◀ Future full size 3G proposals are in place at Castle Vale Football Stadium and North Birmingham Academy. If these are provided, a future shortfall of two 3G pitches would remain.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity, first and foremost via sites with a large number of pitches and particularly pitch types with current shortfalls.

¹² In match equivalent sessions

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- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration (although this would not fully meet youth 11v11 demand).
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Bishop Walsh Catholic School, Braemar Road Playing Fields, Coleshill Road Nurseries Sports Ground, Hollyfields Sports and Social Club and Jaffray Playing Fields and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.
- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Ensure that Boldmere St Michaels Football Club and Sutton Coldfield Town Football Club remain on the FA register for competitive matches through testing when required (one year for football pyramid clubs, three years for others).
- ◀ Explore feasibility of sites to increase 3G pitch stock, first and foremost via those already proposed and ensure that sustainable, robust business plans are in place.
- ◀ Ensure that all current and future 3G pitches have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Maximise usage of 3G pitches, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are 15 grass wicket cricket squares available for community use and two standalone NTPs.
- ◀ Tenure is considered to be unsecure for Four Oak Saints CC as it has only 14 years remaining on its lease agreement.
- ◀ Poor quality grass wicket squares are identified at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and Prince of Wales.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity exists at Hollyfields Sports and Social Club and Yenton Playing Fields on a Saturday and at Hollyfield Sports and Social Club and Penns Lane Sports Ground (Douglas Ground) on a Sunday.
- ◀ Erdington Court Sports Club is overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per season and Walmley Cricket Ground is overplayed by 24 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ South Asian league based demand such as the Birmingham Cricket League and the Al Faisals Cricket express the need for additional sites.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at poor and standard quality sites and deliver improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Increase the lease arrangement for Four Oaks Saints CC to a minimum of 25 years.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Erdington Court Sports Club and Walmley Cricket Ground through installing an NTP in situ or through the transfer of demand to alternative sites.
- ◀ Explore options to increase provision available to service South Asian league based demand.
- ◀ Retain unused and unavailable educational provision and further explore community use aspects should access be required in the future.

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Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are 14 senior, three junior and seven mini rugby union pitches available for community use.
- ◀ A senior pitch at Aston Old Edwardians Rugby Club is assessed as poor quality, as are pitches at Fairfax School albeit they are not available for community use.
- ◀ Aston Old Edwardians RUFC is serviced by two changing room blocks, the second of which is considered to be poor quality due to a leaking roof and heating and hot water issues.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by Aston Old Edwardians RUFC (one senior and three junior teams), Birmingham Barbarians RUFC (one senior team) and Harborne RUFC (two senior teams).
- ◀ Aston Old Edwardians RUFC has two senior pitches that are overplayed by 3.75 and 1.25 match equivalent sessions respectively, whereas Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club has a senior pitch overplayed by six match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ A senior pitch at Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club has actual spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current overall shortfall amounting to 11 match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall amounting to 12.5 match equivalent sessions.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance, particularly at poor quality and overplayed sites.
- ◀ Install additional floodlighting at Aston Old Edwardians Rugby Club and Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club to spread out training demand and to alleviate overplay of current training pitches.
- ◀ Improve quality of the second changing room block at Aston Old Edwardians Rugby Club.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unused pitches and unavailable pitches at educational sites for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs (Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and Wyndley Leisure Centre) and both are in current use by hockey clubs.
- ◀ Wyndley Leisure Centre is assessed as poor quality, despite its surface being only five years old.
- ◀ Sutton Coldfield Mens HC and Sutton Coldfield Ladies HC report that their future demand cannot be met on the current stock of AGPs available to them.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure both pitches are protected for hockey use.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are in place at both sites for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at Wyndley Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Explore options to enable Sutton Coldfield Men's HC and Sutton Coldfield Ladies HC to fulfil future growth aspirations.

Tennis

Summary

- ◀ There are 55 courts available for community use and 11 courts unavailable for community use.
- ◀ There are 24 poor quality courts, located at Fairfax School, John Wilmott School, Kingsbury Community Leisure Centre, Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls, Pype Hayes Park, Brookvale Park, Wydle Green Church Tennis Club, Queen's Park, Highclare School and Tudor Road.
- ◀ The courts at Pype Hayes Park are currently being resurfaced, with completion expected in April 2017 following LTA and Sport England funding.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore opportunities to improve court quality at sites with poor quality surfaces.
- ◀ Support development at Pype Hayes Park and seek to maximise usage.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision servicing council courts to maximise usage.
- ◀ Ensure that all courts in active use are retained and ensure that they all receive adequate maintenance to prevent quality deteriorating.
- ◀ Further explore club membership and ensure demand can be accommodated at club's operating above the LTA threshold (40 members per non-floodlit court and 60 members per floodlit court).

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹³	Cost ¹⁴
2	Alcoa Sports Ground	B72 1XJ	Football	Club	One adult and two youth 9v9 pitches assessed as standard quality. All pitches are used to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
7	Arthur Terry School	B74 4RZ	Sand AGP	School	A smaller sized (85 x 50 metres) sand-based AGP that is neither available to the community nor floodlit.	Retain for school use.	EH School	Local site	L	L
10	Aston Old Edwardians Rugby Club	B44 0HP	Football	Club	One adult pitch assessed as good quality, with one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity at peak time.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand. Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key Centre	S	L
			Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Receives regular South Asian league based demand from leagues and LMS.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Ensure NTP is resurfaced when needed in order to cater for regular community demand.			ECB LMS	L
			Rugby union		Two poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitches that are leased to Aston Old Edwardians RUFC. Each pitch is overplayed; with total overplay amounting to five match equivalent sessions. Serviced by two changing blocks, one of which is considered to be poor quality due to a leaking roof and heating and hot water issues.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, first and foremost through the installation of the drainage system. Further improve pitch quality through improved maintenance. Improve quality of second changing block. Explore installation of additional floodlighting so that training demand can be spread out.	RFU Club		S	M
									S	L
									S	M
									S	M
			14		Banners Gate Primary School	B73 6UE	Football		School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.

¹³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁵	Cost ¹⁶
21	Bishop Vesey's Grammar School	B74 2NH	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is available for community use but currently unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community availability given local shortfalls.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
			Cricket		One good quality square with eight grass wickets, one good quality square with five wickets and one NTP and one poor quality square with five grass wickets. The poor quality square is over marked by rugby union pitches. All squares are available for community use, with any spare capacity negated due to school use.	Sustain quality of good quality squares through appropriate maintenance.	ECB School		L	L
						Improve poor quality square.			S	L
						Ensure security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L
			Rugby union		Six senior pitches and three mini pitches, all of which are of standard quality (M1/D1). All pitches are available to the community but are currently unused. All pitches are over marked by cricket outfielders.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L
						Retain as community available should demand for access exist in the future.			L	L
			Sand AGP		A full size, floodlit sand-based AGP that is currently used by Sutton Coldfield HC. Assessed as standard quality having been provided in 2010. Limitations on accessibility due to floodlight restrictions.	Protect pitch as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School		L	L
						Ensure security of tenure for Sutton Coldfield HC via a community use agreement.			S	L
						Explore the potential of extending hours of floodlighting availability.			S	L
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
			Tennis		Four standard quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting but are available to the community.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		L	L

¹⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸
22	Bishop Walsh Catholic School	B76 1QT	Football	School	Two adult, two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and five mini 5v5 pitches, all of standard quality. No pitches are available at peak time with the adult pitches overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. Pitches are leased to Sutton Coldfield Town Juniors FC. Club has aspirations to build ancillary facilities.	Improve quality to good to alleviate overplay or sustain quality and transfer some demand from the adult pitches to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Key centre	S	L
						Ensure security of tenure for Sutton Coldfield Town Juniors FC with renewal of lease agreement when applicable.			L	L
						Explore funding streams and assist Sutton Coldfield Town Juniors FC with the creation of new ancillary facilities.			S	H
			Rugby union		One standard quality (M1/D1) senior rugby union pitch which is available to the community but currently unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L
						Retain as community available should demand for access exist in the future.			L	L
						Sand AGP	A smaller sized (60 x 40 metres) sand-based AGP that is available for community use and floodlit.		Retain for continued school and community use.	EH School
23	Boldmere Junior School	B73 5SD	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
24	Boldmere Sports and Social Club	B73 5HQ	Football	Club	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches all of which are good quality and played to capacity at peak time. Site is used by Boldmere Falcons FC, which is one promotion short of joining the football pyramid.	Sustain current levels of maintenance to ensure pitches quality.	FA Club	Key centre	S	L
						Ensure Boldmere Falcons FC can progress through the football pyramid.			S	M
			3G		A smaller sized (60 x 40 metres) 3G pitch that is floodlit and available to the community.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.	L		L	
						Explore FA testing to allow for the pitch to be used competitively for mini football and help alleviate demand on grass pitches.	S		L	
25	Boldmere St Michaels Football Club	B73 5RY	3G	Club	A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is FA approved and two smaller sized 3G pitches (40 x 30 metres) neither of which are FA approved. Full size pitch is assessed as good quality having been installed in 2016. Used for Step football.	Ensure testing of the full size pitch every three years so that it remains on the FA register.	FA Club	Key centre	S	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
						Explore FA testing the two smaller pitches to allow them to be used competitively for mini football.			S	L
						Ensure the Club can progress through the football pyramid.			S	L

¹⁷ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸
29	Braemer Road Playing Fields	B73 6LN	Football	School	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and three mini 7v7 pitches all assessed as standard quality. One adult pitch is over marked by mini 7v7 pitches with spare capacity of the pitches discounted due to over marking. Remaining pitches are played to capacity. Now acquired by Highclare School, which has the intention to improve pitch and ancillary facility quality.	Ensure appropriate maintenance to sustain quality and usage levels.	FA	Local Site	S	L
						Support the School in acquiring the site and its aspiration to improve overall quality.			S	H
			Cricket		Identified by the ECB as being a suitable location for the installation of an NTP.	Install an NTP to better cater for South Asian league based demand.	ECB	S	L	
38	Castle Vale Football Stadium	B35 7BE	Football	Club	Two adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch. Both adult pitches are assessed as good quality with the remaining pitches assessed standard quality. No pitches have spare capacity at peak time. Used by Castle Vale Town FC which are one step below the football pyramid. Undergone PIP.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Key Centre	L	L
						Ensure ground grading is suitable for Step 7 football should Castle Vale Town FC achieve promotion.			S	L
						Use acquired funds for grounds maintenance equipment.			S	L
			3G	A proposed full size stadia 3G pitch which has planning approval.	Explore feasibility of providing the pitch to reduce local shortfalls.	S			H	
					Ensure any development meets FA recommended dimensions and seek FA testing so that it can be used to host competitive matches.	S			L	
					Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.	L			L	
45	Coppice Primary School	B75 6TJ	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 which is available to the community but currently unused.	Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls and explore lack of demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L
53	Erdington Court Sports Club	B23 5QU	Cricket	Club	One square with 12 grass wickets which is of standard quality. Overplayed by five match equivalent sessions.	Improve maintenance to sustain minimal amount of overplay.	ECB Club	Local Site	S	L
						Explore installation of an NTP in situ to alleviate overplay.			S	L
54	Erin Go Bragh Holly Lane Sport	B24 9LH	Football	Trust	Two standard quality adult pitches which are overplayed by one match equivalent session. Both adult pitches are accessed by youth 11v11 teams. Undergone PIP.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA Club	Local Site	M	L
						Consider Re-configuration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			S	L

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁹	Cost ²⁰
55	Fairfax School	B75 7JT	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches which are unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local Site	L	L
			Cricket		A standard quality standalone NTP that is not available for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	School ECB		L	L
			Rugby union		One senior and one mini rugby union pitch, both of poor quality (M1/D0) and unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity through drainage improvements.	School RFU		S	L
			Tennis		Two poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	Local Site	S	L
59	Four Oaks Primary School	B74 4PA	Football	School	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch both of standard quality. Pitches are available for community use but are currently unused.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
						Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and attract demand to the site.			S	L
60	Four Oaks Saints Cricket Club	B74 4LT	Football	Club	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate maintenance to sustain quality and usage levels.	FA Club	Local Site	L	L
			Cricket		A standard quality square with 11 grass wickets accompanied by an NTP. No actual spare capacity exists on Saturday or Sunday.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L
						Ensure NTP is maintained and fully utilised to prevent overplay of the grass wickets.			L	L
79	Highcroft Sports and Social Club	B23 6AU	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with ten grass wickets accompanied by an NTP. Site is played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local Site	L	L
						Explore options to expand the grass wicket squares should additional demand require access.			S	L
						If this is not possible ensure any additional play is accommodated for through use on NTP.			S	L
82	Hill West Primary School	B74 4LD	Football	School	Two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitches all of poor quality. Pitches are unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
88	Hollyfield Primary School	B75 7SG	Football	School	A mini 7v7 pitch of standard quality. Pitch is available for community use but currently unused.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
						Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and attract demand to the site.			S	L

¹⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²¹	Cost ²²
89	Hollyfields Sports and Social Club	B24 0JT	Football	Club	Two good quality adult pitches which are played to capacity at peak time. Ancillary facilities are poor quality as they are considered too small for the amount of pitches they service.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Explore options to improve ancillary facilities.	FA Club	Local Site	L	L
						S			M	
			Cricket		A standard quality square with 14 grass wickets accompanied by an NTP. Actual spare capacity exists on a Saturday and Sunday.	Replace NTP to avoid quality deterioration and to retain demand. Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.	ECB Club		S	L
						S			L	
93	Jaffray Playing Fields	B24 8AZ	Football	Club	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all of standard quality. Pitches are over marked and overplayed. Issues regarding unauthorised access and unofficial use of pitches through breaches in surrounding fencing. Ancillary facilities are considered poor quality as they are too small for the amount of pitches they service.	Alleviate overplay of pitches by improving pitch quality to good. Secure pitches to stop unauthorised access and usage of the pitches or explore options to draw unofficial use away from the match pitches. Explore options to improve ancillary facilities quality.	FA Club	Local Site	S	L
									S	L
									S	L
95	Walmley Cricket Ground	B76 1LT	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with ten grass wickets. Overplayed by 26 match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality of grass square through appropriate maintenance. Explore installing an NTP to alleviate overplay. Alternatively, pursue transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	ECB Club	Local Site	L	L
									S	L
									S	L
96	John Willmott School	B75 7DY	Football	School	One adult, one youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 pitches all of standard quality. Available to the community but currently unused.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and attract demand to the site.	FA School	Local Site	S	L
			Tennis		Four poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.			LTA School	S
107	King Georges Field	B73 6TQ	Football	Council	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all of standard quality. Site is played to capacity due to over marking of pitches. Recently had S106 funding to improve quality.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local Site	L	L

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

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

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²³	Cost ²⁴
113	Kingsbury Community Leisure	B24 8RE	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is not available for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
			3G		A smaller sized (56 x 36 metres) 3G pitch that is available to the community and floodlit.	Retain for school and community use. Consider FA testing to host mini soccer matches.			S M	M L
			Tennis		One poor quality macadam court that is without floodlighting.	Assess demand and improve court quality should it be necessary.	LTA		S	L
114	Langley School	B75 6TJ	Sand AGP	School	A smaller size (40 x 24 metres) sand-based AGP.	Retain for school use.	School	Local Site	L	L
118	Little Sutton Primary School	B75 5NL	Football	School	A mini 7v7 pitch of standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
124	Maney Hill Primary School	B72 1JU	Football	School	A mini 5v5 pitch of standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
128	Mere Green Primary School	B75 5BL	Football	School	A mini 7v7 and youth 11v11 pitch both of standard quality. Each pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L
130	Monmouth Drive	B73 6JQ	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches which are played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			L	L
137	New Hall Spa and Health Club	B76 1QX	Tennis	Private	One standard quality macadam court which is floodlit.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA	Local Site	L	L
141	North Birmingham Academy	B44 0HF	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches which are overplayed. Pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams. Pitches suffer from poor drainage. Undergone PIP.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and seek to improve drainage.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
						Consider re-configuration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			S	L
			3G		A proposed full size 3G pitch.	Explore feasibility of providing the pitch to reduce local shortfalls.			S	H
						Ensure any development meets FA recommended dimensions and seek FA testing so that it can be used to host competitive matches. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			S L	L L

²³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁵	Cost ²⁶
148	Coleshill Road Nurseries Sports Ground	B75 7BA	Football	Club	One poor quality adult pitch with spare capacity discounted. Clubs report ancillary facilities at the site are of poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA Club	Local Site	S	L
						Explore funding streams to improve ancillary facilities.			S	M
150	Penns Lane Sports Ground	B76 1WF	Football	Community	A youth 9v9 and a mini 7v7 pitch both of standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is substantially overplayed whereas the mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Alleviate overplay of youth 9v9 pitch by improving pitch quality to good or via the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA Community	Local Site	S	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity of mini 7v7 pitch through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or via future demand.			S	L
			Cricket		A standard quality square with ten grass wickets. Actual spare capacity on a Sunday for an additional team.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore options to improve quality to good.	ECB		L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	L
151	Penns Primary School	B72 1BS	Football	School	A mini 7v7 pitch which is of poor quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
154	Plantsbrook School	B72 1RB	Football	School	A youth 11v11 pitch which is of standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
157	Rectory Park (Sutton United Football Club)	B75 7RS	Football	Club	Two adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all of standard quality. All pitches are played to capacity. Site is used by Romulus FC (Step four) and Sutton United FC (Step three).	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local Site	L	L
						Ensure any further demand is met by quality improvements to avoid future overplay.			L	L
						Ensure ground grading is suitable for if either club achieves promotion.			M	L

²⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁷	Cost ²⁸
158	Rectory Park	B75 7RS	Football	Council	One adult, two youth 11v11, three youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch all assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch is over marked by the 5v5 pitch. The youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas actual spare capacity exists on the youth 9v9 pitches. Remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Undergone PIP.	Alleviate overplay of 9v9 pitches via improving pitch quality to good or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Key centre	S	L
						Sustain quality of remaining pitches through appropriate maintenance.			L	L
			Cricket		Two standard quality squares; one with 12 grass wickets and one with nine grass wickets and an accompanying NTP. Both are played to capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore options to improve quality to good.			ECB	L
160	Rookery Park	B24 8BJ	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Sustain quality for continued casual use.	LTA	Local site	L	L
			Football		Previously contained one adult pitch.	Mitigate any permanent loss.	FA		L	L
187	Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls	B73 5PT	Tennis	School	Four poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	Local site	S	L
189	Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club	B76 2QA	Rugby union	Club	One senior pitch assessed as good quality (M2/D2) and four senior, three junior and four mini pitches assessed as standard quality (M1/D1). Two senior pitches are floodlit. One of the floodlit pitches is overplayed by six match equivalent sessions due to training demand. Remaining senior pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Also used by Birmingham Bulls RUFC.	Sustain maintenance levels.	RFU Club	Key centre	L	L
						Explore potential of installing drainage systems on a greater number of pitches to increase capacity and to reduce overplay.			M	M
						Install additional floodlighting so that training demand can be spread out to fully alleviate overplay.			S	M
						Explore options to provide Birmingham Bulls RUFC with its own site and with security of tenure via a long-term lease agreement (25 years).			S	M
205	Twickenham Park	B44 0LA	Football	School	A youth 11v11 and a mini 7v7 pitch both of standard quality. No spare capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L

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

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

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁹	Cost ³⁰
217	Wyndley Leisure Centre	B73 6EB	Sand AGP	Council	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Sutton Coldfield Men's HC and Sutton Coldfield Ladies HC. Assessed as poor quality despite being resurfaced in 2011. Additionally, there is also a smaller sized sand-based AGP (60 x 30 meters) on site which is floodlit and available to the community.	Protect pitch as a hockey suitable surface.	EH	Local site	L	L
						Explore options to prevent further vandalism to improve pitch quality.			M	M
						Ensure security of tenure for club users via a community use agreement.			S	L
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
222	Grange Road Playing Fields	B24 0DG	Football	Council	Two standard quality unused adult pitches.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore lack of current demand.	FA	Local Site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through future demand or via the transfer of demand from overplay sites.			L	L
223	Yenton Playing Fields	B24 0AQ	Football	Council	Two adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all assessed as standard quality. The adult pitches are overplayed by one match equivalent sessions and are used by youth 11v11 teams. The youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches have actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions each.	Alleviate overplay of adult pitches through the transfer of youth 11v11 demand to dedicated youth 11v11 pitches.	FA	Key centre	S	L
						Utilise spare capacity of 9v9 and 7v7 pitches via future demand or through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.			S	L
						Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			L	L
			Cricket		A standard quality square with seven grass wickets. Actual spare capacity remains on a Saturday.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore options to improve quality to good.	ECB	L	L	
314	Spring Lane	B24 9BP	Football	Council	Unofficially used as a training area by Sportsco FC. No official pitches are marked out. Drainage issues.	Explore the creation of permanent pitches to reduce local shortfalls providing unofficial usage and drainage does not affect demand.	FA	Local Site	S	L
						Consider options to bring back the disused square given local shortfalls.			ECB	S
			Cricket		A standard quality square with eight grass wickets and a disused square which previously held six wickets.	Sustain quality of existing square through appropriate maintenance and explore options to improve quality to good.	L			L
						Explore installation of an NTP to better accommodate South Asian league based demand.	S			L

²⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³¹	Cost ³²
318	Prince of Wales (Sutton United Tennis Club)	B75 6JL	Cricket	Club	A poor quality square with seven grass wickets accompanied by an NTP. Spare capacity discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	ECB Club	Local Site	S	L
			Tennis		Two good quality artificial courts that are floodlit.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club		L	L
325	Sutton Coldfield Town Football Club	B72 1NL	3G	Club	A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is FA approved to host competitive matches. Assessed as good quality having been installed in 2011. Accessed by Sutton Coldfield Town FC which play at Step three of the football pyramid. The Club states it will lift and relay the carpet to complete remedial works to the base in 2017.	Seek FA testing every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive matches.	FA Club	Key Centre	M	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
						Ensure the Club receives support with maintenance work to be carried out.			S	M
						Ensure ground grading is suitable if the Club where to be promoted.			L	L
330	Stockland Green School	B23 7JH	3G	School	A proposed smaller sized (60 x 40 metres) 3G pitch.	Explore feasibility of providing the pitch for community access to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local Site	S	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
349	Gunter Primary School	B24 0RU	Football	School	A mini 5v5 pitch of standard quality which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
352	Marsh Hill Primary School	B23 7HY	Football	School	A mini 5v5 pitch of standard quality which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local Site	L	L
375	Romulus FC Training Academy	B75 7HU	Football	Club	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch both of standard quality. Pitches are played to capacity through club use.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local Site	L	L
						Ensure any further demand is met by quality improvements to avoid future overplay.			L	L
376	Sorrel Park	B24 0RU	Football	Council	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with no spare capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA	Local Site	L	L
380	Pype Hayes Park	B24 0HG	Tennis	Council	Four poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting. The courts are to be redeveloped this year.	Ensure development goes ahead to improve court quality to good and seek to maximise usage.	LTA	Local site	S	M
381	Brookvale Park	B23 7YT	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Assess demand and improve court quality for casual use should it be necessary.	LTA	Local site	S	L

³¹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³² (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³¹	Cost ³²
389	Wylde Green Church Tennis Club	B73 5SW	Tennis	Club	Two poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve court quality to better accommodate club use.	LTA Club	Local site	S	L
390	Goldieslie Club	B73 5PF	Tennis	Club	Two good quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
394	Four Oaks Tennis Club	B74 2QR	Tennis	Club	Five artificial, four macadam and two clay courts. The artificial courts are floodlit. The artificial and the macadam courts are assessed as good quality; the clay courts are assessed as standard.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
395	Tudor Road	B13 8HA	Tennis	Council	Four poor quality clay courts that are without floodlighting.	Assess demand and improve court quality for casual use should it be necessary.	LTA	Local site	S	M
396	Penns Tennis Club	B76 2QA	Tennis	Club	Seven macadam and two clay courts, all of which are floodlit and assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
397	Queen's Park	B32 2LA	Tennis	Council	Three poor quality clay courts that are without floodlighting.	Assess demand and improve court quality for casual use should it be necessary.	LTA	Local site	S	M
398	Boldmere Tennis Club	B73 5DR	Tennis	Club	Four good quality macadam courts that are floodlit.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
402	Highclare School	B23 6QL	Tennis	School	Two poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	Local site	S	L
411	Little Aston Tennis Club	B74 3UF	Tennis	Club	Three standard quality clay courts that are without floodlighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and seek improvements where possible to better cater for club needs.	LTA Club	Local site	S	L
413	Greenwood Academy	B35 7NL	Sand AGP	School	One smaller sized (60 x 35 metres) sand-based AGP. The pitch is neither available to the community nor floodlit.	Retain for school use.	School	Local Site	L	L
-	Wishaw Lane	B76 9AR	Football	Council	A disused site that has S106 monies available to it for development. Plans are in place for the creation of five or six football pitches, two changing rooms and car-parking as well as for drainage improvements. Funds have to be used before 2019. Sportsco commissioned a PIP on site.	Bring site back into use through the creation of the planned football pitches and ancillary facilities to reduce local shortfalls. Ensure pitches are provided to a good quality. Explore suitability of potential anchor tenants and seek to maximise usage.	FA	Key centre	S S S	H M L

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

AREA 2

Football

Summary of current and future demand football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ³³	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	8.5	5	1.5	2	-	6.5	4.5
Youth pitches 11v11	-	2	-	2	-	5	7
Youth pitches 9v9	-	2	-	2	-	2	4
Mini pitches 7v7	1.5	2	0.5	1	-	0.5	1.5
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	1

- ✦ There is current overall spare capacity on adult pitches; however, a shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions exists when accounting for future demand.
- ✦ There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and a future shortfall of seven match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of four match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ There is a current shortfall of one match equivalent session on mini 7v7 pitches and a future shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ There is a current shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches and a future shortfall of one match equivalent session.
- ✦ Overplay is evident on adult pitches at Holford Drive Community Sports Hub and Nechells Community Sports Centre and on adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches at the Pavilion.
- ✦ There are 20 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ✦ There are nine providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- ✦ There is current training demand for three full size 3G pitches and future training demand for four full size 3G pitches, of which, there is currently one (Heartlands Academy).
- ✦ A full size 3G proposal is in place at Aston Park. Should this be provided, a shortfall of two full size 3G pitches would remain.

Recommendations

- ✦ Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- ✦ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity, first and foremost via sites with a large number of pitches and particularly pitch types with current shortfalls.
- ✦ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration (although this would not fully meet youth 11v11 demand).

³³ In match equivalent sessions

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ As a minimum, sustain quality of changing facilities at all sites to avoid any becoming poor quality.
- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Pursue FA testing at Heartlands Academy so that its 3G pitch can be used to host competitive matches and seek re-testing every three years.
- ◀ Explore feasibility of sites to increase pitch stock, first and foremost via those already proposed and ensure that sustainable, robust business plans are in place.
- ◀ Ensure that all current and future 3G pitches have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and seek to maximise usage to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are 24 grass wicket cricket squares available for community use and eight standalone NTPs (across six sites).
- ◀ Poor quality grass wicket squares are identified at Aston Park, Summerfield Park and Winson Green.
- ◀ Clubhouse provision servicing Aston Manor CC and Handsworth CC are considered to be poor quality.
- ◀ Aston CC reports a need for additional practice nets to be provided.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity exists at Perry Hall Playing Fields on a Saturday and at Handsworth Park on a Sunday.
- ◀ Holford Drive Community Sports Hub is overplayed by 11 match equivalent sessions per season.
- ◀ South Asian league based demand such as the Birmingham Cricket League and the Al Faisals Cricket express the need for additional sites.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at poor and standard quality sites and deliver improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Aston Manor CC and Handsworth CC in their aspirations for clubhouse improvements.
- ◀ Explore options to improve training facilities available to Aston CC.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Holford Drive Community Sports Hub through greater use of the accompanying NTP or through the transfer of demand to alternative sites.
- ◀ Explore options to increase provision available to service South Asian league based demand.
- ◀ Retain unused and unavailable educational provision and further explore community use aspects should access be required in the future.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are seven senior pitches available for community use.
- ◀ No security of tenure is provided to Birmingham Barbarians as the Club rents the Pavilion on an annual basis.
- ◀ A senior pitch at Wood Lane Playing Fields is assessed as poor quality albeit not used by the community.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by Birmingham Bulls RUFC (one senior team).
- ◀ No pitches are overplayed.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity exists on two senior pitches at the Pavilion amounting to one match equivalent sessions (0.5 match equivalent sessions on both).
- ◀ There is current overall spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent sessions; however, future demand results in an overall shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain quality to continue accommodating current demand and seek improvements if and when demand increases to avoid future overplay.
- ◀ Explore options to provide Birmingham Bulls RUFC with a long-term lease agreement (minimum 25 years) and/or look to find the Club an alternative site where it has the potential to secure long-term tenure and seek inward investment.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unused pitches and unavailable pitches at educational sites for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.

Rugby league

- ◀ Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC accesses Moseley Rugby Union Club, whereas the University of Birmingham plays at its Metchley Lane Campus.
- ◀ Both pitches are assessed as good quality but are predominately used for rugby union activity.
- ◀ In line with rugby union, spare capacity amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions exists at Moseley Rugby Union Club although this is not available at peak time.
- ◀ The University of Birmingham (Metchley Lane) is played to capacity.
- ◀ Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC is expected to merge with Birmingham Hawks RLFC (currently Solihull based) ahead of next season, with activity remaining at Moseley Rugby Union Club.

Recommendations

- ◀ Support Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC in its merger with South Birmingham Hawks RLFC.
- ◀ Support the University of Birmingham in its ancillary facility development plans and ensure its rugby league needs continue to be met.
- ◀ Ensure continued rugby league use of Moseley Rugby Club and Metchley Lane or ensure alternative venues are accessible.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality, where possible, in line with rugby union recommendations and scenarios.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are eight full size hockey suitable AGPs, two of which are in current use by hockey clubs (Hamstead Hall Academy and Small Heath Leisure Centre).
- ◀ Aston Park, Holyhead School and Holte School are under proposal to be converted to 3G.
- ◀ Small Heath Leisure Centre and the Pavilion were previously also under 3G proposals but these were linked to the FA's Parklife scheme which for the time being is no longer going ahead in Birmingham.
- ◀ Hamstead Hall Academy and the Pavilion are assessed as poor quality having not been resurfaced since 2005 and 2003 respectively.
- ◀ Barford Tigers HC rates the changing facilities at Hamstead Hall Academy as poor quality.
- ◀ Barford Tigers HC reports that its future demand cannot be met on the current stock of AGPs available.

Recommendations

- ◀ Seek to resurface Hamstead Hall Academy and protect as a hockey suitable surface.
- ◀ If it is not converted, seek to resurface as a hockey suitable surface given its current poor quality.
- ◀ Ensure that remaining 3G conversions are not detrimental to hockey activity should they go ahead.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are in place at those sites remaining as hockey suitable for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Hamstead Hall Academy.
- ◀ Explore options to enable Barford Tigers HC to fulfil its future growth aspirations.

Tennis

Summary

- ◀ There are 21 courts available for community use and 30 courts unavailable for community use.
- ◀ There are 32 poor quality courts, located at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College, Hamstead Hall Academy, Holyhead School, King Edward VI Aston School, King Edward VI Handsworth School, Summerfield Park and Perry Beeches Academy.
- ◀ Summerfield Park is currently undergoing a refurbishment that will involve improvements being made to the tennis courts.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore opportunities to improve court quality at sites with poor quality surfaces.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision servicing council courts to maximise usage.
- ◀ Ensure that all courts in active use are retained and ensure that they all receive adequate maintenance to prevent quality deteriorating.
- ◀ Support development plans at Summerfield Park and seek to maximise usage.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Further explore club membership and ensure demand can be accommodated at club's operating above the LTA threshold (40 members per non-floodlit court and 60 members per floodlit court).

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁴	Cost ³⁵
3	Aldridge Road	B44 9DT	Football	Council	Four adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Currently only used by one team, meaning 3.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exists.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites and/or through future demand.	FA	Key centre	L	L
						Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			L	L
						Given that three adult pitches are unused, explore possibility of a pitch reconfiguration to increase youth 11v11 pitch stock.			S	L
8	Aston Manor Academy	B4 4PZ	3G	School	A smaller size (65 x 30 metres), 3G pitch that was recently converted from a sand-based pitch. Floodlit and available to the community.	Seek to maximise usage and explore FA testing to host mini soccer matches.	FA School	Local site	S	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long term sustainability.			L	L
9	Aston Manor Cricket Club	B42 2LA	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with 14 grass wickets. Played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality clubhouse.	Sustain quality and seek improvements where possible.	ECB Club	Local site	S	L
						Improve clubhouse facility.			S	M
11	Aston Park	B6 6JD	Cricket	Council	One poor quality square with ten grass wickets. Used by Aston CC via a rental agreement. Played to capacity on a Saturday; actual spare capacity on a Sunday discounted due to quality issues.	Improve square quality to provide actual spare capacity.	ECB Club	Key centre	S	L
						Pursue security of tenure for Aston CC via a long-term lease agreement.			S	L
						Support the Club in its aspirations for additional practice nets to be provided.			S	L
						Consider installation of an NTP.			S	L
			Sand AGP		A full size sand-based AGP that is under proposal for a 3G conversion. Assessed as standard quality after being last resurfaced in 2007. Currently unused for hockey.	Explore feasibility of 3G conversion given lack of hockey demand to reduce 3G shortfalls.	FA EH		S	H
						Ensure any 3G conversion meets FA recommended dimensions and seek FA testing so that it can be used for competitive matches.			S	L
						Explore options to improve changing facilities servicing the pitch should 3G conversion go ahead.			S	M
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
18	Benson Community School	B18 5TD	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unused by the community despite being available.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Local site	L	L
						Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls and determine any potential demand.			S	L
31	Broadway School	B20 3DP	3G	School	A smaller size (85 x 52 metres) 3G pitch that is floodlit and available to the community.	Seek to maximise usage and explore FA testing to host mini soccer and youth matches.	FA School	Local site	S	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long term sustainability.			L	L

³⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁶	Cost ³⁷
34	Burford Road	B44 8JX	Football	Council	Two adult and two mini 7v7 pitches assessed as standard quality. The 7v7 pitches are played to capacity at peak time, whereas minimal actual spare capacity exists on the adult pitches. Adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	L
						Consider pitch reconfiguration to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand.			S	L
37	Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College	B44 9SR	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches. Used by youth 11v11 teams. Actual spare capacity equating to 1.5 match sessions exists.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	M	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users via community use agreements.			S	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of play from overplayed sites and/or through future demand.			S	L
						Consider pitch reconfiguration to better accommodate school and youth 11v11 demand.			S	L
			Rugby union	One senior pitch that is assessed as poor quality (M1/D0). Available for community use but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School	S	L		
					Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.		L	L		
Tennis	Four poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	S	L					
44	Cooksey Lane Playing Fields	B44 9QS	Football	Community	Four adult and one mini 7v7 pitch, all standard quality. Adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key centre	S	L
						Consider pitch re-configuration of some of the adult pitches to better cater for youth 11v11 demand.			S	L
46	David Lloyd Club (Birmingham)	B44 9ER	Tennis	Commercial	Five good quality artificial courts that are without floodlighting.	Sustain court quality to retain commercial use.	LTA	Local site	L	L
48	Doug Ellis Sports Centre	B42 2SY	Sand AGP	Commercial	One full size, sand-based, floodlit AGP. Installed in 2010 and assessed as standard quality. Used by Sutton Coldfield Men's HC, Sutton Coldfield Ladies HC and Aston University HC.	Protect as a hockey surface.	EH	Key centre	L	L
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
			Football			Site previously contained an adult football pitch. The University are reportedly looking to sell the site in the long-term.	Explore options to bring pitch back into use to meet local shortfalls.	FA	M	M
Ensure sporting provision is retained following sale.	L	L								
66	Goals Soccer Centre (Perry Barr)	B42 2UB	3G	Commercial	Ten smaller size 3G pitches (30 x 22 metres).	Retain for commercial use.	FA	Local site	L	L
66	Goals Soccer Centre (Star City)	B7 5SA	3G	Commercial	Ten smaller size 3G pitches (30 x 20 metres).	Retain for commercial use.	FA	Local site	L	L

³⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁸	Cost ³⁹
69	Great Barr School (Leisure Centre)	B44 8NU	Football	School	Four adult and one mini 7v7 pitch, all standard quality. Adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams. Actual spare capacity exists on the adult pitches and the mini pitches are unused by the community.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	S	L
						Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through transfer of play from overplayed sites and/or via future demand.			S	L
						Explore lack of mini soccer demand.			S	L
						Ensure security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L
			Cricket		One standalone NTP of poor quality with no community use.	Explore school demand and replace if required.	ECB School		S	L
			Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as standard quality (M1/D1). Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use. Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	RFU School		L	L
74	Hamstead Hall Academy	B20 1HL	Football	School	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch, both standard quality. Minimal actual spare capacity exists on the 7v7 pitch; the adult pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	S	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L
			Cricket		One standalone NTP. Standard quality with no community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
			Sand AGP		One full size, sand-based, floodlit, AGP. Installed in 2005 and assessed as poor quality. Used by Barford Tigers HC. Site also has poor quality changing facilities.	As a priority, explore funding options to refurbish the pitch and protect as a hockey surface.	EH Club School		S	H
						Also explore opportunities to improve changing facilities.			S	M
						Ensure continued security of tenure for Barford Tigers HC.			S	L
Tennis	Three poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	S	L					
75	Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy	B20 2HL	Football	School	One youth 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use. Overplayed due to school use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use to alleviate overplay.	FA School	Local site	S	L
						Should quality improvements yield spare capacity, explore community use options.			M	L

³⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴⁰	Cost ⁴¹	
87	Holford Drive Community Sports Hub	B42 2TU	Football	Trust	Three adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, all standard quality. Used for Step football by Continental Star FC. Adult pitches are overplayed, youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Undergone PIP.	Alleviate adult pitch overplay through quality improvements or the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Key centre	S	L	
						Ensure Continental Star FC can progress through the football pyramid.			L	L	
			Cricket		One square containing five grass wickets and one NTP. Standard quality. Grass wickets are overplayed by 11 match equivalent sessions. Used for LMS and university cricket.	Improve quality so that the pitch can better accommodate its overplay.	ECB LMS		S	L	
						Consider options to extend the number of wickets on the square to alleviate overplay.			S	L	
						If the above is not possible, explore option to transfer more demand from the grass wickets to the NTP or to an alternative site.			M	L	
Tennis	Four good quality macadam courts that are floodlit. Also contains mini courts.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA	L	L						
91	Holy Trinity Catholic Media Arts College	B10 0AX	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Local site	L	L	
						Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.			S	L	
			Sand AGP		One smaller sized sand AGP (50 x 32 metres) with community use but no floodlighting.	Ensure quality is sustained in order to retain current usage.	School		L	L	
92	Holyhead School	B21 0HN	Sand AGP	School	One full size, floodlit, sand AGP with no hockey use. Installed in 2013 and assessed as good quality. Proposed resurface to 3G which will be slightly smaller than full size (93 x 58 metres).	Explore feasibility of 3G conversion given lack of hockey demand, taking into account its smaller size and close proximity to Sandwell Academy.	FA EH	Key centre	S	H	
									Ensure any 3G conversion meets FA recommended dimensions and seek FA testing so that it can be used for competitive matches.	S	L
									Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	L	L
			Tennis		Three poor quality macadam courts that are floodlit.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	L	
97	King Edward VI Aston School	B6 6LS	Cricket	School	One square with ten grass wickets. Assessed as good quality. Available for community use and used.	Sustain pitch quality to retain current levels of use.	ECB School	Local site	L	L	
						Ensure security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L	
			Rugby union		Two standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches. Available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		L	L	
					Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	S			L		
Tennis	Four poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	S	L						

⁴⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴²	Cost ⁴³
100	King Edward VI Handsworth School	B21 9AR	Football	School	One youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch, both standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use. Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L
						S			L	
			Cricket		One pitch with eight grass wickets, standard quality. Available for community use and used.	Sustain pitch quality to retain current levels of use. Ensure security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.	ECB School		M	L
						S			L	
	Tennis	12 poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	S	M				
115	Laurel Road Community Sports Centre	B21 9PB	3G	Community	Two smaller sizes 3G pitches (30 x 20 metres).	Retain for continued community use.	FA	Local site	S	L
						L			L	
			Tennis		Five good quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA		L	L
121	Lucozade Powerleague Soccer Centre (Lichfield Road)	B6 7TG	3G	Commercial	12 smaller sized 3G pitches (two are 40 x 30 metres, ten are 30 x 20 metres).	Retain for commercial use.	FA	Local site	L	L
135	Nechells Community Sports Centre	B7 5DT	Football	Council	One adult pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch, both assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week; the mini 7v7 pitch is unused.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA	Local site	L	L
						S			L	
			Sand AGP		One smaller sized sand-based AGP (35 x 20 metres).	Ensure quality is sustained in order to retain current usage.	EH		L	L
152	Perry Hall Playing Fields	B42 2NF	Football	Council	Four poor quality adult pitches. Actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality and retain actual spare capacity until this is achieved for protection.	FA	Hub site	S	M
			Cricket		15 squares, all with eight grass wickets each. All standard quality but have had significant recent investment. Actual spare capacity exists on a Saturday.	Ensure appropriate levels of maintenance are applied in order to help sustain/improve quality following investment.	ECB BCL		L	L
153	Perry Park	B42 2LW	Football	Council	A disused site that previously contained one adult and one youth pitch.	Consider bringing site back into use to reduce local shortfalls or mitigate permanent loss.	FA	Local site	S	L
161	Rookery School and Children's Centre	B21 9PY	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L

⁴² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴⁴	Cost ⁴⁵
170	Small Heath Leisure Centre	B10 9RX	Sand AGP	Council	One full size, sand-based AGP (105 x 70) with floodlighting. Installed in 2008 and assessed as standard quality. Used by Yardley HC but previously subject to 3G conversion via the FA's Parklife scheme. In addition, there are also, two smaller sized sand AGPs (30 x 17 each) on site.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH	Key centre	L	L
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
171	South and City College Birmingham	B9 5NA	Football	College	One smaller sized 3G pitch (80 x 40 metres) with no floodlighting.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	College	Local site	L	L
						Support the College in its aspirations to provide floodlighting and, if successful, seek to maximise community use.			M	M
172	Springfield Tennis and Squash Club	B20 2ER	Tennis	Club	Two artificial courts that are assessed as good quality and are floodlit and one macadam court that is assessed as standard quality and not floodlit.	Sustain artificial court quality through appropriate maintenance and seek to improve macadam court quality to better cater for club needs.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
173	St Andrew's Stadium (Birmingham City Football Club)	B9 4RL	Football	Club	A stadia adult pitch used for professional football.	No action required.	FA Club	-	L	L
174	St Chads Catholic Primary School	B19 3XD	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L
177	St Georges C of E Primary School	B16 8HY	Sand AGP	School	One smaller sized (30 x 20 metres) sand-based AGP with no floodlighting.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School	Local site	L	L
185	Summerfield Park	B18 4NY	Football	Council	Site has S106 funds that could be used to assist in re-providing football provision.	Assess need for pitches based on local shortfall and seek to maximise usage.	FA	Key centre	S	M
			Cricket		One poor quality square with eight wickets. Actual spare capacity on a Saturday discounted due to quality issues.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity.	ECB		S	L
						Explore use of S106 funds to improve cricketing provision.			S	M
					Consider installation of an NTP to accommodate South Asian league based demand and to relieve grass wicket maintenance pressures.	S	L			
Tennis	Two poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting. The courts are going to be redeveloped this year.	Ensure redevelopment goes ahead to improve court quality to good and then seek to maximise usage.	LTA	S	M					
186	Sundridge Primary School	B44 9NY	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch. No spare capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
						Ensure security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L

⁴⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴⁶	Cost ⁴⁷
195	The Pavilion	B6 7AA	Football	Commercial	Nine adult, two youth and one mini pitch, all standard quality. Each pitch type is overplayed.	Explore funding options to improve quality in order to address overplay and build future site capacity.	FA	Hub site	S	M
			Alternatively, transfer demand away from the site to sites with actual spare capacity.			S			L	
			Rugby union		Two senior pitches assessed as standard quality (M1/D1) with minimal spare capacity. Birmingham Barbarians RUFC rents the pitches from Birmingham City University (operated by Serco).	Retain spare capacity until pitch quality can be improved.	RFU		L	L
			Explore lease agreement (minimum 25 years) options to provide the Club with greater security of tenure and/or look to find the Club an alternative site where it has the potential to secure long-term tenure and seek inward investment.			S			L	
			Sand AGP		A full size sand-based AGP with no hockey use. Previously subject to 3G conversion proposals as per the FA's Parklife scheme.	Explore feasibility of 3G conversion given lack of hockey demand to reduce 3G shortfalls.	FA EH		S	H
						Ensure any 3G conversion meets FA recommended dimensions and seek FA testing so that it can be used for competitive matches.			S	L
Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	L	L								
206	Gem Sports Centre	B7 4BL	3G	Commercial	A smaller sized 3G pitch (70 x 40 metres).	Seek to maximise usage and explore FA testing to host mini soccer and youth matches.	FA	Local site	S	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long term sustainability.			L	L
207	Villa Park (Aston Villa Football Club)	B6 6HE	Football	Club	A stadia adult pitch used for professional football.	No action required.	FA Club	-	L	L
213	Winson Green	B18 5SD	Cricket	Council	A poor quality square with eight grass wickets. Actual spare capacity on a Saturday discounted due to poor quality.	Retain spare capacity until quality can be improved.	ECB	Local site	M	L
						Improve quality and ensure appropriate levels of maintenance.			S	L
214	Wood Lane Playing Fields	B20 2AT	Football	Council	One adult and two youth pitches, all standard quality. Two mini pitches, both poor quality. All pitches are played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key centre	L	L
						Ensure any increased demand is met by improved pitch quality to avoid future overplay.			L	L
			Cricket		One standard quality square with eight grass wickets. Played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB		L	L
						Ensure any increased demand is met by an increased number of wickets (or an NTP) to avoid future overplay.			L	L
			Rugby union		One poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch which is currently only used for school use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU		L	L

⁴⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴⁸	Cost ⁴⁹
300	Dorrington Academy	B42 1QR	Sand AGP	School	One smaller sized sand-based AGP (30 x 15 metres) with no floodlighting. Unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Local site	L	L
313	Hamstead Site	B20 1BX	Cricket	Council	Three standalone NTPs which are well used by South Asian league based leagues. All standard quality.	Ensure appropriate standard of maintenance is applied in order to help sustain/improve quality and existing usage.	ECB	Local site	L	L
			Football		Previously contained two adult pitches.	Explore options to bring back into use to meet local shortfalls.	FA		S	L
316	Handsworth Park	B20 2BY	Cricket	Council	One standard quality square with 12 grass wickets and one NTP. Spare capacity for one team on a Sunday. Handsworth CC expresses lease aspirations for the site.	Ensure appropriate levels of maintenance are applied in order to help sustain/improve quality.	ECB	Local site	S	L
						Explore lease agreement which will allow the Club to apply for necessary funds to make improvements.			S	L
317	Edgbaston Foundation Sports Ground	B17 8LS	Cricket	Club	One good quality square with 10 grass wickets. Considered available for community use despite predominately being used for matches featuring Warwickshire's Academy teams.	Sustain quality and maximise community use as appropriate.	ECB	Local site	L	L
323	Holte School	B19 2EP	Sand AGP	School	One full size sand-based, floodlit AGP. Available for community use but no current hockey use. Assessed as standard quality having been built in 2010.	Explore feasibility of 3G conversion given lack of hockey demand to reduce 3G shortfalls.	FA EH	Local site	S	H
						Ensure any 3G conversion meets FA recommended dimensions and seek FA testing so that it can be used for competitive matches.			S	L
						Alternatively, explore suitability to accommodate demand from Yardley & District HC should Small Heath Leisure Centre be converted.			S	L
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
324	Heartlands Academy	B7 4QR	3G	School	One full size 3G pitch which is floodlit. Available for community use but not FA tested to host matches. Standard quality.	Seek to maximise usage and explore FA testing to host competitive matches.	FA School	Key centre	S	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long term sustainability.			L	L
334	Maryvale Catholic Primary School	B44 9AG	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L
342	Kingsland Primary School	B44 9PU	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L

⁴⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁰	Cost ⁵¹			
344	The Oratory Roman Catholic Primary School	B16 9ER	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch standard quality. Available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L			
359	St Edmunds Catholic Primary School	B18 7PA	Football	School	One mini 5v5 pitch standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L			
372	Hilltop Field (St John Wall Catholic School)	B21 8HL	Football	School	One adult pitch standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L			
391	Hamstead Lawn Tennis Club	B20 2NT	Tennis	Club	Three good quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L			
404	Perry Beeches Academy	B42 2PY	Sand AGP	School	One full size sand-based AGP. No floodlighting and unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use and ensure quality is sustained. Explore future community use options if required.	School EH	Local site	L	L			
			Tennis						Four poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	S	L
413	Summerfield Primary School	B18 4EE	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L			

⁵⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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AREA 3

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ⁵²	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	5	5.5	1	1.5	-	6	7.5
Youth pitches 11v11	5.5	1.5	1	3	2	7.5	6.5
Youth pitches 9v9	1	1.5	0.5	1	2	5	8
Mini pitches 7v7	-	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	3.5	4.5
Mini pitches 5v5	1	-	-	1	0.5	6.5	6

- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent session on adult pitches and a future shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is current overall spare capacity on youth 11v11 pitches, however, a shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions exists when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of one match equivalent session on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of eight match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches and a future shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is current minimal overall spare capacity on mini 5v5 pitches, however, a shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions exists when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ Overplay is evident on pitches at Elmdon Playing Field, Grove Road, King's Heath Cricket and Sports Club, Kings Norton Boys School, Kings Norton Playing Fields, Merrits Brook, Shenley Lane Community Association and Rowheath Pavilion.
- ◀ There are 28 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ Cadbury Sixth Form College is considering developing a residential unit on its playing field, which would result in the loss of its youth 11v11 pitch.
- ◀ Changing facilities servicing Shenley Lane Community Association, University of Birmingham (Metchley Lane) and Yardley Wood Playing Fields are considered to be poor quality.
- ◀ Tenure is considered unsecure at Transport Stadium (West Midlands Travel) as the site is reportedly for sale and at Yardley Wood Playing Field as Maypole FC's lease expires in 2019.
- ◀ There are 17 providers (Little Bollington Primary School) that do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- ◀ There is current training demand for four full size 3G pitches and future training demand for six full size 3G pitches, of which, there are currently three (Four Dwellings Academy, Moseley Rugby Union Club and the University of Birmingham (discounting Wast Hills Training Ground)).
- ◀ Future full size 3G proposals are in place at Lordswood Schools, the University of Birmingham (three), Transport Stadium (two) and Sandon Road.

⁵² In match equivalent sessions

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity, first and foremost via sites with a large number of pitches and particularly pitch types with current shortfalls.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration (although this would not fully meet youth 11v11 demand).
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Shenley Lane Community Association, University of Birmingham (Metchley Lane) and Yardley Wood Playing Fields and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure at Transport Stadium (West Midlands Travel) by safeguarding its sporting future and at Yardley Wood Playing Field via a lease extension (minimum 25 years).
- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at other currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Ensure any net loss of playing pitch provision at Cadbury Sixth Form College is mitigated should its development go ahead.
- ◀ Ensure that Four Dwellings Academy, Moseley Rugby Union Club and the University of Birmingham (Metchley Lane) remain on the FA register for competitive matches and seek testing at Newman University Sports Centre.
- ◀ Explore feasibility of sites to increase 3G pitch stock, first and foremost via those already proposed and ensure that sustainable, robust business plans are in place.
- ◀ Ensure that all current and future 3G pitches have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Maximise usage of 3G pitches, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are 16 grass wicket cricket squares available for community use and two standalone NTPs.
- ◀ Plans are in place for the creation of at least three NTPs to accompany the grass wicket squares at Billesley Common.
- ◀ Tenure is considered to be unsecure for Harborne CC as it has only nine years remaining on its lease.
- ◀ Poor quality grass wicket squares are identified at Billesley Common and Elmdon Playing Field.
- ◀ Harborne CC and Lyndworth CC both report that their clubhouse facilities are poor quality, whereas Billesley Common is without accessible changing rooms.
- ◀ Bournville CC and Shenley Fields CC report a need for additional practice nets to be provided.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity exists at Billesley Common and Richmond Hill on a Saturday and at Billesley Common, Bourneville Cricket Club, Shenley Lane Community Association and Richmond Hill on a Sunday.
- ◀ No squares are overplayed.

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- ◀ Harborne CC and Weoley Hill CC cannot accommodate their future senior demand on the squares that they currently use.
- ◀ South Asian league based demand such as the Birmingham Cricket League and the Al Faisals Cricket express the need for additional sites.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at poor and standard quality sites and deliver improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Increase lease arrangement for Harborne CC to a minimum of 25 years.
- ◀ Support Harborne CC and Lyndworth CC in their aspirations for clubhouse improvements whilst exploring options to provide such provision at Billesley Common.
- ◀ Explore options to improve training facilities available to Bournville CC and Shenley Fields CC.
- ◀ Enable Harborne CC and Weoley Hill CC to fulfil future growth plans via access to an alternative square or through new provision.
- ◀ Explore options to increase provision available to service South Asian league based demand.
- ◀ Retain unused and unavailable educational provision and further explore community use aspects should access be required in the future.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are 23 senior pitches available for community use.
- ◀ Bournville RUFC is in the process of relocating much of its demand to a new development at Sandon Road that will provide a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch and two senior pitches.
- ◀ Harborne RUFC has only 18 years remaining on its lease of West Hill Close, whereas Dixonians RUFC and Moseley Oak RUFC are without security of tenure as they rent Rowheath Pavilion and Billesley Common, respectively, on an annual basis.
- ◀ All three senior pitches at Billesley Common and one senior pitch at Harborne Rugby Club (West Hill Close) are assessed as poor quality, as are pitches at the Blue Coat School albeit they are not available for community use.
- ◀ The changing room facilities at Harborne Rugby Club (West Hill Close) are considered to be poor quality as the plumbing was installed incorrectly.
- ◀ The University of Birmingham is serviced by poor quality clubhouse facilities.
- ◀ Each senior pitch at Billesley Common is overplayed by a combined total of 1.75 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity exists on one senior pitch at Rowheath Pavilion (0.5 match equivalent sessions).
- ◀ There is a current overall shortfall amounting to 1.25 match equivalent sessions, which remains the case when accounting for future demand.

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Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance, particularly at Billesley Common and Harborne Rugby Club (West Hills Close).
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unused pitches and unavailable pitches at educational sites for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Extend Harborne RUFC's lease agreement to a minimum of 25 years and explore options to provide Dixonians RUFC and Moseley Oak RUFC with lease agreements.
- ◀ Support the University of Birmingham in its clubhouse improvement aspirations.
- ◀ Provide Harborne RUFC with a dedicated clubhouse facility that also corrects the issues with its current changing rooms.
- ◀ Explore installation of floodlighting at Harborne Rugby Club (West Hills Close) to accommodate the Club's training demand.
- ◀ Support Bournville RUFC in its relocation and ensure the development fully caters for the Club's needs.
- ◀ Ensure 3G pitch at Sandon Road is installed to World Rugby specification so that it can be used for training and competitive matches.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are seven full size hockey suitable AGPs, six of which are in current use by hockey clubs (Colmers Community Leisure Centre is not).
- ◀ The University of Birmingham reports plans to redevelop and relocate its two water based pitches at its Bournbrook Campus as the current pitches have a dated sub-base, obsolete floodlighting and are the wrong orientation.
- ◀ Colmers Community Leisure Centre was under proposal to be converted to 3G; however, this was linked to the FA's Parklife scheme which is no longer taking place in Birmingham.
- ◀ Colmers Community Leisure Centre is assessed as poor quality having not been resurfaced since 2000.
- ◀ Bournville HC and Harborne HC report that their future demand cannot be met on the current stock of AGPs available to them.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the six hockey suitable AGPs that are currently used for hockey.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are in place at those sites remaining as hockey suitable for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Explore options to enable Bournville HC and Harborne HC to fulfil their future growth aspirations.
- ◀ Support the University of Birmingham in its pitch development plans.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ Lordswood Schools is accessed by Birmingham Lacrosse Club, whereas the University of Birmingham accesses its Metchley Lane site.
- ◀ Birmingham Lacrosse Club reports that Lordswood Schools is poor quality, whereas the pitch at Metchley Lane is considered good quality.
- ◀ Birmingham Lacrosse Club has access issues at Lordswood Schools in relation to its changing facilities, whereas the University of Birmingham reports that its provision is too small and outdated.
- ◀ Birmingham Lacrosse Club does not have a community use agreement in place at Lordswood Schools.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality at Lordswood Schools.
- ◀ Seek to provide Birmingham Lacrosse Club with secure tenure via a community use agreement.
- ◀ Alternatively, explore the transfer of demand to a 3G pitch, potentially via the proposed development at Lordswood Schools.
- ◀ Sustain quality at the University of Birmingham (Metchley Lane) for continued lacrosse use or transfer demand to the onsite 3G pitch to alleviate capacity issues.

Tennis

Summary

- ◀ There are 77 courts available for community use and 81 courts unavailable for community use.
- ◀ There are 69 poor quality courts, located across 16 sites.
- ◀ The University of Birmingham reports an aspiration to develop up to eight tennis courts within its Bournbrook Campus as part of wider site development plans.
- ◀ Edgbaston Archery & Lawn Tennis Society reports that the lease of its site of the same name expired in 2015 and the Club has been unable to acquire an extension from Calthorpe Estates although it is still granted access

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore opportunities to improve court quality at sites with poor quality surfaces.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision servicing council courts to maximise usage.
- ◀ Ensure that all courts in active use are retained and ensure that they all receive adequate maintenance to prevent quality deteriorating.
- ◀ Seek to provide security of tenure to Edgbaston Archery & Lawn Tennis Society.
- ◀ Support the University of Birmingham in its development aspirations and explore options to maximise tennis activity at the University.
- ◀ Further explore club membership and ensure demand can be accommodated at club's operating above the LTA threshold (40 members per non-floodlit court and 60 members per floodlit court).

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵³	Cost ⁵⁴
6	Ark Kings Academy	B38 9DE	Football	School	Two youth 11v11 and two mini 5v5 pitches assessed as standard quality. No community use is offered.	Explore community use options to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
						Ensure any users enter community use agreements to provide security of tenure.			S	L
						Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			L	L
			Tennis		Six poor quality macadam court that are not floodlit.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular purposes.	LTA School	Local site	S	M
13	Austin Sports and Social Club	B31 2SF	Football	Club	Two adult pitches assessed as poor, partly due to drainage issues. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to quality.	Improve pitch quality through drainage work and better maintenance to provide actual spare capacity.	FA Club	Local site	S	M
15	Bartley Green Community Leisure Centre	B32 3QJ	Football	Council	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is currently unused by the community.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through the transfer of youth 11v11 teams currently playing on adult pitches.			S	L
						Six poor quality macadam court that are not floodlit.			Further explore demand and improve court quality if it is deemed necessary.	LTA
			Tennis							
17	Belton Road Playing Fields	B45 9PD	Football	School	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch that are available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Local site	L	L
									Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and attract demand to the site.	S

⁵³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁵	Cost ⁵⁶
19	Billesley Common	B13 0JD	Football	Council	Three adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity exists amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed site or through future demand.	FA	Hub site	S	L
					Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	L			L	
			Cricket		Three grass wicket squares with six wickets each, all of which are assessed as poor quality. No accessible changing rooms are provided. Used by King's Heath CC as well as the Birmingham Cricket League. Spare capacity amounting to 24 match equivalent sessions remains and this is available on both a Saturday and a Sunday. Plans are in place for the installation of NTPs to accompany the squares.	Improve pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB		S	M
						Explore options to provide accessible changing facilities.			S	M
						Support plans for the installation of NTPs to better cater for South Asian league based demand and junior demand.			S	L
			Rugby union		Three poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitches that are leased to Moseley RUFC and also used by Moseley Oak RUFC. Each pitch is overplayed, with total overplay amounting to 1.75 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality through drainage work and improved maintenance to alleviate overplay.	RFU Club		S	M
20	Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre	B13 0ST	Tennis	Commercial	Eight floodlit macadam courts that are assessed as good quality.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA	Local site	L	L
26	Bournville School and Sixth Form Centre	B30 1QJ	Tennis	School	Six poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting and are not available to the community.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	Local site	S	M
27	Bournville Cricket Club	B30 2LP	Football	Club	Three adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches all assessed as standard quality. Spare capacity exists across each pitch type, however, this is not considered to be actual spare capacity due to over marking cricket outfield.	Ensure appropriate maintenance to sustain quality and usage levels.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
			Cricket		A standard quality square with 14 grass wickets. Actual spare capacity remains on a Sunday. The Club expresses a need for additional practice nets to be provided.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and seek improvements to drainage on outfield.	ECB Club		S	L
						Support the Club in its aspirations to provide additional practice nets.			S	L

⁵⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁷	Cost ⁵⁸
30	Broadmeadow Junior School	B30 3QJ	Football	School	A poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is not available for community use. Played to capacity through internal usage.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and to increase capacity.	FA School	Local site	S	L
						Following quality improvements, explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.			M	L
35	Cadbury Sixth Form College	B38 8QT	Football	School	A poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is not available for community use. Played to capacity through internal usage. Under proposal to be lost as part of a development of a residential unit.	Ensure any net loss of playing pitch space is replaced to an equal or better quantity and quality in a suitable location.	FA School	Local site	S	M
						If the pitch is not lost, improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community aspects to reduce local shortfalls.			M	L
			Tennis		Two poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting and are not available to the community.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	L
40	Cofton Park	B45 8UN	Football	Council	Four standard quality adult pitches with three match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed site or through future demand.	FA	Local site	S	L
						Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			L	L
			Cricket		A disused standalone NTP.	Consider restoration of NTP given South Asian league based cricket demand.	ECB		S	L
41	Cofton Primary School	B31 4ST	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L
42	Colmers Community Leisure Centre	B45 9NY	Sand AGP	School	A full size, floodlit sand-based AGP that was under proposal for a 3G conversion via the FA's Parklife scheme. Currently unused for hockey. Assessed as poor quality having not been resurfaced since 2000.	Explore feasibility of 3G conversion given lack of hockey demand to reduce 3G shortfalls.	FA EH School	Key centre	S	H
						Ensure any 3G conversion meets FA recommended dimensions and seek FA testing so that it can be used for competitive matches.			S	L
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
43	Colmers Farm Junior School	B45 9PB	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L
49	Edgbaston Cricket Ground	B5 7QU	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 18 grass wickets that is used for professional cricket.	No action required.	ECB	Local site	L	L

⁵⁷ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁹	Cost ⁶⁰
50	Edgbaston High School for Girls	B15 3TS	Sand AGP	School	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Edgbaston HC. Assessed as standard quality having been resurfaced in 2007. Also used by Birmingham Lacrosse Club for training activity.	Protect pitch as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School	Local site	L	L
						Resurface pitch in the near future to sustain quality and usage.			M	M
						Ensure security of tenure for Edgbaston HC via a community use agreement.			S	L
			Tennis		Three floodlit macadam courts that are assessed as standard quality.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		L	L
51	Edgbaston Priory Club	B15 2UZ	Tennis	Club	Eight grass, seven artificial, four clay and three macadam courts. Four artificial, one macadam and all of the clay courts are floodlit. The grass courts are assessed as standard quality; the remaining courts are assessed as good quality.	Explore options to improve grass courts and sustain quality of remaining courts.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
52	Elmdon Playing Field	B29 7LF	Football	Club	One adult, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch all assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions; the mini pitches have minimal actual spare capacity. Adult pitch is used by youth 11v11 teams. Site is leased to Rising Stars FC.	Improve quality to good to alleviate overplay or sustain quality and transfer some demand from the adult pitch to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Key centre	S	L
						Explore options to transfer youth 11v11 demand from the adult pitch to dedicated youth 11v11 pitches.			S	L
						Ensure contained security of tenure for Rising Stars FC.			L	L
			Cricket		A poor quality square with eight grass wickets. Spare capacity amounting to eight match equivalent sessions remains; however, actual spare capacity on a Sunday is discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	ECB		S	L
						Consider installation of an NTP to accommodate South Asian league based demand and to relieve grass wicket maintenance pressures.			S	L
56	Edgbaston Archery and Lawn Tennis Society	B23 6PR	Tennis	Private	Six grass, four clay and two artificial courts all assessed as standard quality. The artificial courts are floodlit. No security of tenure is provided as the lease agreement expired in 2015.	Explore options to improve court quality to good given the level of demand attracted.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
						Provide security of tenure via a long-term lease agreement.			S	L
58	Four Dwellings Academy	B31 1RJ	3G	School	A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is FA approved to host competitive matches. Assessed as good quality having been installed in 2014.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
						Seek FA testing every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive matches.			M	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L

⁵⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁹	Cost ⁶⁰
62	Frankley Community High School (Balaam Wood School)	B45 0EU	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
			Tennis		Three poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	L
63	George Dixon Academy	B16 9GD	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches that are available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
			Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and retain as community available to accommodate any possible future demand.	RFU School		L	L
70	Green Meadow Primary School	B29 4EE	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
72	Grove Road	B14 6ST	Football	Council	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch both of which are assessed as standard quality. The 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions; the 7v7 pitch is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay of 9v9 pitch and to increase capacity of 7v7 pitch.	FA	Local site	S	L
						To fully alleviate overplay, transfer demand from the 9v9 pitch to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L
76	Harborne Cricket Club	B10 9HN	Football	Club	One 9v9, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch all assessed as standard quality and all used to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
			Cricket		One square with 14 grass wickets and one square with seven grass wickets. The larger square is assessed as good quality; the smaller square is assessed as standard quality. Both are played to capacity on a Saturday and a Sunday. Only nine years remain on Harborne CC's lease agreement.	Sustain good quality square through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L
					Explore options to improve quality of standard quality square.	S			L	
					Ensure Harborne CC can accommodate its future demand aspirations through access to an alternative site.	L			L	
					Extend lease agreement to improve security of tenure (minimum 25 years).	S			L	
80	Highfield Farm	B32 1QT	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is used solely by a youth 11v11 team. Actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
Re-configure pitch to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.	S	L								

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶¹	Cost ⁶²
99	King Edward VI Five Ways School	B32 4BT	Cricket	School	A standard quality standalone NTP that is not available for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	ECB School	Key centre	L	L
			Rugby union		Three standard quality (M1/D1) Senior pitches that are not available for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects should access be needed in the future.	RFU School		L	L
			Sand AGP		A full size sand-based AGP that is used by Harbone HC and Old Halesonians HC. Assessed as good quality having been resurfaced in 2014.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School		L	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			S	L
			Tennis		Four poor quality macadam courts that are floodlit.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	L
101	King Edward VI High School for Girls	B15 2UB	Sand AGP	School	Two full size, sand-based AGPs that are used by Bournville HC and Harborne HC. Both assessed as standard quality having been resurfaced in 2007. The changing facilities are reported as being, at times, inaccessible.	Protect pitches as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School	Key centre	L	L
						Resurface pitches in the near future to sustain quality and usage.			M	H
						Ensure security of tenure for clubs via a community use agreement.			S	L
						Improve access to changing facilities.			S	L
			Tennis		Four poor quality macadam courts and five good quality macadam courts, none of which are floodlit or available to the community.	Improve poor quality courts and sustain good quality courts for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		L	L
103	King Edward's School	B15 2UA	Cricket	School	Three squares with six grass wickets each, albeit none are available for community use. Assessed as standard quality.	Explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	ECB School	Local site	S	L
			Rugby union			Five standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches, all of which are available to the community but are unused.			Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	L
					Sand AGP		A smaller size (50 x 35 metres) sand-based AGP that is neither available to the community nor floodlit.		Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School
			Retain as community available should demand for access exist in the future.			L			L	
					Retain for school use.	EH School	L	L		

⁶¹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶² (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶³	Cost ⁶⁴	
104	King Edward's School (Eastern Road)	B29 7JX	Cricket	School	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets. Available to the community and used. No actual spare capacity exists on a Saturday or a Sunday.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB School	Key centre	L	L	
					Pursue security of tenure to users via a community use agreement.				S	L	
			Rugby union		Two standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches, both of which are available to the community but are unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L	
						Retain as community available should demand for access exist in the future.			L	L	
			Sand AGP		A full size sand-based AGP that is used by Edgbaston HC. Assessed as good quality having been resurfaced in 2013.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	EH School		L	L	
						Pursue security of tenure for Edgbaston HC via a community use agreement.			S	L	
		Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	S	L							
105	King Edward's School (Running Track)	B29 7JP	Rugby union	School	A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School	Local site	L	L	
									Retain as community available should demand for access exist in the future.	L	L
109	King's Heath Cricket and Sports Club	B14 6DT	Football	Club	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch both assessed as standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session, whereas the 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity discounted due to over marking cricket outfield.	Alleviate overplay of youth 11v11 pitch by improving pitch quality to good or by transferring demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA Club	Key centre	S	L	
			Cricket		A standard quality square with 15 grass wickets. Played to capacity on both a Saturday and a Sunday.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and seek improvements, where possible.			ECB Club	L	L
			Tennis		Three good quality artificial courts that are floodlit.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			LTA Club	L	L
110	Kings Heath School	B13 0RJ	Football	School	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Neither are available for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L	

⁶³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶⁵	Cost ⁶⁶
111	Kings Norton Boys School	B30 1DY	Football	School	Two adult and one 7v7 pitch all assessed as standard quality. The adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams and are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas the 7v7 pitch is played to capacity.	Alleviate overplay of adult pitches by transferring youth 11v11 demand to dedicated youth 11v11 pitches.	FA School	Local site	S	L
						Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			L	L
						Ensure security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L
			Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as poor quality that is not available for community use.	Explore curricular and extra-curricular demand and improve quality if it is warranted.	ECB School		L	L
			Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L
						Retain as community available should demand for access exist in the future.			L	L
112	Kings Norton Playing Fields	B30 3EU	Football	Council	One adult, two youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch used by a youth 11v11 team and is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas the youth 9v9 pitches have 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. The mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Alleviate overplay of adult pitches by transferring youth 11v11 demand to dedicated youth 11v11 pitches.	FA School	Key centre	S	L
						Utilise capacity on 9v9 pitch through the transfer of play from overplayed sites.			S	L
						Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			L	L
116	Leyhill	B31 1TT	Football	Council	Two adult pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity and then seek to maximise usage via the transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA	Local site	S	M

⁶⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶⁷	Cost ⁶⁸
119	Lordswood Schools	B17 8BJ	Football	School	Three youth 11v11 pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues.	Improve drainage on pitches to improve overall quality and to provide actual spare capacity.	FA School	Key centre	S	M
						Provide security of tenure to users via a community use agreement.				S
			3G		A proposed full size 3G pitch that has planning approval.	Explore feasibility of providing the pitch to reduce local shortfalls.	FA RFU School		S	H
						Ensure any development meets FA recommended dimensions and seek FA testing so that it can be used to host competitive matches.			S	L
						Consider installing the pitch as World Rugby compliant to enable rugby union activity to take place for curriculum and external hiring purposes.			S	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability and ensure a community use agreement is in place.			L	L
			Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused. May be lost as part of 3G pitch development.	Explore curricular and extra-curricular needs of the School to determine if the NTP needs replacing following 3G pitch development.	ECB School		S	L
			Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L
						Retain as community available should demand for access exist in the future.			L	L
			Lacrosse		A poor quality pitch that is accessed by Birmingham Lacrosse Club.	Improve pitch quality to better cater for community demand.	School		S	L
						Improve access to changing facilities.			S	L
						Pursue security of tenure via a community use agreement.			S	L
						Alternatively, explore transfer of demand to a 3G pitch, potentially via the one proposed on site.			M	L
Tennis	Five standard quality macadam courts that are floodlit and available to the community.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA School	L	L					
122	Lyndworth Cricket Club	B30 2UG	Cricket	Club	A poor quality square with eight grass wickets. Serviced by a poor quality pavilion. Minimal spare capacity remains.	Retain minimal spare capacity to avoid further quality deterioration.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
						Improve pitch quality.			S	L
						Improve pavilion quality.			S	M

⁶⁷ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶⁹	Cost ⁷⁰
129	Merrits Brook	B31 1PD	Football	School	One youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas the 7v7 pitch is unused by the community despite being available.	Alleviate overplay of youth 11v11 pitch by improving pitch quality to good or via the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	S	L
						Explore community use aspects relating to 7v7 pitch and seek attraction of demand.			S	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L
133	Moseley Rugby Union Club	B13 0PT	3G	Club	A full size 3G pitch that is both FA approved and World Rugby compliant. Assessed as standard quality having been installed in 2007.	Seek to resurface before quality deterioration.	FA RFU Club	Key centre	M	M
						Ensure testing every three years to remain on the FA register and every two years to remain World Rugby compliant.			S	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
						Seek to maximise usage for competitive matches given grass pitch shortfalls.			S	L
			Rugby union		A good quality (M2/D1) senior pitch. Played to capacity at peak team. Also used for rugby league by Birmingham Bulls RLFC.	Sustain quality via appropriate maintenance and explore the need for a drainage system to increase capacity.	RFU Club		L	L
Ensure continued access for Birmingham Bulls RFC.	L	L								
146	Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School	B17 8TR	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
149	Pebble Mill	B29 7QE	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or via future demand.			S	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L
159	Rednal Hill Junior School	B45 8QY	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
163	Selly Park Recreation Ground	B29 6HQ	Football	Council	Two adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch all assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity exists on each pitch type.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or via future demand.			S	L

⁶⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶⁹	Cost ⁷⁰
164	Senneleys Park	B32 3BA	Football	Council	One adult and five youth 11v11 pitches assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 and four match equivalent sessions exists respectively. Has S106 monies available to it for development.	The FA are not supportive of using S106 monies available to develop site due to its poor location; therefore, alternative sites should be considered.	FA	Key centre	M	H
						Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	L
167	Shenley Academy	B29 4HE	Football	School	Two adult, three youth 11v11 and three mini 5v5 pitches, all assessed as standard quality. None of the pitches are available for community use.	As a priority, given the large number of pitches on site, explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
						Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.			L	L
			Tennis		Four floodlit macadam courts and four non-floodlit macadam courts, all of which are assessed as poor quality.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	M
168	Shenley Lane Community Association	B29 4JH	Football	Community	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch is over marked by the 7v7 pitch. The youth 11v11 pitch has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity, whereas the adult pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions and the mini 7v7 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalents. Used by Northfield Town FC, which plays one step below the football pyramid. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Alleviate overplay of adult and mini 7v7 pitches via the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity or through improving pitch quality to good.	FA	Key centre	S	L
						Sustain quality of remaining pitches through appropriate maintenance and pursue a resolution to identified drainage issues.			L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity on youth 11v11 pitch through future demand or via transferring demand from overplayed sites.			S	L
						Ensure ground grading is suitable for Step 7 football should Northfield Town FC achieve promotion.			L	L
						Improve changing facilities.			S	M
						Cricket			A standard quality square with ten grass wickets. Rented by Shenley Fields CC, which expresses a need for additional practice nets. Actual spare capacity remains on a Sunday.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore options to improve quality to good.
			Support the Club in its aspirations for additional practice nets to be provided.		S		L			
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized (30 x 20 metres) sand-based AGP.	Explore possibilities of Shenley Fields CC being granted improved security of tenure via a lease agreement.	EH		S	L
Retain for continued community use.	L	L								
175	St Edwards Catholic Primary School	B29 7PN	Football	School	Two standard quality 5v5 pitches that are not available for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶⁹	Cost ⁷⁰
181	St Laurence CE Junior School	B31 2DJ	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls and explore lack of demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L
182	St Paul's School for Girls	B16 9SL	Tennis	School	Four poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	Local site	S	L
191	Swanshurst School	B13 0TW	Tennis	School	Eight poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	Local site	L	L
192	Baverstock Foundation School	B14 5TL	Sand AGP	School	A 3G proposal for a smaller sized pitch to be provided (90 x 45 metres).	Explore feasibility of providing the pitch.	FA School	Local site	S	H
						If the development goes ahead, seek FA testing so that it can be used for mini and youth matches.			M	M
						Seek to maximise community usage.			L	L
193	The Blue Coat School	B17 0HR	Football	School	One mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 pitches all assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
			Cricket		A standard quality square with four grass wickets that is not available for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use. Explore any potential demand and, if it exists, explore community use aspects with the school to further understand availability.	ECB		L	L
			Rugby union		Two poor quality (M0/D1) mini pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity through better maintenance.	RFU School		S	L
196	The Priory School	B15 2UR	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
			Tennis		Five poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	M

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷¹	Cost ⁷²
197	The University of Birmingham (Bournbrook)	B15 2TT	3G	University	A smaller sized (60 x 40 metres) 3G pitch that is FA approved to host competitive matches. The University also has an aspiration to provide a full size 3G pitch on site.	Seek to maximise usage for match play purposes to reduce grass pitch shortfalls.	RFU FA University	Hub site	S	L
						Explore feasibility of providing a full size 3G pitch on site and ensure any development meets FA/RFU specification and dimensions.			S	H
						Sustain quality of pitch.			L	L
			Rugby union		A good quality (M2/D3) senior pitch that is used by Bournbrook RUFC as well as the University of Birmingham. Used to capacity at peak time.	Ensure continued access for Bournbrook RUFC should it be required after relocating to its own site.	RFU University		L	L
						Support the University in its clubhouse development plans.			S	M
						Protect as hockey suitable pitches.			EH University	L
			Water AGP		Two full size water-based AGPs that are used by Bournbrook HC as well as the University of Birmingham. The University wants to replace the pitches to change the orientation.	Support the University in its development plans (pitch and clubhouse).	M			H
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	L			L
			198		The University of Birmingham (Charles Gillett Centre)	B29 6LG	Football		University	Two standard quality adult pitches that are unavailable for community use.

⁷¹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷² (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷³	Cost ⁷⁴
199	The University of Birmingham (Metchley Lane)	B17 OJA	Football	University	Five good quality adult pitches that are available to the community and are played to capacity.	Sustain quality.	FA University	Hub site	L	L
						Ensure no additional usage to avoid overplay and ensure security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			L	L
						Support the University in its clubhouse development plans.			S	M
			3G		A full size 3G pitch that is both FA approved and World Rugby compliant. Assessed as standard quality following 2009 installation. Development plans exist for two additional full size 3G pitches to be provided. The University has now submitted plans to reconfigure the grass pitches and to install one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. The FA have fed back on the application with its specification criteria.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance until resurfacing.	FA RFU University		L	M
						Ensure testing every three years to remain on FA register and every two years for World Rugby compliance.			M	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place.			L	L
						Seek to maximise usage for competitive matches given grass pitch shortfalls.			S	L
			Rugby union		Four good quality (M2/D1) senior pitches that are also used for lacrosse and rugby league activity. Played to capacity.	Explore feasibility of providing additional pitches for rugby activity and regularly review football demand to determine future 3G need.	RFU RFL University		M	H
						Sustain quality and explore possibility of installing a drainage system to increase capacity, thus allowing for further play.			M	M
Consider transfer of lacrosse and rugby league activity to 3G, especially if aspirations for additional 3G pitches are realised.	S	L								
					Support the University in its clubhouse development plans.			S	M	
200	West Hills Training Ground	B38 9EL	Football	Club	Good quality pitches as part of Birmingham City FC's training ground.	No action required.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
			3G		A full size 3G pitch forming part of Birmingham FC's training ground.	No action required.			FA Club	L
203	Transport Stadium (West Midlands Travel)	B13 0ST	Football	Club	Three good quality adult pitches with minimal actual spare capacity. Tenure is considered to be unsecure as the site is for sale, although Birmingham FA reports an interest in purchase.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and retain minimal spare capacity to aid this.	FA	Key centre	L	L
						Consider purchase of site to improve security of tenure for users and to guarantee its sporting future.			S	H
			3G		Two proposed 3G pitches as part of the mitigation for the loss of North Worcestershire Golf Course.	Explore feasibility of providing the developments.	FA		S	H
			Sand AGP		Two smaller sized sand-based AGP (both measuring 32 x 20.	Retain and consider 3G conversion to better suit users.	FA EH		M	M

⁷³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷³	Cost ⁷⁴
204	Triplex Sports Association	B38 8SS	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch that is used to capacity. Also used by youth 11v11 teams.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Consider transfer of youth 11v11 demand to dedicated youth 11v11 pitches to provide actual spare capacity to adult teams.			S	L
						Explore feasibility of providing a stadia 3G pitch.			M	M
212	Weoley Hill Cricket Club	B29 4BN	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 11 grass wickets and one NTP. Rented by Weoley Hill CC. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
						Explore possibilities of Weoley Hill CC being granted improved security of tenure via a lease agreement.			S	L
						Ensure Weoley Hill CC can fulfil its growth plans via access to alternative provision.			M	L
215	Woodgate Valley	B32 3DS	Football	Council	Two adult and one mini 7v7 pitch assessed as poor quality. The 7v7 pitch is unused. Spare capacity discounted due to quality issues. Limited ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity and then seek to utilise this capacity through the transfer of demand of overplayed sites or via future demand.	FA	Local site	S	M
219	Yardley Wood Playing Field (Maypole Football Club)	B14 4HQ	Football	Club	Two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches assessed as poor quality and serviced by poor quality changing facilities and car parking. Currently played to capacity at peak time. Lease agreement expires in 2019.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate usage.	FA Club	Key centre	S	L
						Improve changing facilities, car parking and access.			S	M
						Provide security of tenure to Maypole FC through extending its lease agreement to a minimum of 25 years.			S	L
220	Yardley Wood Playing Field	B14 4HQ	Football	Council	One adult, one youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches. The adult pitch is assessed as poor quality; the youth pitches are assessed as standard.	Improve adult pitch quality and sustain youth pitch quality.	FA Club		S	L
						Consider leasing site to Maypole FC in line with renewing the Club's existing lease of adjacent land.			S	L
301	Newman University Sports Centre	B32 3NT	3G	University	A 3G pitch, under full size (93 x 56 metres) that is floodlit and available to the community. Not on the FA register to host competitive matches. Good quality having been installed in 2016.	Sustain quality through maintenance.	FA University	Key centre	L	L
						Pursue FA testing so that it can be used for competitive matches and seek to maximise such usage.			S	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
311	Richmond Hill	B15 3RJ	Football	Private	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
			Cricket		A standard quality square with eight grass wickets that is used by Harborne CC as a secondary venue. Actual spare capacity exists on both a Saturday and a Sunday.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore options to improve quality to good.	ECB		L	L
					Ensure security of tenure is provided to Harborne CC via a community use agreement.	S			L	
					Utilise actual spare capacity via future demand if necessary/appropriate.	L			L	

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷⁵	Cost ⁷⁶
315	West Midlands Police Sports and Social Club (Tally Ho)	B5 7RN	Football	Private	A standard quality pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to private nature of the site.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
			Cricket		A good quality square with 12 grass wickets. Actual spare capacity discounted to take into account private nature of the site and South Asian league matches.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB		L	L
			Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch used by West Midlands Police RUFC. Actual spare capacity discounted due to private nature of the site.	Sustain quality and ensure the Club's needs continue to be met.	RFU		L	L
			Tennis		Three good quality artificial courts that are not floodlit.	Sustain quality for continued private use.	LTA		L	L
326	Hallfield School	B15 3SJ	Cricket	School	A standard quality square with four grass wickets that is available for community use but is unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use. Explore any potential demand and, if it exists, explore community use aspects with the school to further understand availability.	ECB School	Local site	L	L
						M			L	
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized (55 x 30 metres) sand-based pitch that is available to the community but is not floodlit.	Retain for school use.	School		L	L
328	Sandon Road	B17 8LL	3G	Council	A proposal for a full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is expected to be World Rugby compliant. Any development will be used by Bournville RUFC.	Ensure the development meet RFU dimensions and specifications.	RFU Club	Key centre	S	H
						If the development goes ahead, ensure World Rugby testing so that it can be used for rugby activity.			S	L
						Once rugby demand is known, explore availability for football given its 3G shortfalls and regularly review impact to determine future 3G need.			M	L
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
			Rugby union		A proposal for two senior pitches in addition to the above mentioned 3G pitch.	Ensure pitches are provided to a good quality with a drainage system installed to maximise capacity.	RFU Club		S	H
						Ensure access for Bournville RUFC via a lease agreement (minimum 25 years).			S	L
						Seek to provide an additional floodlit pitch to better cater for training and match play demand.			S	M
						Provide suitable changing facilities to service the pitches.			S	M

⁷⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷³	Cost ⁷⁴
332	Bells Farm Primary School	B14 5QP	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
337	Albert Bradbeer Primary Academy	B31 4RD	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
368	Rowheath Pavilion	B30 1HH	Football	Community	Three adult, one youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 pitches all assessed as standard quality. The adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams and are overplayed by three match equivalent sessions. The 9v9 pitch is played to capacity; the 5v5 pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Undergone PIP.	Alleviate overplay of adult pitch via the transfer of demand, preferably transferring youth 11v11 demand to dedicated youth 11v11 pitches in the process.	FA	Key centre	S	L
						Alternatively, reconfigure pitches to provide dedicated youth 11v11 provision on site.			S	L
						Explore 3G suitability.			S	L
			Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that is rented by Dixonians RUFC. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists.	As a minimum, sustain pitch quality.	RFU Club		L	L
						Pursue improved security of tenure for Dixonians RUFC through a lease agreement (minimum 25 years).			S	L
						If the above happens, explore options to improve quality via improved maintenance and the installation of a drainage system to increase capacity.			S	M
Explore possibility of providing floodlighting (permanent or portable) so that Dixonians RUFC can train on site.	S	M								
370	Harborne Rugby Club (West Hill Close)	B29 6QQ	Rugby union	Club	A poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch that is leased to Harborne RUFC in an agreement that has 18 years remaining. Played to capacity at peak time, although spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists. Shower facilities are poor quality.	Improve pitch quality, first and foremost via drainage improvements.	RFU Club	Local site	S	M
						Improve security of tenure by extending the lease agreement with Harborne RUFC (minimum 25 years).			S	L
						Provide the Club with a dedicated clubhouse facility that also solves its current changing room issues.			S	L
371	Victoria Common	B31 2BB	Football	Council	A youth 9v9 and a mini 5v5 pitch assessed as poor quality. Both pitches are played to capacity at peak time. The site is also being used for matches unofficially.	Improve pitch quality to increase capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
						Seek resolution to unofficial matches being played.			S	L
382	Weoley Hill Tennis Club	B29 4AR	Tennis	Club	Four macadam courts and two artificial courts all assessed as good quality. The artificial courts are floodlit.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
384	Bournville Park	B30 2LP	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Improve court quality for casual play should the demand exist.	LTA	Local site	S	L

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷³	Cost ⁷⁴
385	Lordswood Tennis Club	B17 8AN	Tennis	Club	Five good quality, floodlit, macadam courts.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
386	Moorpool Tennis Club	B17 9HN	Tennis	Club	Two good quality macadam courts that are floodlit.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
388	Woodlands Northfield Tennis Club	B31 2DX	Tennis	Club	Two good quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
399	Cotteridge Park	B30 2HY	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Improve court quality for casual play should the demand exist.	LTA	Local site	S	L
400	Kings Norton Tennis Club	B38 8RE	Tennis	Club	Three good quality, floodlit, macadam courts.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
403	Turves Green Boys' School	B31 4BS	Tennis	School	Three poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	Local site	S	L
405	Harborne Academy	B15 3JL	Tennis	School	Five standard quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Sustain court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	Local site	L	L
406	Hillcrest School	B32 3AE	Tennis	School	Six poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	Local site	S	M
407	Kings Norton Girls School	B30 1HW	Tennis	School	Six standard quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Sustain court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	Local site	L	L
410	Circle Tennis Club	B17 9DY	Tennis	Club	Two standard quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance and seek improvements where possible.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

AREA 4

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ⁷⁷	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	9	0.5	1	7.5	-	5.5	2
Youth pitches 11v11	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	3.5	5
Youth pitches 9v9	0.5	-	-	0.5	-	1	0.5
Mini pitches 7v7	2	-	-	2	-	0.5	1.5
Mini pitches 5v5	0.5	-	-	0.5	-	2.5	2

- ◀ There is current spare capacity amounting to 7.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and future spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and a future shortfall of five match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is current minimal spare capacity on youth 9v9 pitches; however, a shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ There is current spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches and future spare capacity amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is current minimal spare capacity amounting on mini 5v5 pitches; however, a shortfall of two match equivalent sessions exists when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ Overplay is evident on adult pitches at Brockhurst Road Playing Field and on a youth 11v11 pitch at Flaxley Road Playing Fields.
- ◀ There are 13 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ Changing facilities servicing Calthorpe Park and Holders Lane Complex are considered to be poor quality.
- ◀ There are ten providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- ◀ There is current training demand for two full size 3G pitches and future training demand for three full size 3G pitches, of which, there are currently three (Fox Hollies Leisure Centre, Moseley School Health and Fitness Centre and Saltley Health and Wellbeing Centre), meaning demand is being met.
- ◀ Moseley School is FA approved to host competitive matches.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity, first and foremost via sites with a large number of pitches and particularly pitch types with current shortfalls.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration (although this would not fully meet youth 11v11 demand).
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Calthorpe Park and Holders Lane Complex and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.

⁷⁷ In match equivalent sessions

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- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Pursue FA testing at Fox Hollies Leisure Centre and Saltley Health and Wellbeing Centre so that they can be used to host competitive matches and seek to maximise usage to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.
- ◀ Ensure that all 3G pitches have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Given that no 3G shortfalls are identified, ensure any future proposals have a sustainable, robust business plan to justify further provision.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are 11 grass wicket cricket squares available for community use and two standalone NTPs.
- ◀ Shard End no.6 Playing Field is soon to be leased by the International School and the ECB intends on working with the School to restore some level of cricket provision to the site (in addition to a new pavilion).
- ◀ Tenure is considered to be unsecure for Sheldon Marlborough CC and Attock CC as the former has only four years remaining on its lease and the latter has only 20 years remaining on its lease.
- ◀ Poor quality grass wicket squares are identified at Pickwick Cricket Club and Ward End Unity Cricket Club.
- ◀ Clubhouse provision servicing Sheldon Marlborough CC is considered to be poor quality.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists on both a Saturday and a Sunday at Calthorpe Park, Holders Lane Complex and Wilclare Sports Ground.
- ◀ Attock Cricket Club is overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions per season and Ward End Unity Cricket Club is overplayed by four match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Attock CC cannot accommodate its future demand on the squares it currently uses.
- ◀ South Asian league based demand such as the Birmingham Cricket League and the Al Faisals Cricket express the need for additional sites.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at poor and standard quality sites and deliver improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Increase lease arrangements for Sheldon Marlborough CC and Attock CC to a minimum of 25 years.
- ◀ Support Sheldon Marlborough CC in its aspirations for clubhouse improvements.
- ◀ Enable Attock CC to fulfil its future growth plans via access to an alternative square or through new provision.
- ◀ Explore options to increase provision available to service South Asian league based demand.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to provide cricketing provision at Shard End no.6 Playing Field and assess the impact it could have on community demand.
- ◀ Retain unused and unavailable educational provision and further explore community use aspects should access be required in the future.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are three rugby union pitches available for community use.
- ◀ Yardley & District RUFC is without security of tenure as it only accesses its site via a licence agreement, although it does own its clubhouse.
- ◀ A senior pitch at Cockshut Hill Technology College is assessed as poor quality albeit not available for community use.
- ◀ The clubhouse servicing Yardley & District RUFC is considered to be poor quality due to its age and size.
- ◀ One senior pitch at Yardley and District Rugby Club is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current overall shortfall amounting to two match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.

Recommendations

- ◀ Provide security of tenure to Yardley & District RUFC via a long-term lease agreement (minimum 25 years).
- ◀ Providing the above happens, alleviate overplay at Yardley and District Rugby Club through pitch quality improvements and the installation of additional floodlighting.
- ◀ Explore quality improvements at Cockshut Hill Technology College for curricular and extra-curricular purposes.
- ◀ Provide Yardley & District RUFC with an adequate clubhouse facility, either through improving the existing building, relocating it to a more appropriate location (across the road) or through relocating entirely.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There is one full size hockey suitable AGP (Waverley Studio College) although it is not available for community use.
- ◀ King Edward's Camp Hill School for Girls reports an aspiration to develop a full size sand-based AGP in the future.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect Waverley Studio College for curricular and extra-curricular activity and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long term sustainability.
- ◀ Explore feasibility of providing a pitch at King Edward's Camp Hill School for Girls and the potential demand it could attract.

Tennis

Summary

- ◀ There are 45 courts available for community use and 27 courts unavailable for community use.
- ◀ There are 15 poor quality courts, located at Moseley School Health and Fitness Centre, Waverley Studio College, Yardleys School and Hodge Hill Girls School.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Gilberstone Recreation Ground will also have its courts resurfaced this year following LTA funding.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore opportunities to improve court quality at sites with poor quality surfaces.
- ◀ Support the development at Gilberstone Recreation Ground and seek to maximise usage.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision servicing council courts to maximise usage.
- ◀ Ensure that all courts in active use are retained and ensure that they all receive adequate maintenance to prevent quality deteriorating.
- ◀ Further explore club membership and ensure demand can be accommodated at club's operating above the LTA threshold (40 members per non-floodlit court and 60 members per floodlit court).

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷⁸	Cost ⁷⁹
4	Archbishop Ilsey Catholic College	B27 7XY	3G	School	A smaller sized (62 x 30 metres) 3G pitch. Floodlit and available for community use.	Retain for school and community use.	FA School	Local site	L	L
						Ensure that a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
						Explore FA testing so that the pitch can host mini soccer matches.			S	L
			Tennis		Two standard quality artificial courts that are floodlit and are available to the community.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		L	L
5	Ark Boulton Academy	B11 2QJ	Sand AGP	School	Two smaller sized (30 x 20 and 20 x 12 metres) sand-based AGPs that are neither available for community use nor floodlit.	Retain for continued school use.	School	Local site	L	L
16	Beechcroft Tennis and Multi Sports Club	B28 9ER	Tennis	Club	Three good quality artificial courts that without floodlighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
32	Brockhurst Road Playing Field	B36 8JB	Football	Council	Two adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5; all of standard quality. The adult pitches are overplayed whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is at capacity. The mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Alleviate overplay of adult pitches through improving pitch quality to good or via the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
						Sustain quality of remaining pitches through appropriate maintenance.			L	L
36	Calthorpe Park	B12 9LJ	Football	Council	Two adult pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch, all assessed as standard quality. The adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams and are played to capacity at peak time. The mini 7v7 pitch has minimal actual spare capacity. The changing facilities at the site are poor quality.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key centre	L	L
						Consider pitch re-configuration to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand.			S	L
						Seek to improve the changing facilities for community use.			S	M
			Cricket	A standard quality cricket square with nine grass wickets. Actual spare capacity exists on both a Saturday and a Sunday.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore options to improve.	ECB	L		L	
					Utilise actual spare capacity through future demand or via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.		S		L	
					Consider installation of an NTP to accommodate South Asian league based demand and to relieve grass wicket maintenance pressures.		S		L	

⁷⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁰	Cost ⁸¹
39	Cockshut Hill Technology College	B26 2AU	Football	School	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch which are poor quality and unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
			Rugby Union		One senior adult pitch assessed as poor quality (M1/D0). Unavailable for community use.	Seek to improve pitch quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity through drainage work.	RFU School		S	L
			Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts that are floodlit.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		L	L
57	Flaxley Road Playing Fields	B33 9EX	Football	Council	One adult pitch which is at capacity; a youth 11v11 pitch which is overplayed; and two mini 7v7 pitches that are played to capacity at peak time. All are assessed as standard. Site has received Football Foundation funding.	Alleviate overplay of the youth 11v11 pitch through pitch quality improvements or via the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
						Sustain quality of remaining pitches through appropriate maintenance.			L	L
61	Fox Hollies Leisure Centre	B27 7NS	3G	Council	A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is assessed as good quality having been installed in 2014. Not FA tested and therefore cannot be used for competitive matches.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
						Ensure that a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
						Pursue FA testing so that the pitch can be used to host competitive matches.			S	L
64	Gilberstone Recreation Ground	B26 1TJ	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch which is unused.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore lack of current community demand.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	L
			Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting. The courts are going to be redeveloped this year.	Ensure development goes ahead to improve quality to good and seek to maximise usage following this.	LTA		S	M
68	Golden Hillock Sports Ground (Ackers Trust)	B11 2PJ	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches which have actual spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore lack of current community demand.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	L
73	Hall Green School	B28 0AA	Sand AGP	School	A smaller sized (30 x 17 metres) sand-based AGP which is neither floodlit nor available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Local site	L	L

⁸⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁰	Cost ⁸¹	
77	Heathlands Primary School	B34 6NB	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L	
78	Heybarnes Recreation Ground	B10 9HN	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches which are used by youth 11v11 teams. Actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	M	
						Consider re-configuration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			S	L	
84	Hodge Hill College	B36 8HB	3G	School	A smaller sized (90 x 61 metres) 3G pitch currently under construction. Expected to become World Rugby compliant as well as FA approved.	Ensure the pitch is provided to a high quality and seek to maximise usage.	FA School	Local site	S	H	
						Pursue FA and World Rugby testing so that it can be used for football matches and rugby union activity.			S	L	
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L	
86	Holders Lane Complex	B13 8NL	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch which has minimal spare capacity during the peak period. The site has poor quality changing rooms.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key centre	L	L	
			Cricket			A standard quality square with ten grass wickets. The square has actual spare capacity on Saturdays and Sundays.			Improve the current changing facilities to an appropriate standard.	S	M
							Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore options to improve.		ECB	L	L
										Utilise actual spare capacity through future demand or via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.	S
			Consider installation of an NTP.			S	L				
Rugby union	A disused senior rugby union pitch.	Explore options to bring the pitch back into use; or, should the pitch be permanently lost, mitigate through replacement at a suitable site in the locality.	RFU	S	M						
98	King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys	B14 7QJ	Cricket	School	One standard quality square with eight grass wickets. The pitch is unavailable for community use but does receive some curriculum use.	Retain for continued school use.	ECB School	Local site	L	L	
			Rugby union			Four senior rugby pitches, all assessed as standard quality (M1/D1). The pitches are unavailable for community use but do receive extensive curricular and extra-curricular use.			Explore local demand for community use, ensuring that pitch quality is not detrimentally affected.	S	L
							Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.		RFU School	L	L
			Tennis			Seven good quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.				Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸²	Cost ⁸³
102	King Edward VI Sheldon Heath Academy (KESH Academy)	B26 2RZ	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches that are available for community use and used. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized (50 x 35 metres) sand-based AGP. The pitch is floodlit and available for community use.	Retain for continued school and community use.	School		L	L
						Ensure that a sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment or resurfacing.			L	L
Tennis	Three good quality macadam courts that are not floodlit but are available to the community.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	L	L					
106	King George V Playing Fields	B26 3TU	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to increase capacity and ensure no further demand is attracted to the site before this occurs to avoid overplay.	FA	Local site	S	L
120	Lucozade Powerleague Soccer Centre (Birmingham South)	B26 2AX	Football	Commercial	One standard quality adult pitch which at capacity during peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
			3G		Seven smaller sized (one is 60 x 40 metres; the remaining six are 30 x 20 metres) 3G pitches which are floodlit and available for community use.	Retain for commercial use.	FA		L	L
123	Mackadown Sports and Social Club	B33 0JG	Football	Community	One standard quality adult pitch which has minimal spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or via future demand.			S	L
126	Mapledene Primary School	B26 3XE	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch which is standard quality and unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
131	Moor Green Playing Field (Britannic Park)	B13 8NE	Football	Council	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch both assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch has one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity; the 7v7 pitch is currently unused.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity of both pitch types through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or via future demand.			S	L
			Cricket		One square with six grass wickets. Minimal spare capacity remains.	Retain minimal spare capacity to sustain quality and explore improvements when possible.	ECB		L	L

⁸² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁴	Cost ⁸⁵
134	Moseley School Health and Fitness Centre	B13 9LR	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity and explore community use aspects in line with the 3G pitch to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Key centre	S	L
			3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch which is available for community use. Assessed as good quality having been installed in 2016. FA tested to host competitive matches.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School		L	L
						Pursue FA testing every three years so that the pitch continues to be available for competitive matches.			L	L
						Ensure that a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
			Tennis		Five poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit but are available to the community.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	M
140	Norman Chamberlain Playing Field	B34 7SA	Football	Council	Two adult pitches, one youth 11v11 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch; all of poor quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is at capacity whilst the remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality to increase capacity and ensure no further demand is attracted to the youth 11v11 pitch before this happens to avoid overplay.	FA	Local site	S	M
142	Oaklands Recreation Ground	B25 8AS	Football	Council	Three adult pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all assessed as standard quality. Both pitch types have actual spare capacity; 1.5 match equivalent sessions on the adult pitches and 0.5 match equivalent sessions on the youth 9v9 pitch.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through future demand or via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.			S	L
144	Oasis Academy	B25 8FD	Sand AGP	School	A smaller sized (38 x 20 metres) sand-based AGP. Available to the community albeit not floodlit.	Retain for school use.	School	Local site	L	L
155	Queensbridge School	B13 8QB	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity and explore community use aspects in line with the 3G pitch to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized (35 x 25 metres) sand-based AGP with floodlighting. Available to the community and used.	Retain for continued school and community use.	School		L	L
			Tennis		One standard quality macadam court that is without floodlighting.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		L	L

⁸⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁶	Cost ⁸⁷
162	Saltley Health and Wellbeing Centre	B9 5YD	Football	Council	Five standard quality, adult pitches. Some are used exclusively by youth 11v11 teams. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Hub site	L	L
					Consider re-configuration of some pitches to youth 11v11 size to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.					
			3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch which is available for community use. Assessed as standard quality having been installed in 2006. Not FA tested.	Pursue imminent resurfacing to prevent further quality deterioration.	FA		S	M
					Once the above occurs, pursue FA testing so that the pitch can be used to host competitive matches.				S	L
	Cricket	A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used.	Replace NTP to avoid quality deterioration and to retain demand.	ECB	L	L	S	L		
165	Shard End No6 Playing Field	B34 7SD	Football	Council	Site is soon to be leased by the International School. Two adult and one youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch all assessed as standard quality. The adult and youth pitches are played to capacity, whilst the mini pitches both have 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Ensure any further demand attracted to the adult and youth pitches is met by quality improvements to avoid future overplay.					
			Cricket		Site is soon to be leased by the International School and the ECB intend on working with the School to provide cricketing provision and a pavilion.	Support the School in a development of an NTP for curricular and South Asian based community demand.	ECB School		S	L
					Ensure NTP is supported by a good quality pavilion.				S	M
166	Sheldon Marlborough Cricket Club	B25 8RF	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with 13 grass wickets. Played to capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities. The Club has less than 25 years remaining on its lease.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore options to improve.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
						Extend lease agreement to beyond 25 years to provide greater security of tenure.			S	L
						Support the Club in its clubhouse improvement aspirations.			M	M
194	The Oval Primary School	B33 8JG	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is unavailable.	Explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
201	Timberley Academy	B34 7RL	Football	School	Two mini 7v7 pitches which are both standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use aspects and availability to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L
208	Wake Green Playing Fields	B13 9JS	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult pitches which have 2.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through future demand or via the transfer of play from overplayed sites.			S	L

⁸⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁸	Cost ⁸⁹
210	Washwood Heath Academy	B8 2AS	Football	School	Two adult and two youth 9v9 pitches all assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use aspects and availability to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
			Cricket		One standard quality square with eight grass wickets that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
						Explore local demand for community use, ensuring that pitch quality is not detrimentally affected.			S	L
211	Waverley Studio College	B9 5QA	Cricket	School	A standard quality square with six grass wickets. Available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School	Local site	L	L
			Sand AGP		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is not available for community use. Assessed as standard quality having been re-surfaced in 2013.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.			EH School	L
						Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	S			L
						Explore community use aspects to encourage the School to allow lettings.	S			L
						Should community use be allowed, explore local hockey demand.	S			H
						If no hockey demand exists, explore 3G conversion suitability.	L			L
			Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.		S	L				
Tennis	Two poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	S	L					
218	Yardley and District Rugby Club	B34 6HE	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch which has dual-use with rugby union. For that reason, actual spare capacity has been discounted.	Ensure appropriate maintenance to support dual use.	FA RFU Club	Key centre	L	L
			Rugby union		Three standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches. One pitch is floodlit and accommodates all midweek training demand; this pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. The two other pitches both have 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. The clubhouse facility at the site is poor quality and needs refurbishment.	Seek to improve pitch quality through the installation of a drainage system and/or maintenance improvements to reduce overplay.	RFU Club		S	M
						To fully alleviate overplay, consider installation of additional floodlighting so that training demand can be spread out.			S	M
	Improve clubhouse facility, either through improving the existing building, relocating it to a more appropriate location (across the road) or through relocating entirely.	S	M							

⁸⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁹⁰	Cost ⁹¹
221	Yardleys School	B11 3EY	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
			Cricket		A standalone NTP which is assessed as standard quality and is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	ECB School		L	L
			Tennis		Three poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	L
307	Co-operative Sports and Social Club	B26 1SA	Cricket	Commercial	One standard quality square with eight grass wickets. Only minimal spare capacity remains.	Retain minimal spare capacity to protect and improve quality.	ECB	Local site	L	L
			Football		Previously contained an adult football pitch.	Consider bringing pitch back into use to reduce local shortfalls.	FA		S	L
308	Willclare Sports Ground	B26 2NX	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch which is overmarked with a mini 7v7 pitch. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
			Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with eight grass wickets. The site is the home venue of Willclare CC and has actual spare capacity on both Saturday and Sunday.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore options to improve.	ECB Club		L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or via future demand.			S	L
310	Attock Cricket Club	B13 9UU	Cricket	Club	One standard quality square which has six grass wickets and an NTP. Used by Attock CC, which has only 14 years remaining on its lease agreement. Overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions.	Ensure maintenance is appropriate to accommodate expressed overplay.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
						Secure the Club to a long-term lease agreement (minimum 25 years) to provide greater security of tenure.			S	L
						Replace NTP to avoid quality deterioration and ensure it is fully utilised to alleviate overplay of grass wickets.			S	L
						If overplay still exists, consider the transfer of demand to a site with actual spare capacity.			S	L
312	Pickwick Cricket Club	B13 9QD	Cricket	Club	A poor quality square consisting of ten grass wickets and an NTP. The square is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality.	ECB Club	Local site	S	L
						Ensure no further play is accommodated on the grass wickets to avoid overplay.			L	L
						Alternatively, explore possibility of creating additional grass wickets to increase capacity.			L	L

⁹⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁹¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁹²	Cost ⁹³
319	Ward End Unity Cricket Club	B34 6BJ	Cricket	Club	A poor quality square with five grass wickets. The pitch is overplayed by four match sessions per season.	Improve pitch quality.	ECB Club	Local site	S	L
						Ensure no further play is accommodated on the grass wickets to avoid overplay.			L	L
						Alternatively, explore possibility of creating additional grass wickets to increase capacity.			L	L
320	Moseley Ashfield Cricket Club	B13 9LB	Cricket	Club	One standard quality square with 12 grass wickets and an NTP. Played to capacity on both a Saturday and a Sunday.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore options to improve.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
327	Rockwood Academy	B8 3HG	3G	School	A smaller sized (60 x 40 metres), 3G pitch that is neither available for community use nor is it floodlit.	Retain for school use.	FA School	Local site	L	L
328	King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls	B14 7QJ	Tennis	School	Six good quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	Local site	L	L
331	Montgomery Primary Academy	B11 1EH	Sand AGP	School	A smaller sized (35 x 16 metres) sand-based AGP which is floodlit but unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use and explore community use options given floodlighting availability.	School	Local site	S	L
333	Lea Forest Primary Academy	B33 9RD	Football	School	A mini 7v7 pitch which is standard quality and unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
343	Moseley Church of England Primary School	B13 9EH	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch which is standard quality. Available for community use but unused.	Further explore community use aspects and availability to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
361	Stechford Primary School	B33 8SJ	Football	School	A mini 5v5 pitch which is standard quality and unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
369	Broomhall Playing Fields	B28 8PT	Football	Council	A disused site that previously contained two youth pitches. Bishop Isley are taking on a lease of the site with the intention to improve pitch and ancillary facility quality. Potentially to be used by Solihull Moors FC (thus displacing them from Solihull)	Support the School in bringing the site back into use to reduce local shortfalls.	FA	Local site	S	H
						Determine the most appropriate pitch stock to be supplied based on local shortfalls and local demand.			S	L
373	Ark St Alban's Academy	B12 0YH	3G	School	A smaller sized 3G pitch (62 x 34 metres) that is floodlit and available to the community.	Pursue FA testing so that the pitch can be used to accommodate mini soccer matches.	FA School	Local site	S	L
377	Yardley Tennis Club	B26 2AH	Tennis	Club	Three good quality macadam courts that are floodlit.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L

⁹² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁹³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁹²	Cost ⁹³
378	Moseley Tennis Club	B13 9QT	Tennis	Club	Four clay and four macadam courts all assessed as good quality. All of the clay courts and two of the macadam courts are floodlit; the remaining two macadam courts are not.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
379	Hall Green Tennis Club	B28 0AR	Tennis	Club	Six good quality, floodlit, artificial courts.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club	Local site	L	L
387	Cannon Hill Park	B13 8RD	Tennis	Council	Five macadam courts assessed as good quality. Two of the courts are without floodlighting, three are floodlit.	Sustain quality for continued casual use.	LTA	Local site	L	L
401	Hodge Hill Girls School	B36 8EY	Tennis	School	Five poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	Local site	S	L
409	Moseley Park	B13 8DJ	Tennis	Council	Five standard quality courts that are not floodlit.	Sustain quality for continued casual use and seek improvements where possible to improve quality to good.	LTA	Local site	L	L
-	Ward End Park	B8 3PH	Cricket	Council	A disused site that previously provided a cricket square. Identified by the ECB as being suitable to provide an NTP.	Install an NTP to better accommodate South Asian league based demand.	ECB	Local site	S	L

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2031 (in line with the Local Plan). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. Sport England's Playing Pitch Demand Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved by taking the current team generation rates (TGRs) and current population from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

The scenario below shows the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.56 per dwelling, which was identified as the average household size for Birmingham in the 2011 population census.

The Birmingham Development Plan proposes an additional 51,100 homes over the period to 2031. The housing requirement will be delivered in accordance with the following indicative average annual rates:

- ◀ 1,650 dwellings per annum (2011/2012-2014/2015)
- ◀ 2,500 dwellings per annum (2015/2016-2017/2018)
- ◀ 2,850 dwellings per annum (2018/2019-2030/2031)

The estimated additional population derived from this housing growth by 2031 is 130,816 (2.56 people per dwelling). This equates to 45.98 match equivalent sessions across the sports.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (2031)

Pitch Sport	Estimated demand by sport (2031)
Adult football	13.72 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	14.73 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	8.85 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	3.25 match equivalent sessions per week
Hockey	1.56 match equivalent sessions per week
Cricket	172.94 match equivalent sessions per season

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £4,710,338⁹⁴ and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £823,594.⁹⁵

The table above shows that, up to 2031, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. This position is 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.

⁹⁴ Capital cost is based on 2016 second quarter calculations.

⁹⁵ Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

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Experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand in their own right; however, the cumulative impact of housing across the local authority clearly shows that there will be significant demand generated during the Local Plan period.

The Council could consider using CIL to obtain contributions to priority sites, or pooling S106 contributions from major housing schemes to invest in priority sites. In either case, the preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs should inform the playing fields that most require investment.

PART 8: 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 Birmingham. 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 Birmingham 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.

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

Alongside the regular steering group meetings 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.

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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.

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

APPENDIX ONE: 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 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 Birmingham Development Plan

The Birmingham Development Plan was adopted in early in 2017 and forms the key planning policy document for the City. It has specific policies on open space, sport and recreation and these are set out in TP9 and TP11. The former emphasis protecting open space and sets out the circumstances where development involving the loss of space can be considered in line with the NPPF. TP11 focuses on supporting sports and physical recreational facilities, including spectator ones.

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

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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 National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.

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- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the previous period remain valid:

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

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

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

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

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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 3 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.

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

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

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

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

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rffacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

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

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

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

2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy

The new strategy is presented in a concise one page framework that includes key strategies relating to three participation "focus" areas, six participation "drivers" and three participation "enablers". To achieve success, the 12 strategy areas will need to work interdependently to stem the decline and unlock sustainable growth:

The three participation "focus" areas are where tennis is consumed:

- ◀ Deliver great service to clubs
- ◀ Build partnerships in the community, led by parks
- ◀ Enhance the tennis offer in education

The six participation "drivers" are the areas that will make the biggest difference where tennis is consumed. They must all be successful on a standalone and interconnected basis and include:

- ◀ Becoming more relevant to coaches
- ◀ Refocusing on recreational competition
- ◀ Providing results orientated facility investment
- ◀ Applying best in class marketing and promotion
- ◀ Jump starting the peak summer season
- ◀ Establishing a "no compromise" high performance programme with focus

The final layer is comprised of three participation "enablers" that underpin our ability to be successful. These enablers are rooted in how the LTA will get better; how the entire network of partners must be harnessed to work together and the need to raise more financial resources to fund our sport's turnaround. They include:

- ◀ Becoming a more effective and efficient LTA
- ◀ Harnessing the full resource network
- ◀ Generating new revenue

For further information and more detail on the framework please go to:

<http://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision>

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APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

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

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England The current funding streams will change throughout 2016/17 so refer to the website for the latest information: https://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org	The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts and 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).
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
EH Capital Investment Programme (CIP)	The CIP fund is for the provision of new pitches and re-surfacing of old AGPs. It forms part of EH's 4 year Whole Sport's Plan.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: Young people and hockey. Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

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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 providing opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces.

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.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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 & 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.

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:

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

There are two sets of costs that are highlighted here; facility capital costs and lifecycle costs.

Facility capital costs

- ◀ Facility capital costs are calculated using estimates of what it typically costs to build modern sports facilities, including fees and external work, naturally taking into account varying conditions, inflation and regional adjustments.
- ◀ Costs are updated regularly in conjunction with information provided by the BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) and other Quantity Surveyors.
- ◀ The document is often referred to as the Planning Kitbag costs as the figures are often used by planners and developers when reviewing potential planning contributions to site developments.

Lifecycle costs

- ◀ Life cycle costs are how much its costs to keep a facility open and fit-for-purpose during its lifetime.
- ◀ It includes costs for major replacement and planned preventative maintenance (PPM) – day to day repairs. The costs are expressed as a percentage of the capital cost.
- ◀ You should not underestimate the importance of regular maintenance and the expense in maintaining a facility throughout its life.

APPENDIX THREE: GLOSSARY

Displaced 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**.

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