



QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd

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MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS



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STOKE-ON-TRENT CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2023

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------|---|
| 3G | Third Generation (artificial turf) |
| AGP | Artificial Grass Pitch |
| ANOG | Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guidance |
| BC | Bowls Club |
| BCGBA | British Crown Green Bowling Association |
| ECB | England and Wales Cricket Board |
| EH | England Hockey |
| FA | Football Association |
| FC | Football Club |
| FF | Football Foundation |
| FIFA | Fédération Internationale de Football Association |
| GMA | Grounds Maintenance Association |
| GIS | Geographical Information System |
| HC | Hockey Club |
| IOG | Institute of Groundmanship |
| KKP | Knight, Kavanagh and Page |
| LTA | Lawn Tennis Association |
| NGB | National Governing Body |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| NTP | Non-turf Pitch |
| PPS | Playing Pitch Strategy |
| PQS | Performance Quality Standard |
| RFL | Rugby Football League |
| RFU | Rugby Football Union |
| RUFC | Rugby Union Football Club |
| S106 | Section 106 |
| SCCB | Staffordshire County Cricket Board |
| SE | Sport England |
| SFA | Staffordshire Football Association |
| TC | Tennis Club |

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is an update to the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Stoke-on-Trent, originally completed in 2021. Building upon the preceding updated Assessment Report, it provides a clear strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch facilities and accompanying ancillary facilities.

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the original PPS. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the work being signed off, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) will consider it to be out of date.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 until such a time whereby significant enough changes have taken place to warrant a new study.

A Steering Group has led and will continue to lead the PPS to ensure the delivery and implementation of its recommendations and actions. It is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England and the relevant NGBs, namely the Football Foundation (FF), Football Association (FA), Staffordshire Football Association (SFA), England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Staffordshire Cricket, the Rugby Football Union (RFU), England Hockey (EH), the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and the British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA).

The Strategy provides:

- ◀ A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritise and can address key issues.

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

- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch providers, including the public, private and third sectors;
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, picking up on particular local demand issues;
- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas;
- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision;
- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision;
- ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study;
- ◀ Supporting funding applications;

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- ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends several priority projects for Stoke-on-Trent which should be realised over the emerging Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.

Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as NGBs, sports organisations, education establishments and parish/town councils. In many instances, the Council will not be the agency which delivers these actions or recommendations; the PPS is not just for the Council to act upon, it applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

1.1: Scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities are included in the PPS:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Rugby league pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
- ◀ Cycling facilities
- ◀ Golf facilities
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Bowling greens

In addition, any other grass pitch sports identified during the project have also been included, such as American football and Ultimate (frisbee). It should also be noted that, although rugby league has been included within the wider scope of the study, no such activity currently takes place within Stoke-on-Trent and no future demand has been identified. As such, no information relating to the sport is included within this document.

Pitch sports (e.g., football, rugby union, hockey and cricket) are assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS. Non-pitch sports (e.g., bowls, tennis and golf) are assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guidance (ANOG). This requires a different methodology to assess supply and demand to that used for pitch sports.

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1.2: Study area

The study area comprises of the full local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Stoke-on-Trent as a whole. These are based on collection of wards and are outlined in the table below.

Table 1.1: Summary of analysis areas to be used for the Stoke-on-Trent PPS

| Analysis area | Ward |
|-----------------------|--|
| Central | Abbey Hulton |
| | Basford & Hartshill |
| | Bentilee, Ubberley & Townsend |
| | Birches Head & Northwood |
| | Boothen |
| | Bucknall & Eaton Park |
| | Etruria & Hanley |
| | Fenton East |
| | Fenton West & Mount Pleasant |
| | Hanley Park, Joiner's Square & Shelton |
| | Hartshill Park & Stoke |
| | Meir Hay North, Parkhall & Weston Coyney |
| | Penkhull & Springfields |
| | Sandford Hill |
| Trent Vale & Oak Hill | |
| North | Baddeley, Milton & Norton |
| | Bradeley & Chell Heath |
| | Burslem |
| | Burslem Park |
| | Ford Green & Smallthorne |
| | Goldenhill & Sandyford |
| | Great Chell & Packmoor |
| | Little Chell & Stanfield |
| | Moorcroft & Sneyd Green |
| | Tunstall |
| South | Blurton |
| | Dresden & Florence |
| | Hanford, Newstead & Trentham |
| | Hollybush |
| | Lightwood North & Normacot |
| | Longton & Meir Hay South |
| | Meir North |
| | Meir Park |

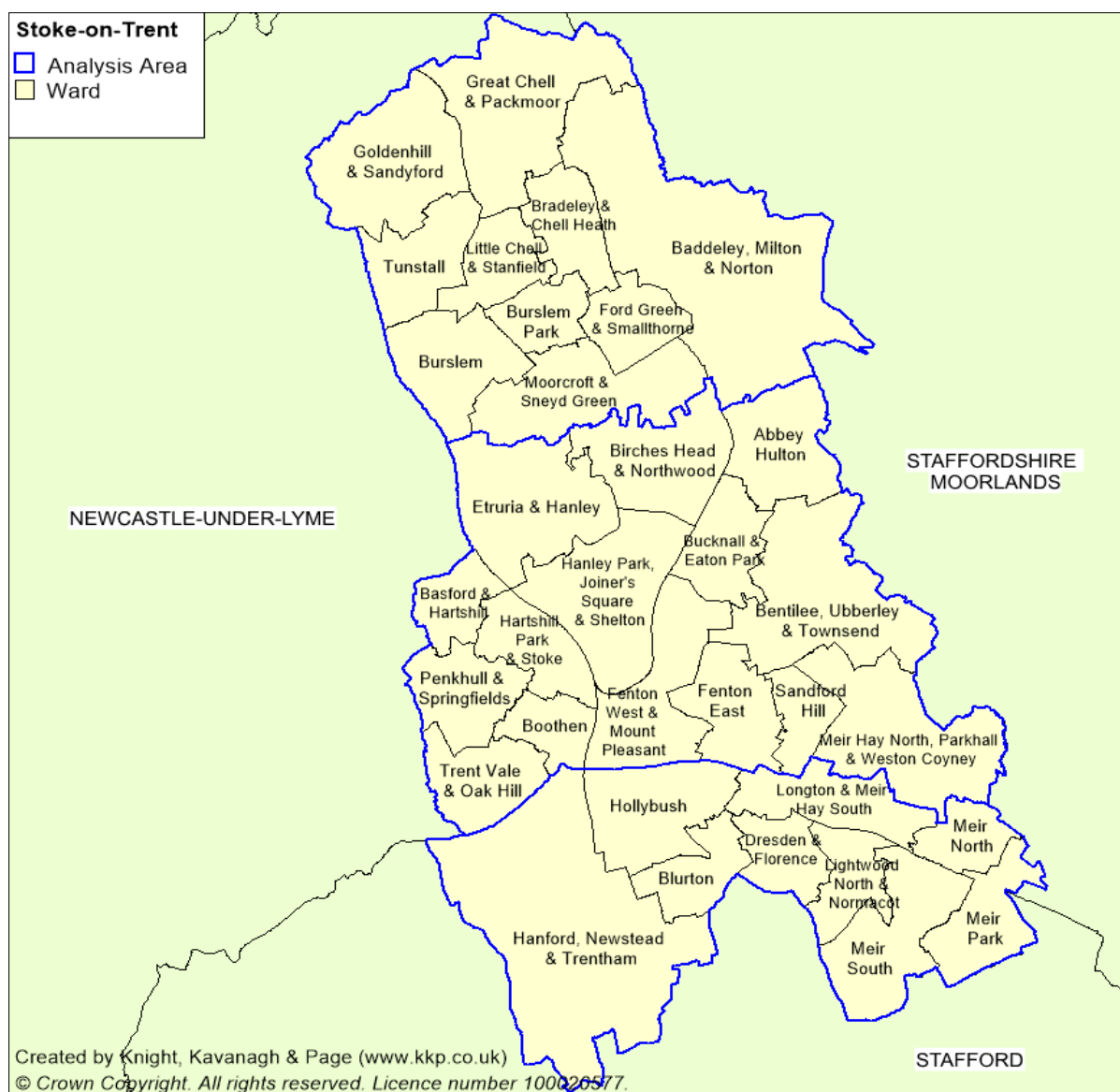
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| Analysis area | Ward |
|---------------|------------|
| | Meir South |

In addition, cross-boundary movement is also recognised, most commonly between neighbouring local authorities such as Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford. A map of the identified study area and relevant analysis areas can be seen overleaf in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Summary of analysis areas



1.3: Context

The rationale for undertaking and updating this study is to identify current levels of provision within Stoke-on-Trent 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

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framework that ensures the provision of playing pitch facilities meets the local needs of existing and future residents.

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements for playing fields.

Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ◀ Protect playing pitches against development pressures on land in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ◀ Address ‘demand’ pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ To ensure that future investment into facilities is proportionate, delivered at the right time and enhances the overall quality of outdoor sporting assets

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

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 98 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 99 and 100 discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. As such, the Stoke-on-Trent 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.

Paragraphs 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

The Local Plan

Stoke-on-Trent City Council is currently producing a new Local Plan which will cover the plan period 2020 to 2040. Consultation on the Issues and Options consultation was undertaken June 2021 which sets out key issues affecting the area and potential options for addressing those issues over the plan period. This includes the potential levels of growth and distribution. The Council is currently working towards the draft Local Plan.

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Physical Activity Plan (2019-2033)

The vision of the City Council's Physical Activity Facilities Plan is to create accessible, high quality and sustainable physical activity facilities which offer inclusive services for all. This will enable the inactive to become active, increase participation in targeted groups and help improve the health and wellbeing of local residents. One of the ways the plan sets out to do this is by developing a fit-for-purpose network of better-quality physical activity facilities in strategic locations to meet the sport and physical activity needs of communities in Stoke-on-Trent. This can be strongly justified and supported by the implementation of a robust and up-to-date PPS.

Notwithstanding the above, the Physical Activity Plan has not been updated since production in 2018. A refresh is therefore required.

Together Active formerly Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (SASSOT)

Together Active is the county active partnership. Its team provides services to partners involved with the delivery of sport, physical education and active recreation. The following is a brief overview of its stated services and programmes:

- ◀ Engaging with and supporting partners to develop their sport, PE and active recreation plans and programmes.
- ◀ Supporting volunteers and coaches.
- ◀ Supporting club development.
- ◀ Providing local insight/evidence of need for development of programmes and facilities.
- ◀ Supporting the promotion of community sport and active recreation programmes.
- ◀ Advice on Safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults in sport.
- ◀ Equity and disability sport.
- ◀ Management of Satellite Clubs, Aiming High Inspire Multi Sport Club programmes.
- ◀ Supporting the development and delivery of Level 3 School Games Sports Festivals, Primary School PE and Sport premium.

Together Active indicates the rationale for the PPS, which will help to deliver on the broader agenda to increase physical activity levels which is critical to improving a range of health and wellbeing outcomes, such as rising obesity levels and poor mental health.

Step Up Strategy (2021-2025)

Together Active's current strategy, Step Up, sets out a four-year plan outlining how it will support local communities to use physical activity and sport as a tool to improve their physical and mental wellbeing. It sets out four aims:

- ◀ To drive system leadership that results in physical activity and sport becoming a core feature in policy.
- ◀ To work with health partners to advocate physical activity and sport as a tool to prevent and manage health conditions.
- ◀ In partnership tackle systematic inequalities in physical activity and sport participation.
- ◀ To support individuals to add healthy years to their lives through positive physical activity behaviours.

Stoke-on-Trent Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board is a statutory partnership which brings together senior leaders from Stoke-on-Trent City Council, NHS commissioners and health service providers, Healthwatch, voluntary sector organisations, education providers and emergency services.

The strategy is the City's plan for reducing health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing for residents of all ages. Using the local needs identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment the board has developed local evidence-based priorities for the commissioning of local services. The strategy will be used by local health and care partners to inform plans for commissioning services and shape how we work together to meet health and social care needs and address the social determinants of health - these are the conditions in the places where people live, learn, work and play that affect their health and quality of life.

1.4: Headline findings

The table below highlights the current quantitative shortfalls (2023) for each main pitch sport included within the PPOSS, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Natural turf pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions. The table below therefore uses this for football, rugby union and cricket, converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place (its current use) into the same unit of demand to enable an analysis to be undertaken.

Based on how the sports tend to be played, the match equivalent session unit for football, rugby union and rugby league pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport, whereas for cricket, the number of match equivalent sessions is over the course of a season. This is because how much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a square, with only one match generally played per pitch per day and with the wickets rotated throughout a season to reduce wear and to allow for repair. Each wicket is therefore able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

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For artificial surfaces, the carrying capacity of the provision is much higher, meaning how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how usage adversely affects quality, as is the case with grass pitches. Therefore, the total number of pitches required is instead used to form an analysis. This is pertinent to 3G and hockey (sand/water-based pitches).

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings

| Sport | Analysis area | Pitch type | Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions) | Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions) |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---|--|
| Football (grass pitches) | Central | Adult | Spare capacity of 7.5 | Spare capacity of 5.5 |
| | | Youth 11v11 | Shortfall of 2 | Shortfall of 4.5 |
| | | Youth 9v9 | Spare capacity of 0.5 | Spare capacity of 0.5 |
| | | Mini 7v7 | Spare capacity of 2 | Spare capacity of 2 |
| | | Mini 5v5 | At capacity | Shortfall of 2.5 |
| | North | Adult | Spare capacity of 3.5 | Spare capacity of 1 |
| | | Youth 11v11 | Shortfall of 6.5 | Shortfall of 8.5 |
| | | Youth 9v9 | Shortfall of 3.5 | Shortfall of 5 |
| | | Mini 7v7 | Shortfall of 2 | Shortfall of 2 |
| | | Mini 5v5 | Shortfall of 2 | Shortfall of 5 |
| | South | Adult | Spare capacity of 2.5 | Shortfall of 1.5 |
| | | Youth 11v11 | Spare capacity of 1 | Shortfall of 0.5 |
| | | Youth 9v9 | At capacity | Shortfall of 2.5 |
| | | Mini 7v7 | Spare capacity of 0.5 | Spare capacity of 0.5 |
| | | Mini 5v5 | At capacity | Shortfall of 2.5 |
| Sport | | | | |
| Sport | Analysis area | Pitch type | Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions) | Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions) |
| Football (3G pitches) | Central | Full size | At capacity | At capacity |
| | North | | Shortfall of 3.5 | Shortfall of 4 |
| | South | | At capacity | At capacity |
| Cricket | | | | |
| Cricket | Central | Saturday | Shortfall of 3 | Shortfall of 3 |
| | | Sunday | Shortfall of 3 | Shortfall of 3 |
| | | Midweek | Spare capacity of 5 | Shortfall of 7 |

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| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | North | Saturday | Shortfall of 6 | Shortfall of 6 |
| | | Sunday | Shortfall of 6 | Shortfall of 6 |
| | | Midweek | Shortfall of 6 | Shortfall of 6 |
| | South | Saturday | Shortfall of 18 | Shortfall of 42 |
| | | Sunday | Shortfall of 18 | Shortfall of 24 |
| | | Midweek | Shortfall of 18 | Shortfall of 22 |
| | | | | |
| Rugby union | Central | Senior | At capacity | At capacity |
| | North | Senior | At capacity | At capacity |
| | South | Senior | Shortfall of 5.25 | Shortfall of 8.25 |
| | | | | |
| Hockey (sand AGPs) | Central | Full size | No demand | No demand |
| | North | Full size | Spare capacity | Spare capacity |
| | South | Full size | No demand | No demand |

For the remaining sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal activity. The current (2023) and future picture for each sport across Stoke-on-Trent is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

Table 1.3: Headline findings (remaining sports)

| Sport | Headline findings |
|---------------|---|
| Golf | Sufficient levels of golf provision in correlation to demand based on national averages and also a good mix of provision with an 18-hole course, a 9-hole course and a standalone driving range facility provided. However, there is a lack of a course with a focus on pay and play usage, which likely leads to high levels of exported demand. There are also capacity pressures at Trentham Golf Club that could further exacerbate this. |
| Bowls | Supply is considered sufficient to meet both current and future demand, with no additional greens required. However, with all but one green in current club use, it is also clear that most of the supply requires protection to ensure that demand can continue to be accommodated. |
| Tennis | There is a sufficient level of tennis provision within Stoke-on-Trent, although it is clear that existing demand can be better catered for and that improvements (e.g., to court quality, ancillary facilities and sports lighting) can help drive increased participation. |

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| Sport | Headline findings |
|----------------------------|--|
| Cycling | High demand for cycling is identified which correlates to a need to improve the infrastructure across the City. |
| American football | For Staffordshire University Stallions, supply is sufficient to meet demand; however, for Staffordshire Surge, the pitch at Trentham Rugby Club is overused during the rugby union season and the dual use nature of it can impact on the maintenance and remedial work carried out despite the seasons not overlapping. |
| Touch and Tag Rugby | Due to the nature of the sport being low impact, the levels of supply are considered suitable for the level of demand received as they have little impact on grass pitches. |
| Ultimate | With only the University fielding Ultimate demand and with it managing its own provision, supply is considered sufficient to meet its needs. |

In addition, the table below identifies how the supply and demand picture has altered for this update compared to data captured for the original study in 2021. This provides clarity as to whether the situation has improved for each sport or if it has worsened, in which case there is now more of a pressing need for the recommendations to be acted upon.

Table 1.4: Quantitative findings compared to original PPS study

| Sport | Headline findings changes |
|--------------------|--|
| Football | The supply and demand picture has worsened on adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, with spare capacity reducing on adult pitches, shortfalls increasing on youth 9v9 pitches and shortfalls being created on the mini pitch types. However, previous shortfalls have reduced on youth 11v11 pitches. |
| 3G | The current shortfall has increased by 0.5 pitches, whilst the future shortfall has increased by one pitch. This is due to higher demand now existing within the North Analysis Area. |
| Cricket | Shortfalls have reduced within each playing period, solely due to demand reducing at Hanford Cricket Club (the picture for the remaining clubs has remained the same or has worsened). |
| Rugby union | Shortfalls have marginally reduced due to quality improvements at Trentham Rugby Club. |
| Hockey | Demand now exists following the development of a pitch at Trentham Community Sports Centre and its partnership with North Stafford HC; however, there remains a theoretical oversupply of pitches with no community requirement for the remaining three. |
| Golf | The picture is unaltered. |

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| Sport | Headline findings changes |
|----------------------------|---|
| Bowls | The picture is unaltered. |
| Tennis | The picture is relatively unchanged, although with latest latent demand figures produced by the LTA, there is more of a pressing need for improvements to the existing stock. |
| Cycling | The picture is unaltered. |
| American football | The picture remains unaltered, although it should be noted that Staffordshire Surge has moved sites (from Longton Rugby Football Club to Trentham Rugby Club). |
| Touch and Tag Rugby | The picture is unaltered. |
| Ultimate | The picture is unaltered. |

Conclusions

From a quantitative perspective, the existing position remains (compared to the original study) that for most sports demand is either being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the creation of shortfalls for some pitch/facility types and in some areas where demand is currently being met, as well as the exacerbation of existing shortfalls. Only hockey is deemed to have an overall surplus of provision, although this excess facility stock is meeting other needs (e.g., for football training and curricular activity).

Notwithstanding the above, where there are shortfalls evidenced, it must be noted that most are relatively minimal. As such, it is considered that these deficits can generally be met through the better utilisation of existing provision, such as via pitch re-configuration, improving quality and encouraging or enabling access to unused/unavailable facilities (e.g., at education sites). There is, however, a shortfall of 3G pitches that can only be met through increased provision, with multiple options existing to enable this via existing proposals and with some sand-based pitches potentially suitable for conversion.

Conversely, where demand is being met, this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered to be a solution to overcoming current or future demand shortfalls. There is a resultant need to protect all existing outdoor sport provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

Hub sites

The original PPS produced in 2021 made several references to the potential development of hub sites across Stoke-on-Trent, particularly in regards to this being able to provide the means to deliver the required number of 3G pitches. However, through further exploration, the deliverability of this is now considered to be less likely due to site availability and the costs entailed. Further emphasis therefore needs to be placed on other solutions.

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PART 2: VISION AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1: Vision

Below is the vision for Stoke-on-Trent and the PPS. It echoes the vision already stated by the Council in its Physical Activity Facilities Plan (2019) and remains unaltered for this update.

“To create accessible, high quality and sustainable physical activity facilities which offer inclusive services for all.”

2.2: Objectives

To achieve the above vision, the PPS continues to seek to deliver the following objectives:

- ◀ To provide a documented assessment of current and future needs for outdoor sports facilities within the city; focusing on the quantity and quality issues in relation to supply and demand.
- ◀ To identify all valuable sites to ensure they can be protected and improved for the long-term benefit of sport.
- ◀ To provide a clear and justified series of recommendations and associated action plans for the disposal of pitches and facilities surplus to requirements.
- ◀ To promote a sustainable approach to the provision of outdoor sports facilities and management of sports clubs.
- ◀ To ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and long-term aspirations.
- ◀ To inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ◀ To inform the assessment of planning applications.
- ◀ To plan for the provision and use of shared spaces; including the identification of school facilities which could be utilised to address identified deficits in provision.
- ◀ To take account of outdoor sport facilities provided in neighbouring local authorities that presently service the sporting and recreational needs of Stoke-on-Trent residents (and vice versa).
- ◀ To ensure provision can meet future demand derived from housing growth and to guide the level of increased provision required (using Sport England’s New Development Calculator).
- ◀ To provide a robust developer contribution calculator.
- ◀ To provide a clear and justified series of recommendations and associated action plans for the provision of new pitches and facilities. The PPS will provide the evidence base to support the production of a new, robust LFFP. Both documents will support each other in developing and enhancing the cities sports and playing pitch provisions.

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- ◀ To help secure internal and external funding.

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PART 3: AIMS

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

AIM 1

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

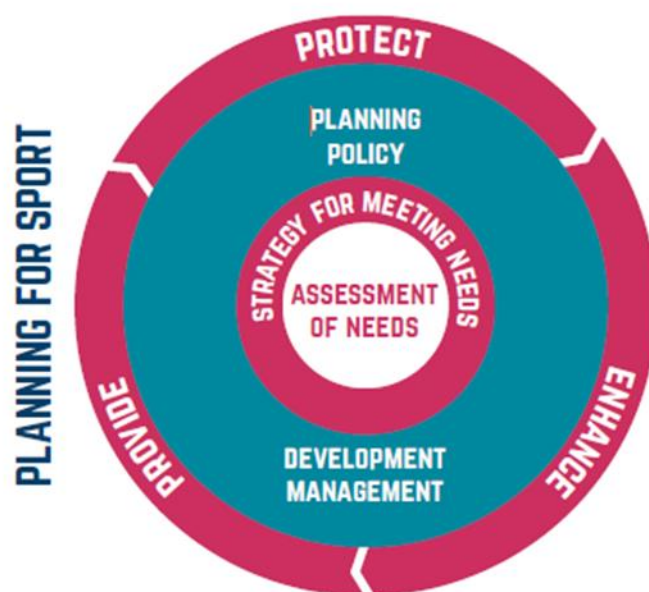
AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 3.1: Sport England themes



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

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

The scenarios and recommendations were originally produced in 2021 but each has been revisited for this update. This process has also, in places, entailed the creation of new scenarios and recommendations as well as the removal of others. This is based on the findings of the updates as well as considering the latest priorities of the relevant NGBs and the Council.

The included scenarios focus on the impact that they will have on the shortfalls and key issues identified and how they can be overcome. However, whilst each can improve the picture to a greater or lesser extent, it should be noted that carrying out some scenarios to the fullest degree is likely to be unviable and that a combination of actions will instead be required to ensure that all current and future demand can be met.

For some sports, no scenarios are included, although that is not to say that no action is required. Instead, recommendations are clear without the requirement for scenarios to be tested.

4.1: Football grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Actual spare capacity totals 27.5 match equivalent sessions and is identified across 24 sites, whilst 25 pitches are overplayed by a total of 30.5 match equivalent sessions.**
- ◀ **There is a present shortfall of youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches across Stoke-on-Trent, with spare capacity only existing on adult pitches.**
- ◀ **When accounting for future demand, existing deficits are projected to worsen.**
- ◀ **The picture has worsened since 2021 findings, with deficits increasing on youth 9v9 pitches, shortfalls being created on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches and spare capacity reducing on adult pitches (only youth 11v11 has an improved outlook).**
- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 180 grass football pitches within Stoke-on-Trent across 86 sites, with 142 pitches available for community use across 59 sites.
- ◀ There are seven disused sites (Norwich Road, Anchor Road, Edensor Technology College, St Peters Academy, Berryhill High School, Mitchell High School and The Croft Sports Ground & Pavilion – now leased to Thistle Hough Academy).
- ◀ A separate mitigation strategy is being carried out regarding the potential disposal of the former school sites (Edensor Technology College / Berryhill High School /

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Mitchell High School), whilst a new High School (Florence MacWilliams Academy) is planned to be built at Whitcombe Road Playing Fields.

- ◀ In total, 41 pitches are assessed as good quality, 45 as standard quality and 56 as poor quality; this represents an increase in good quality provision and a decrease in poor quality provision compared to 2021 findings.
- ◀ Of the 38 sites that are actively used for community football, nine are accompanied by good quality ancillary facilities, 12 by standard quality ancillary facilities and two by poor quality ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Demand through the audit and assessment identifies that 318 teams currently play in Stoke-on-Trent, with this consisting of 66 adult men's, nine adult women's, 137 youth boys', 22 youth girls' and 84 mini teams (2022/2023 data).
- ◀ There has been a marginal increase in demand since the 2021 study (based on 2020/2021 data), with 316 teams previously registered.
- ◀ There are three clubs which import demand into the City (Chesterton AFC, Butt Lane White Star FC and Kidsgrove Athletic FC), whereas Stoke City FC and City of Stoke FC both export demand.
- ◀ A total of 20 clubs express some form of latent/unmet demand.
- ◀ 12 clubs express future demand aspirations equating to the potential growth of 44 teams, whilst population projections predict an increase of nine teams to 2040.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

In total there are 25 pitches overplayed in Stoke-on-Trent across eight sites, with overplay equating to 30.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of such provision (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls.

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

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

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| Site ID | Site name | Pitch type | No. of pitches | Current quality | Current Capacity rating (MES) | Good quality capacity rating (MES) |
|---------|--|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 10 | Bradeley Football Centre | Adult | 2 | Poor | 1 | 3 |
| 22 | Eastwood Hanley Football Club | Adult | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 |
| 22 | Eastwood Hanley Football Club | Youth (11v11) | 2 | Poor | 0.5 | 5.5 |
| 22 | Eastwood Hanley Football Club | Youth (9v9) | 2 | Poor | 0.5 | 5.5 |
| 44 | Kidsgrove Athletic FC Development Centre | Youth (11v11) | 1 | Poor | 3.5 | 1.5 |
| 44 | Kidsgrove Athletic FC Development Centre | Youth (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 2.5 | 0.5 |
| 63 | Norton Cricket Club & Miners Welfare Institute | Adult | 1 | Standard | 1 | 0 |
| 63 | Norton Cricket Club & Miners Welfare Institute | Youth (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 0.5 | 1.5 |
| 108 | The Discovery Academy | Youth (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 1 |
| 110 | The Hardman Centre | Mini (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 2 | 0 |
| 110 | The Hardman Centre | Youth (11v11) | 2 | Standard | 3.5 | 0.5 |
| 110 | The Hardman Centre | Youth (9v9) | 2 | Standard | 1 | 1 |
| 116 | Trubshaw Cross Lads & Dads | Mini (5v5) | 2 | Poor | 3 | 5 |
| 152 | FC Hanley | Adult | 1 | Poor | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| 152 | FC Hanley | Mini (7v7) | 2 | Poor | 1.5 | 8.5 |

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| Site ID | Site name | Pitch type | No. of pitches | Current quality | Current Capacity rating (MES) | Good quality capacity rating (MES) |
|---------|-----------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 152 | FC Hanley | Mini (5v5) | 1 | Poor | 1.5 | 2.5 |
| 152 | FC Hanley | Youth (11v11) | 1 | Poor | 2.5 | 0.5 |
| 152 | FC Hanley | Youth (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 2.5 | 0.5 |

As seen, most overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality improved to good. The only pitches that would continue to be overplayed are the youth 11v11 pitches at Kidsgrove Athletic FC Development Centre. The adult pitch at Norton Cricket Club & Miners Welfare Institute and the mini 7v7 pitch at The Hardman Centre would be played to capacity, whereas all other pitches would have some form of spare capacity (although not necessarily at peak time).

Overall, shortfalls would fully be alleviated across Stoke-on-Trent if all overplayed pitches were to be improved to good quality. The only deficit would be on youth 11v11 pitches (1.5 match equivalent sessions); however, this would be cancelled out by the four match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. This could be used to transfer demand from Kidsgrove Athletic FC Development Centre.

Table 4.2: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand in match equivalent sessions per week

| Pitch type | Current actual spare capacity | Current overplay | Current total | Potential overplay | Potential total |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Adult | 18 | 4.5 | 13.5 | - | 18 |
| Youth 11v11 | 4 | 11.5 | 7.5 | 1.5 | 2.5 |
| Youth 9v9 | 1 | 6.5 | 5.5 | - | 1 |
| Mini 7v7 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 1 | - | 2.5 |
| Mini 5v5 | 1 | 4.5 | 3.5 | - | 1 |

Loss of sites without secure tenure

The table below identifies the total amount of demand that would need to be replaced if access was to be lost at all existing sites with unsecure tenure. This in total would amount to 26.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.3: Summary of demand at unsecure sites in match equivalent sessions per week

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| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Adult | Youth 11v11 | Youth 9v9 | Mini 7v7 | Mini 5v5 |
|--------------|--|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| 28 | Florence Colliery Social Welfare Centre | South | 3 | - | 2.5 | - | - |
| 54 | Milton Primary Academy | North | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 63 | Norton Cricket Club & Miners Welfare Institute | North | 3 | 2.5 | 0.5 | - | - |
| 80 | Sandon Primary Academy | South | - | 0.5 | - | - | - |
| 82 | Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy | South | 1.5 | - | - | - | - |
| 95 | St Thomas More Catholic Academy | South | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| 111 | The Meadows Primary Academy | South | - | 3 | 4 | 1.5 | 1 |
| 114 | Trentham Community Sports Centre | South | 0.5 | - | - | - | - |
| Total | | | 8 | 9 | 7 | 1.5 | 1 |

If access to these sites was lost, it would have a dramatic impact on the overall supply and demand analysis of football pitches across Stoke-on-Trent, as indicated in the table below. Shortfalls would worsen on youth and mini pitch types, whilst overall spare capacity on adult pitches would significantly reduce.

Table 4.4: Summary of supply and demand comparison without unsecure sites in match equivalent sessions per week

| Pitch type | Current actual spare capacity | Current overplay | Current total | Unsecure demand | Potential total |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Adult | 18 | 4.5 | 13.5 | 8 | 5.5 |
| Youth 11v11 | 4 | 11.5 | 7.5 | 9 | 16.5 |
| Youth 9v9 | 1 | 6.5 | 5.5 | 7 | 12.5 |
| Mini 7v7 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 1 | 1.5 | 2.5 |
| Mini 5v5 | 1 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 1 | 4.5 |

Based on this information, it is important to secure tenure at these sites in order ensure current and future pitch shortfalls are minimised, although it is noted that this may not be possible at all venues.

Increasing community use and providing security of tenure

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There are currently 25 sites offering 32 pitches that are unavailable for community use (discounting those used by professional clubs). This applies to the following:

- ◀ Abbey Hill School & College
- ◀ Alexandra Junior School
- ◀ Ash Green Primary School
- ◀ Ball Green Primary School
- ◀ Eaton Park Academy
- ◀ Greenways Primary Academy
- ◀ Harpfield Primary Academy
- ◀ Hillside Primary School
- ◀ Holden Lane Primary School
- ◀ Kingsland C of E Academy
- ◀ Maple Court Academy
- ◀ Mill Hill Primary Academy
- ◀ New Ford Academy
- ◀ Norton-le-Moors Primary Academy
- ◀ Oakhill Primary School
- ◀ Saint Nathaniel's Academy
- ◀ Sandford Hill Primary School
- ◀ Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre
- ◀ Sneyd Green Primary School
- ◀ St Gregor's Catholic Academy
- ◀ St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy
- ◀ St Augustines Catholic Academy
- ◀ St Teresas RC Primary School
- ◀ Summerbank Primary Academy
- ◀ The Crescent Academy

In addition, a further 17 pitches across 10 additional education sites currently have actual spare capacity discounted due to no security of tenure being provided, despite community use being offered. This applies to:

- ◀ Birches Head Academy
- ◀ Goldenhill Primary Academy
- ◀ Greenways Primary Academy
- ◀ Newstead Primary Academy
- ◀ Ormiston Horizon Academy
- ◀ Ormiston Meridian Academy
- ◀ Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy
- ◀ Priory C of E Primary School
- ◀ St Peters Academy
- ◀ Trentham Community Sports Centre

Gaining secured access to each of these sites will substantially increase actual spare capacity across Stoke-on-Trent. This is evidenced in the table below, with spare capacity created on each pitch type.

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Table 4.5: Summary of supply and demand comparison will all sites secured in match equivalent sessions per week

| Pitch type | Current actual spare capacity | Current overplay | Current total | Potential actual spare capacity | Potential total |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Adult | 18 | 4.5 | 13.5 | 9.5 | 22 |
| Youth 11v11 | 4 | 11.5 | 7.5 | 9 | 2.5 |
| Youth 9v9 | 1 | 6.5 | 5.5 | 9 | 3.5 |
| Mini 7v7 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 1 | 13 | 12 |
| Mini 5v5 | 1 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 7 | 3.5 |

In reality, gaining secure access to each of the aforementioned sites is likely to be unachievable. However, priority should be placed on those offering the most pitches (such as St Peters Academy) and on those providing pitches that have the greatest shortfalls (e.g., youth 11v11 provision). This is because this will have the biggest impact on supply and demand deficits.

New pitches

Whilst the grass pitch shortfalls can be overcome through better utilising the existing stock, consideration could also be given to developing new grass pitches to better accommodate demand. This may be particularly necessary if significant grass improvements are not possible or if security of tenure cannot be secured at a substantial number of sites.

The table below explores how many new pitches in each analysis area would be required to fully eradicate current shortfalls. However, it must be noted that this is based on no other scenarios being undertaken, when in reality actioning such scenarios will reduce the new pitch need.

Table 4.6: Number of new pitches potentially required to eradicate current shortfalls

| Pitch type | Current shortfall | Pitches potentially required ¹ |
|----------------|-------------------|---|
| Central | | |
| Adult | - | 0 |
| Youth 11v11 | 2 | 2 |
| Youth 9v9 | 2 | 2 |
| Mini 7v7 | - | 0 |

¹ Based on peak time capacity

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| | | |
|--------------|-----|---|
| Mini 5v5 | 1.5 | 2 |
| North | | |
| Adult | - | 0 |
| Youth 11v11 | 6.5 | 7 |
| Youth 9v9 | 3.5 | 4 |
| Mini 7v7 | - | 0 |
| Mini 5v5 | 2 | 2 |
| South | | |
| Adult | - | 0 |
| Youth 11v11 | - | 0 |
| Youth 9v9 | - | 0 |
| Mini 7v7 | - | 0 |
| Mini 5v5 | - | 0 |

As seen, up to six pitches could be required in the Central Analysis Area and up to 15 in the North Analysis Area (none are needed in the South Analysis Area).

The table below looks at the number of new pitches potentially required after also factoring in identified future shortfalls. This identifies nine pitches in the Central Analysis Area, 21 in the North Analysis Area and six in the South Analysis Area.

Table 4.7: Number of new pitches potentially required to eradicate future shortfalls

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| Pitch type | Future shortfall | Pitches potentially required ² |
|----------------|------------------|---|
| Central | | |
| Adult | - | 0 |
| Youth 11v11 | 4.5 | 5 |
| Youth 9v9 | 2 | 2 |
| Mini 7v7 | - | 0 |
| Mini 5v5 | 4 | 4 |
| North | | |
| Adult | - | 0 |
| Youth 11v11 | 8.5 | 9 |
| Youth 9v9 | 5 | 5 |
| Mini 7v7 | 2 | 2 |
| Mini 5v5 | 5 | 5 |
| South | | |
| Adult | 1.5 | 2 |
| Youth 11v11 | 0.5 | 1 |
| Youth 9v9 | 2.5 | 3 |
| Mini 7v7 | - | 0 |
| Mini 5v5 | 2.5 | 3 |

Given the identified existing shortfalls, priority when developing new grass pitches should be on the creation of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, although there may also be a need for the other pitch types in some localised areas and when factoring in future demand. The creation of the pitches could be pursued independently, or as part of wider developments.

If establishing the additional provision enabled all grass pitch demand to be met, it may also create opportunities to rationalise some of the existing, under-used and low value pitch stock. This is because, at this point, they would be surplus to requirements (informed by separate feasibility studies and also taking into account other pitch sports), meaning proposals could meet Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. If all demand is not met, rationalisation will not be possible without appropriate mitigation.

² Based on peak time capacity

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Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches until all demand is being met (unless replacement provision meets Sport England requirements and is agreed upon and provided prior to any loss).
- ◀ Improve pitch quality with a focus on overplayed pitches and pitches assessed as poor quality and utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist with this and the ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure at sites without a long-term usage agreement in place, with a focus on those currently in use by clubs.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to provide long-term tenure for clubs on specific sites which meet the relevant criteria via asset transfer / lease arrangements.
- ◀ Seek to gain community access to sites currently unavailable for community use.
- ◀ Consider developing new pitch provision, especially if part of wider developments, to further alleviate shortfalls and/or to create additional pitch capacity.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites not currently available for community use that could be moving forward.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where this is a clear need to do so.
- ◀ Ensure clubs playing within, or with aspirations to play within, the football pyramid can progress.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls.

4.2: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **There is an insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand in the North Analysis Area of Stoke-on-Trent (demand is being met in the Central and South analysis areas).**
- ◀ **To ensure that provision deficits do not increase, the existing supply requires attention, with resurfacing soon to be required at several venues and with three of the full size pitches not currently approved for competitive football demand.**
- ◀ **For rugby union, the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in a strategically viable location would further relieve pressure on grass**

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pitches and also help to accommodate any future demand, although other solutions are also possible.

- ◀ **Use of the existing 3G pitch stock for American football should also be safeguarded.**
- ◀ There are seven full size 3G pitches in Stoke-on-Trent, all of which are available to the community and serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ There are also 28 smaller size 3G pitches, of which 19 are sports-lit and available for community use.
- ◀ Planning permission has been granted at Powerleague for the creation of an additional mini 7v7 sized 3G pitch.
- ◀ Four of the seven full size 3G pitches are FA certified, these being at Northwood Stadium, Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy, St Peters Academy and The Discovery Academy (the remainder were previously registered by this has now expired).
- ◀ None of the pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ The full size 3G pitch at St Thomas More Catholic Academy is currently considered to be good quality, with the remaining pitches being standard quality.
- ◀ The operators of smaller size pitches Stoke City FC Academy, YMCA North Staffordshire and Longton Rugby Football Club all have aspirations for refurbishment due to the age and poor quality of their provision.
- ◀ At St Thomas More Catholic Academy, the School states that it is looking at potential funding streams to create new ancillary provision which is closer to the 3G pitch.
- ◀ Current demand for the 3G pitches is high, with most midweek availability currently taken up, although all current usage is football based.
- ◀ 19 football clubs express unmet/latent demand linked to a lack of suitable training facilities, whilst a degree of unmet demand for rugby union is also identified by Trentham RUFC.
- ◀ Using the FA training model, there is a current shortfall of 3.5 full size 3G pitches to meet football training requirements, increase to four pitches when factoring in future demand and with this all identified in the North Analysis Area.
- ◀ Whilst the number needed for matches will never outweigh the number needed for training, there is an opportunity to increase match play demand on the provision with only 49 teams currently using the pitches for this purpose.
- ◀ Given the identified shortfalls of grass rugby, evidence exists for World Rugby compliant provision to be developed in the future.
- ◀ The pitches at both Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre and St Peters Academy are used to accommodate American football demand from Staffordshire Stallions and Staffordshire Surge, respectively, whilst the former also caters for occasional Ultimate frisbee demand (internal).

No other sporting activity requiring access to 3G pitches has been identified.

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Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

As evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report, in order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a theoretical need for 3.5 full size 3G pitches to accommodate training demand.

Table 4.8: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area for football training

| Analysis area | Current number of teams (2022/2023) | Current requirement ³ | Current number of full size 3G pitches | Current shortfall |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Central | 73 | 1.92 - 2 | 3.5 | - |
| North | 182 | 4.78 - 5 | 1.5 | 3.5 |
| South | 63 | 1.65 – 1.5 | 2.25 | - |

After factoring in future demand, the overall shortfall increases to four.

Table 4.9: Future demand for 3G pitches for football training

| Analysis area | Future number of teams ⁴ | Future requirement ⁵ | Current number of 3G pitches | Current shortfall |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Central | 89 | 2.34 – 2.5 | 3.5 | - |
| North | 200 | 5.26 – 5.5 | 1.5 | 4 |
| South | 81 | 2.13 - 2 | 2.25 | - |

As seen in the tables, the shortfalls are located solely in the North Analysis Area, whilst there is perceived oversupply of pitches in the South Analysis Area and particularly the Central Analysis Area. In reality, some clubs will travel to neighbouring areas to access provision if required, especially if pitches are strategically located in close proximity. This means that provision outside of the North Analysis Area could partially meet some of the identified shortfall.

In addition, the modelling also presumes that all football teams should train on 3G pitches when in practice a proportion of football training demand must be retained on sand-based AGPs where they are provided in order to maintain financial and

³ Rounded to the nearest 0.5.

⁴ Based on increased demand forecasted from team generation rates and club aspirational demand, both re-applied to the Area where the club is based for training purposes

⁵ Rounded to the nearest 0.5.

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commercial sustainability for such provision (unless conversion takes place). This is particularly key in Stoke-on-Trent given that the three full size sand-based pitches currently provided are located within the North Analysis Area, which is where all the 3G shortfalls exist. In addition, all community use currently received on the pitches is football related, with no hockey demand identified.

Moving match play to 3G pitches

To further the use of 3G for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on Council pitches be transferred. The following table therefore calculates the number of teams currently using Council facilities in Stoke-on-Trent at peak time.

Table 4.10: Number of teams currently using council pitches (peak time)

| Pitch type | Pitch size | Peak period | No. of teams |
|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Adult | 11v11 | Sunday AM | 20 |
| Youth | 11v11 | Sunday AM | 12 |
| Youth | 9v9 | Sunday AM | 3 |
| Mini | 7v7 | Sunday AM | 5 |
| Mini | 5v5 | Sunday AM | 0 |
| Total | | | 40 |

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

Table 4.11: 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 | 20 | 10 | 32 | 320 | 5 |
| 11v11 | 12 | 6 | 32 | 192 | 3 |
| 9v9 | 3 | 1.5 | 10 | 15 | 0.23 |
| 7v7 | 5 | 2.5 | 8 | 20 | 0.31 |
| 5v5 | - | - | - | - | - |

Given that peak time is the same for each pitch type, the number of 3G pitches required needs totalling together. This therefore equates to the demand for nine 3G pitches (rounded up from 8.54).

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Currently, there are seven full size 3G pitches in Stoke-on-Trent, although only four are FA certified (at Northwood Stadium, Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy, St Peters Academy and The Discovery Academy). This means that there is a need to register the remaining three and establish two additional pitches to meet the requirements, which would also be achieved if the abovementioned training shortfalls were alleviated (meaning match play and training requirements could be met in tandem).

An alternative approach to consider is the transfer of all mini football from grass to 3G pitches as this is particular focus for the FA. As such, the table below tests a scenario that would enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 4.12: 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 the formats, the overall need is for five full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 40 teams playing 5v5 football and 44 teams playing 7v7 football and means that the current supply could meet the requirements if additional FA testing was carried out (one additional pitch needs to be registered).

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.

No existing 3G provision is World Rugby compliant in Stoke-on-Trent, although both clubs (Longton RUFC and Trentham RUFC) express a demand to access such provision for training in order to alleviate capacity issues and protect pitch quality. Both currently access grass pitches that are overplayed, primarily due to training demand.

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Given the grass pitch shortfalls identified for rugby union in Stoke-on-Trent, the creation of World Rugby compliant 3G provision would certainly be of benefit, especially in an area that could accommodate both clubs i.e., the South Analysis Area. That being said, it is possible for the shortfalls to be overcome in other ways (e.g., quality improvements, additional sports lighting and site extensions).

In addition, current levels of rugby demand are likely to be insufficient to sustain a 3G pitch in its own right, meaning any development would likely need to be provided in conjunction and with the support of football partners. This could present an issue as all 3G shortfalls for football are in the North Analysis Area, where no rugby union demand exists.

Meeting 3G pitch requirements

Based on the above scenarios, there is a need to establish new full size 3G pitches in Stoke-on-Trent, with a focus on the North Analysis Area. Up to four additional pitches are required based on the current and future demand identified, although there is likely to be slightly less need based on existing pitch supply in the South and Central analysis areas.

As a starting point, with no hockey demand present outside of the new development at Trentham Community Sports Centre, it is considered that conversion of the existing sand-based stock should be explored. This is because any new 3G pitches could impact upon the sustainability of such provision, with conversion therefore providing a solution in this regard as well as providing a means to reducing the identified shortfalls. For clarity, this relates to pitches at Ormiston Horizon Academy, the Co-Operative Academy of Stoke-on-Trent and the Excel Academy. All three currently require resurfacing and all three are located in the North Analysis Area, where there is a clear 3G pitch need.

Elsewhere, aspirations exist to establish a full size pitch as part of a new high school (Florence MacWilliams Academy) at Whitcombe Road Playing Fields as well as at the Hardman Centre, Bradeley Football Centre, Thistle Hough Academy and via Stoke City FC's Community Trust (indoor). Of these, the Hardman Centre and Bradeley Football Centre are in the North Analysis Area and could therefore warrant support.

Stoke City FC is located within the South Analysis Area, although given the activity levels that could be achieved through its Foundation, sufficient demand levels could be reached. Such a proposal should therefore be considered separately to those that are more so for community need.

The proposed new high school is also located in the South Analysis Area so therefore does not necessarily warrant development. However, it would be more justifiable if it was World Rugby compliant given the rugby union demand in the locality.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ To alleviate identified competitive and training demand shortfalls look to create additional 3G pitches, particularly in the North Analysis Area, taking into account the sand-based pitches in existence and existing aspirations.

- ◀ Carry out further work to identify the best possible locations for 3G provision and ensure this is done in consultation with Staffordshire FA and the Football Foundation as well as Sport England and other relevant NGBs.
- ◀ Explore creation of 3G pitches that are both football and rugby appropriate when alleviating shortfalls or support the creation of additional 3G pitches above and beyond football training shortfalls if they can satisfy rugby demand (especially in the South Analysis Area).
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions (and RFU dimensions where required).
- ◀ Seek FIFA/FA testing of all existing and new 3G pitches so that they can be used for competitive football matches and ensure re-testing when it is required (every three years).
- ◀ For any pitches built to RFU specifications, seek World Rugby compliancy so that they can be used for full contact activity and ensure re-testing when it is required (every two years).
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.
- ◀ Ensure continued access to 3G provision for other grass pitch sports where it is currently recorded.
- ◀ Ensure that any 3G pitches are priced competitively against the cost of hiring a grass pitches and are aimed at local grassroots clubs.

4.3: Cricket pitches

Assessment report summary

- ◀ **There is no spare capacity for Saturday or Sunday cricket however there is enough actual spare capacity to accommodate two additional midweek teams.**
- ◀ **There are three sites that are considered to be overplayed by a total of 27 match equivalent sessions per season.**
- ◀ **Overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of cricket squares in Stoke-on-Trent to cater for all types of cricket (Saturday, Sunday and midweek) and all shortfalls worsen when taking into account future demand.**
- ◀ There are eight grass wicket squares in Stoke-on-Trent located across eight sites, all of which available for community use.
- ◀ Both Bucknall Park and Norton Cricket Club & Miners Welfare Institute (North Analysis Area) also previously accommodated grass wicket squares (disused).
- ◀ There are also two NTPs that accompany grass wicket squares in addition to 10 standalone NTPs.
- ◀ A standalone NTP is planned as part of the creation of a new school (Florence MacWilliams Academy).
- ◀ Sandyford Cricket Club is without security of tenure due to an expired lease which it acquires from Network Space.

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- ◀ In total, there are five grass wicket squares which are good quality and three are rated as standard quality (none are assessed as poor quality).
- ◀ The audit of ancillary facilities determines that five squares are accompanied by good quality provision, with the remaining three being standard and in need of modernisation.
- ◀ Despite having training facilities, Caverswall CC, Hanford CC and J & G Meakin CC each report a need more or better provision, whilst Fenton Cricket Club has no provision.
- ◀ There are seven cricket clubs competing in Stoke-on-Trent generating 73 teams, which as a breakdown equates to 28 senior men's, six senior women's, 36 junior boys' and three junior girls' teams.
- ◀ There has been a general growth in demand in recent years, although this is partially offset by a reduction in participation at Hanford CC.
- ◀ Six clubs participate in All Stars and/or Dynamos initiatives as well as women's and girls' softball.
- ◀ Hem Heath CC exports its third and fourth Saturday teams as well as one junior team to Forsbrook Cricket Club in Staffordshire Moorlands.
- ◀ Of the responding clubs, four indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation, whilst population growth predicts that there is enough demand in South Analysis Area to establish one additional senior men's team.

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay

There are moderate levels of overplay across Stoke-on-Trent amounting to 27 match equivalent sessions and identified at three sites. Improving quality is one way to alleviate this, albeit two of the three sites are already good quality. Nevertheless, quality improvements at Sandyford Cricket Club would increase capacity to a sufficient level to accommodate existing demand.

Table 4.13: Impact of improving quality on overplay

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Current capacity (match equivalent sessions) | Good quality capacity (match equivalent sessions) |
|---------|---------------------------|---------------|--|---|
| 48 | Longton Cricket Club | South | 18 | 18 |
| 81 | Sandyford Cricket Club | North | 6 | 6 |
| 158 | J & G Meakin Cricket Club | Central | 3 | 3 |

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As a guide, sites which display overplay of less than 10 matches per season are generally able to sustain this with appropriate and rigorous maintenance. This therefore relates to J & G Meakin Cricket Club.

For Longton Cricket Club, a solution could be to consider installing a non-turf wicket. As the site is overplayed by less than 60 match equivalent sessions, all overplay could be alleviated through the installation of such provision (as a non-turf wicket has capacity for 60 match equivalent sessions per season).

Although not readily available within grassroots cricket, there may be potential in the future to address overplay through the installation of hybrid wickets on senior squares. The ECB has been working with SIS Pitches on the installation of hybrid cricket wickets at county cricket clubs (2019) and more recently recreational squares such as Perry Hall Park in Birmingham.

A hybrid wicket offers greater capacity in addition to reducing time on repair works with a faster recovery time. Ideally, once these become more readily available for community cricket clubs and have gone through the required testing, they could act as a way to increase levels of playing capacity on overplayed squares. This would be particularly beneficial for those sites which are limited on space and cannot create additional wickets due to size restrictions.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on squares to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and poor and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Assist Sandyford CC in securing long term tenure at Sandyford Cricket Club.
- ◀ Address overplay via quality improvements or through an increase in NTPs.
- ◀ When readily available, explore the feasibility of installing hybrid wickets on sites which are overplayed and have limited capacity.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities, where required.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs are adequately serviced by appropriate practice/training facilities.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning (i.e. via a sports needs assessment/feasibility study/assessment of need) on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g., through ball-strike issues).

4.4: Rugby union

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **No pitches provide actual spare capacity for an increase in demand, whereas pitches at both Longton Rugby Football Club and Trentham**

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Rugby Club are overplayed by a total of 5.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

- ◀ **Overall, there is a current shortfall of 5.25 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand, increasing to 8.25 when incorporating future demand.**
- ◀ **There is a clear shortfall of rugby union capacity in Stoke-on-Trent for both Longton RUFC and Trentham RUFC.**
- ◀ Within Stoke-on-Trent, there are 12 senior and three age grade pitches provided, with all but two being available for community use.
- ◀ The unavailable pitches are located at Abbey Hill School and College and Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, two are assessed as good quality, seven are assessed as standard quality and four as poor quality.
- ◀ Trentham RUFC has secure tenure at its home venue via a freehold, whilst Longton RUFC is considered to have secure tenure through a long-term lease from the City Council running until 2056.
- ◀ Trentham RUFC has submitted a planning application for the extension and modernisation of its clubhouse, whereas Longton RUFC has no ancillary facility issues.
- ◀ There are two community rugby union clubs based in Stoke-on-Trent collectively providing a total of 33 teams.
- ◀ Both clubs train on their sports-lit match pitches, which increases usage and impacts on quality, and both cite an aspiration to have access to World Rugby compliant 3G provision.
- ◀ Both clubs express future demand to increase female participation, with each stating that they want to create a dedicated women's team and an age grade girls' team.

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay

Both rugby union clubs in Stoke-on-Trent have pitches that are overplayed.

Longton Rugby Football Club has a pitch that is currently overplayed by a total of 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week, predominately due to it also being used for training demand. Firstly, the table below examines what the capacity on the site would be if the Club could afford to improve its maintenance from standard (M1) to good (M2) quality.

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Table 4.14: Increasing maintenance at Longton Rugby Football Club

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis Area | No. of pitches | Pitch type | Sports-lit? | Current quality | Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions) | Improved quality | New capacity rating (match equivalent sessions) |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------|-------------|------------------|---|------------------|---|
| 50 | Longton Rugby Football Club | South | 2 | Age grade | No | Standard (M1/D2) | 0.5 | Good (M2/D2) | 1.5 |
| 50 | Longton Rugby Football Club | South | 1 | Senior | Yes | Standard (M1/D2) | 1.5 | Good (M2/D2) | 2.5 |
| 50 | Longton Rugby Football Club | South | 1 | Senior | Yes | Standard (M1/D2) | 3.5 | Good (M2/D2) | 2.5 |
| 50 | Longton Rugby Football Club | South | 1 | Senior | No | Standard (M1/D2) | 0.5 | Good (M2/D2) | 1.5 |

As shown, the overplay on the sports-lit pitch would reduce from 3.5 to 2.5 match equivalent sessions, whilst spare capacity across the remaining pitches would increase, collectively by three match equivalent sessions. Due to this, it would be possible to alleviate the remaining overplay through establishing additional sports lighting on one or two of the currently unlit pitches. The spare capacity on these could be used to disperse existing training demand from the overplayed pitch.

Similarly, Trentham Rugby Club has a pitch that is overplayed by a total of 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week, with this reducing by 0.75 match equivalent sessions since 2021 due to quality improving. It is therefore considered unlikely that additional quality improvements can take place, with a good standard already achieved (M2/D2).

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One of the remaining two pitches at the site has spare capacity of 2.25 match equivalent sessions (the other is played to capacity). As such, providing sports lighting on this provision would be sufficient to alleviate the overplay through spreading out the training demand received.

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World Rugby compliant 3G provision

With both clubs requiring additional sports lighting to fully eradicate shortfalls, an alternative to consider is the development of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, as set out within the 3G scenarios. If a pitch could be established in the South Analysis Area, this could meet the needs of both clubs.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and increase spare capacity.
- ◀ Install additional sports lighting to fully eradicate overplay through the transfer and dispersion of existing training demand, or consider the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at a strategically located venue.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities at Trentham Rugby Club.
- ◀ Retain the stock of pitches at education sites for continued curricular and extra-curricular usage and encourage improved club links where possible.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

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

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **It is evident that there is an oversupply of hockey suitable provision across the City, with only the pitch that is to be created at Trentham Community Sports Centre required from a community perspective.**
- ◀ **With resurfacing works required on the three remaining pitches, an opportunity exists to consider this against 3G shortfalls as a means to providing a sustainable stock of AGPs, especially given that the provision is located where all 3G shortfalls exist.**
- ◀ There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs in Stoke-on-Trent, all of which are sports-lit, available for community use and located in the North Analysis Area.
- ◀ In addition, there are three smaller size sand-based AGPs, although none are suitable for purposeful hockey demand.
- ◀ Trentham Community Sports Centre has received planning approval for the development of a full size hockey suitable AGP and this will be utilised by North Stafford HC via a partnership agreement.
- ◀ All existing pitches as well as the proposed pitch at Trentham Community Sports Centre are managed by education providers.

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- ◀ All three existing pitches are at end the end of their recommended lifespan; two are considered to be standard quality (at Ormiston Horizon Academy and The Co-Operative Academy of Stoke-on-Trent), whilst one is poor quality (at the Excel Academy).
- ◀ There are no hockey clubs currently based within Stoke-on-Trent.
- ◀ North Stafford HC is to transfer some demand into the City once the pitch at Trentham Community Sports Centre has been developed; it currently uses a pitch at Newcastle-under-Lyme School and has previously on an ad hoc basis utilised The Excel Academy.
- ◀ The Club currently fields five senior men's and three senior women's as well as 11 dedicated junior teams and two badgers' groups that play in tournaments.
- ◀ Elsewhere, two hockey teams from Staffordshire University export their demand to Stone Hockey Club in the neighbouring authority of Stafford, although this is not reported to be a problem.
- ◀ As there are no hockey clubs currently playing regularly in Stoke-on-Trent, it must be noted that the community demand received on the three existing full size pitches is almost exclusively football related, although spare capacity remains on each.

Scenarios

Meeting demand

There is no current hockey demand within Stoke-on-Trent, suggesting that none of the existing sand-based pitches are required for the sport (although they are meeting curricular needs as well as community football demand).

Moving forward, a new pitch is to be established at Trentham Community Sports Centre which will then attract demand from North Stafford HC (which currently uses Newcastle-under-Lyme School) via a partnership agreement. This pitch will therefore require protection to ensure that the Club remains accommodated. Its demand will also need to be monitored to understand if any additional provision access may be required in the future.

EH reports that other clubs in the area may also have an interest in accessing the pitch at Trentham Community Sports Centre as a secondary venue, including Stone HC. Enabling such access should be sought if capacity exists outside of demand from North Stafford HC.

Converting hockey suitable AGPs to 3G pitches

Given that there is no community hockey demand within Stoke-on-Trent for the pitches at Ormiston Horizon Academy, The Co-Operative Academy of Stoke-on-Trent and The Excel Academy, 3G conversion could be considered. This is especially the case given that they are all located within the North Analysis Area, which is where the 3G shortfalls exist.

Any conversion needs to be agreed between EH and the football partners, with consideration also given as to whether the schools have any internal demand for hockey (e.g., through their curriculum program) as this could necessitate the need

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for them to be protected for the sport. Furthermore, any conversion must be considered against other 3G pitch aspirations and proposals to ensure an oversupply is not created.

Without 3G conversions taking place, any 3G proposals that do come forward should also be considered against the sand-based pitch stock to ensure that they will not remove demand and make them unsustainable.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure the pitch at Trentham Community Sports Centre is provided to a good quality and protect it for long-term community hockey use.
- ◀ Ensure all hockey suitable AGPs have a sinking fund in place for eventual refurbishment.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of converting the remaining full-size provision to 3G, subject to support from EH, the level of school/curriculum hockey demand received, and when considered against other options.
- ◀ Ensure any 3G pitch developments that do not involve a conversion do not impact on the long-term sustainability of the sand-based stock.

4.6: Golf

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Stoke-on-Trent currently has sufficient levels of golf provision in correlation to demand, and also a good mix of provision; however, there is a lack of a course with a focus on pay and play usage, which likely leads to high levels of exported demand.**
- ◀ **In principle, there is a need for all three of the facilities to be protected as each site caters for a different, specific type of demand and market that cannot be accommodated elsewhere.**
- ◀ Within Stoke-on-Trent, there are three golf venues.
- ◀ Burslem Golf Club offers a 9-hole standard course, Trentham Golf Club provides an 18-hole standard course and Lightwood Golf Driving Range is a standalone driving range (20 bays).
- ◀ Trentham Golf Club provides an Open Championship Qualifying course and is considered to be one of the finest golf offerings across Staffordshire, the Midlands and North West, marking it as a particularly high-end facility.
- ◀ Goldenhill Golf Course closed to public in 2011 and has since been accessed as open space by surrounding residents (disused provision).
- ◀ Both Burslem and Trentham golf clubs are members clubs (Lightwood Golf Driving Range is proprietary).
- ◀ Pricing is particularly high at Trentham Golf Club, reflecting the high end nature of the site.
- ◀ Quality is generally good across the venues, although modernisation is required at Lightwood Golf Driving Range.

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- ◀ Trentham Golf Club has 423 members, which is higher than the national average (386), whereas Burslem Golf Club has a lower membership, although this correlates with it providing less capacity given that it is a 9-hole course.
- ◀ Pay and play opportunities are likely to be limited with neither Burslem Golf Club nor Trentham Golf Club focusing on this (only pay and play access is allowed at Lightwood Golf Driving Range but no course is provided).
- ◀ Imported demand is expected to exist, particularly in regards to Trentham Golf Club given its status, although exported demand is expected to be higher, especially for pay and play usage.
- ◀ Unmet demand is considered to be very minimal, although Trentham Golf Club reports that it only has very limited capacity remaining for new members.
- ◀ At Trentham Golf Club, future demand is likely to be minimal given its current capacity pressures, whilst it is expected to be higher at the remaining two venues.

Scenarios

Goldenhill Golf Course

As discussed in the Assessment Report, Goldenhill Golf Course closed to public in 2011 and has since been accessed as open space by surrounding residents. The site was identified to potentially reopen *circa* 2019; however, as a deal could not be finalised, it has remained shut.

With two golf courses (Burslem Golf Club and Trentham Golf Club) and one driving range (Lightwood Golf Driving Range) within the City, it is considered that the supply of golf facilities is sufficient to meet the current and future levels of demand, without Goldenhill Golf Course. Therefore, focus should be preserving the current stock of golf facilities and clubs in the City as well as exploring the feasibility of providing different golf formats to attract different profiles of golfers to the game.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect all current, in-use golf facilities.
- ◀ Sustain quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth.
- ◀ Encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for existing and new players.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to provide different forms of golf (e.g., pay and play usage), in addition to those that are already provided to ensure that demand from all golfing profiles is met.
- ◀ Seek to work in collaboration with England Golf to further investigate the need to retain or mitigate Goldenhill Golf Course.

4.7: Bowls

Assessment Report summary

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- ◀ **There is an adequate supply of greens in Stoke-on-Trent, providing that all those in use are protected.**
- ◀ **Baddeley Green, Hem Heath, Norton Central and Trent Vale bowling clubs should be supported to ensure that they remain sustainable despite a low membership base.**
- ◀ **Fenton Private BC is operating above recommended capacity levels, with usage needing to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.**
- ◀ There are 22 bowling greens in Stoke-on-Trent located across 20 sites.
- ◀ At Florence Tennis & Bowling Club, the Club is looking at development options in relation to one of its greens, which is said to be no longer required for bowls.
- ◀ In addition, there are 13 sites containing 19 disused/lapsed greens.
- ◀ Of the active greens, 11 are owned and managed by clubs, with seven managed by the Council, one through private ownership one via a community organisation.
- ◀ 13 of the greens are assessed as good quality, seven as standard quality and two as poor quality.
- ◀ Seven are serviced by sports lighting, which is a large number.
- ◀ Ancillary facility issues are noted at Florence Colliery Social Welfare Centre, Birches Head Hotel and Norton Central Social Club.
- ◀ There are 17 bowling clubs playing in Stoke-on-Trent, with membership equating to 722 members (2021 data).
- ◀ Bucknall Park BC has recently folded.
- ◀ Five clubs have seen a reduction in membership over recent years, whereas three have experienced an increase.
- ◀ No clubs report latent/unmet demand in that all can accommodate their current usage and are willing to accept new members.
- ◀ All clubs that have been consulted with highlight their aspirations to increase their membership.

Scenarios

Accommodating current and future demand

BCGBA does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green operating with a membership of over 80 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand.

In Stoke-on-Trent, only Fenton Private BC is currently operating above the membership threshold. However, it does not express any capacity issues and does not report any latent or unmet demand. As such, despite high levels of demand, there is no identified requirement for additional green space, although support is required to ensure that this remains the case.

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At the other end of the spectrum, six clubs are operating below or close to 20 members, which BCGBA suggests is the level at which future sustainability becomes questionable. The clubs are:

- ◀ Baddeley Green BC (24 members)
- ◀ Etruria Park BC (22 members)
- ◀ Hem Heath BC (14 members)
- ◀ Northwood Park BC (22 members)
- ◀ Norton Central BC (25 members)
- ◀ Trent Vale BC (20 members)

These clubs should be closely monitored to ensure membership figures do not decrease to a level where they cannot effectively maintain green and ancillary provision quality. This being said, none of the clubs' report issues regarding becoming unsustainable and all indicate plans to increase membership.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of greens where required.
- ◀ Improve quality, where possible and required.
- ◀ Support Fenton Private BC to ensure that it can continue to accommodate its demand without capacity pressures.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised, particularly at sites with fewer than 20 members currently.

4.8: Tennis

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Current club demand can be accommodated on existing provision, although the courts at Florence Tennis & Bowling Club will require resurfacing within the next four years.**
- ◀ **All publicly available non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity, with there being a clear need to utilise this to actualise latent demand.**
- ◀ **There is a sufficient level of tennis provision within Stoke-on-Trent, although it is clear that existing demand can be better catered for and that improvements can help drive increased participation.**
- ◀ There are 64 tennis courts identified in Stoke-on-Trent across 22 sites, with 46 of these being available for community use (there are no padel tennis courts).
- ◀ There are disused courts located at New Stoke Park Bowling, Bakewell Street Park, Edensor Technology College and Berryhill High School.
- ◀ A new high school (Florence MacWilliams Academy) is planned to be built on Whitcombe Road Playing Fields, with current plans including four courts (dual use netball).

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- ◀ Of the existing courts, 38 courts are operated by educational providers, 22 by the Council and four by a club (Florence TC).
- ◀ Only 11 courts in total and eight community available courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing a significantly low number.
- ◀ Most community available courts in Stoke-on-Trent have a concrete surface (52%), with the remaining being macadam or artificial turf.
- ◀ Following a non-technical assessment, of the 48 community available courts, seven are assessed as good quality, 30 as standard quality and 18 as poor quality.
- ◀ Courts at Bucknall, Burslem, Hanley, Longon, Mount Pleasant and Tunstall parks are earmarked for improvement via the LTAs Parks Tennis Investment Fund.
- ◀ The only club in Stoke-on-Trent, Florence TC, has 120 members, equating to 80 seniors and 40 juniors.
- ◀ It is considered that all local authority courts available for community use in Stoke-on-Trent have spare capacity for a growth in recreational demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not currently monitored.
- ◀ The Potteries Parks Tennis League operates primarily out of four parks, one of which is located in Stoke-on-Trent at Hanley Park.
- ◀ High levels of latent demand are known to exist nationally and this is likely to be the case in Stoke-on-Trent due to the presence of some barriers such as poor quality courts and courts without sports lighting.
- ◀ Florence TC reports wanting to increase its level of demand but does not quantify its aspirations, although it links this to an aspiration to develop indoor provision.

Scenarios

Accommodating club demand

The LTA suggests that a court without sports lighting can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Based on this, Florence TC has ample capacity to accommodate its current and future membership, suggesting that no action is required.

Notwithstanding the above, the provision servicing the Club will require refurbishment within the next four years to ensure that demand can continue to be adequately met. This will prevent court quality from deteriorating.

LTA Investment (recreational/parks tennis)

Increasing recreational tennis demand is currently a priority for the LTA, with twice as many people playing casually rather than at clubs. To enable this, it has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

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In Stoke-on-Trent, the LTA has identified Bucknall Park, Burslem Park, Hanley Park, Longton Park, Mount Pleasure Park and Tunstall Park as key sites across the City for the development of informal tennis, which the finds of the PPS supports. In order to facilitate this demand, it is likely that sports lighting would have to be provided, in addition to court improvements and potential provision or improvement of appropriate ancillary facilities.

It is anticipated that if the abovementioned investment takes place, there will also likely be an increase in demand at Florence TC as the increased recreational demand will filter through to the club environment. This further links to the Club's aspiration around creating and/or having access to an indoor facility.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing court stock.
- ◀ Sustain quality of club courts for competitive play and seek resurfacing works by 2027.
- ◀ Improve the quality and accessibility of identified park sites to attract and better accommodate demand and explore further roll-out following initial investment.
- ◀ Explore the installation of sports lighting where it is not currently provided to increase the capacity of courts.
- ◀ Monitor levels of demand and examine the feasibility of creating dedicated indoor tennis provision in cohesion with Florence TC in order to provide a year-round tennis offer.
- ◀ Support opportunities to provide padel courts given its growing demand, providing that no existing in-use traditional courts are lost as a result.

4.9: Other sports

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ There are two purpose built cycling facilities within Stoke-on-Trent which are both basic looped tracks at Etruria Park.
- ◀ There are eight designated cycling clubs operating in the City, with demand growing.
- ◀ With high demand for cycling identified, assistance should be provided to help the Council achieve its ambitions for improving the cycling infrastructure within the City.
- ◀ There are two American football clubs that compete, Staffordshire Surge and the Staffordshire University Stallions, with both fielding a single team.
- ◀ Staffordshire Surge plays its home matches at Trentham Rugby Club, whereas Staffordshire University Stallions is based at Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre.
- ◀ The pitch used by Staffordshire Surge is overplayed during the rugby season, and the dual use nature of the provision can impact on the remedial work carried out.
- ◀ There are currently two known sites where Touch Rugby is played within Stoke-on-Trent; Longton Rugby Union Club and Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre.
- ◀ Due to the nature of the sport being low impact, the levels of supply are considered suitable for the level of demand, although it must be noted that

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overlap is evident at Longton Rugby Union Club and this will not be helped by the additional use.

- ◀ Ultimate demand is fielded by Staffordshire University (aka Staffordshire Spartans) at Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre.
- ◀ With only the University fielding Ultimate demand and with it managing its own provision, supply is considered sufficient to meet its needs.
- ◀ No current rugby league supply or demand is identified.
- ◀ The RFL has aspirations to increase levels of participation within the City, in particular within education and more specifically at Staffordshire University.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve cycling infrastructure across the City.
- ◀ Ensure American football demand can continue to be accommodated, particularly at Trentham Rugby Club, or seek to provide dedicated provision for the sport as a means to resolving issues caused by dual use.
- ◀ Ensure Touch and Tag activity can continue to be accommodated and carry out wider improvements relating to rugby union to better cater for it.
- ◀ Seek to promote rugby league activity at Staffordshire University as a means to growing the sport in the City.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy were initially 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 have now been reviewed for this update and its findings to ensure that they still reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed. They apply across playing pitch facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

AIM 1

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

Recommendations:

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

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

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or appropriate mitigation until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls i.e., following improvements.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless appropriate mitigation is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders, in line with national planning policy. NPPF paragraph 99 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

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- ◀ 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 benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

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

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

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 the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

Policy Exception E2

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

Policy Exception E3

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

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

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Policy Exception E4:

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

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

Policy Exception E5

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

Disused sites that have been unused for more than five years should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England’s policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. As such, any disused sites are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate permanent loss via a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified. This is despite Sport England not being a statutory consultee on such applications.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value sites (i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

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

A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in Stoke-on-Trent for competitive play, predominantly for football and netball. In some cases, use of such facilities has been classified as secure; however, it is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of use.

Examples of schools without secured usage are as follows:

- ◀ Milton Primary Academy
- ◀ Birches Head Academy
- ◀ The Meadows Primary Academy
- ◀ St Thomas More Catholic Academy
- ◀ St Peters Academy

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◀ Burnwood Community School

Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time. Securing community use at such as will help to create additional pitch capacity and could help to address deficiencies as demonstrated within the football scenarios (Part 4.1).

There are also some clubs playing on private sites in the City which are not considered to have secure tenure. For example:

- ◀ Florence Colliery Social Welfare Centre – Florence Youth FC
- ◀ Norton Cricket Club & Miners Welfare Institute – AFC Norton, Stoke City FC (Women), Stoke City Regional Talent Club and West Midlands Ambulance Service FC
- ◀ Sandyford Cricket Club – Sandyford CC

Given current budgetary pressures, 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 for the acquisition and development of sites, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position manage assets and to apply for external funding for site improvements. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be enhanced and sites developed.

Local sports clubs that could be able to manage their own assets 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, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop business and sports development plans to show how facilities can be sustainable and to maximise income generation.

Relevant clubs could also be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)⁶. They should also be signposted to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

⁶ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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

| Club | Site |
|---|---|
| <p>Clubs should have NGB accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p> | <p>Sites should be those identified as 'Local Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a 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>Sites should acquire capital investment to improve or be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p> |

Furthermore, 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, particularly in target areas such as women's and girls' activity.
- ◀ 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 sites remain available for other purposes and for other users.

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

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

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

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs. It is, however, common for school stock not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

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

As a priority, community use options should be explored at large education sites offering several pitches, with focus therefore placed predominately on secondary schools rather than primary schools. Securing access to such sites will significantly reduce shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within.

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

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, these should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential for facility provision to be made within the developments, if appropriate. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 and/or youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as 3G pitches and courts that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity.

AIM 2

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

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

Notwithstanding the above, with pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should therefore also be considered. This could be via clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include the use of equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

Addressing quality issues

Quality across Stoke-on-Trent is variable but generally most pitches are assessed as poor or standard quality. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.

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. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, 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).

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It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the facilities tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that quality can vary year on year dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall, although maintenance regimes could be altered to reduce this impact.

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 (thus reducing capacity issues). Where this occurs, it is vital that the improvements are advertised and marketed towards potential users as their perception of the provision may need altering.

In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer (although other provision can be key for income generation) 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 also applies to women's and girls' demand.

For football, The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The tool is available across mobile apps and desktop and is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund.

For rugby union, rugby league and cricket, the respective NGBs are now also utilising PitchPower, with reports being produced similar to those for football.

Specifically for tennis, the LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

For the improvement/replacement of 3G and hockey provision, this is most commonly linked to age, with any surfaces older than 10 years generally requiring replacement. Where pitches are provided, sinking funds should be put into place to ensure that refurbishment can take place when it is required.

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Addressing overplay

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

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

Table 5.2: Capacity of pitches

| Sport | Pitch type | No. of matches | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| | | Good quality | Standard quality | Poor quality |
| 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 |
| Cricket | One grass wicket | 5 per season | 4 per season | 0 per season |
| | One synthetic wicket | 60 per season | | |
| Hockey | Full size AGP | 4 per day | 4 per day | 4 per day |

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members if it is serviced by sports lighting, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is considered at capacity if it has over 80 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity, or quality should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is

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transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

For rugby union, additional sports lighting, in conjunction with quality improvements, can further reduce levels of overplay at club sites as it allows clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent sports lighting is not possible, portable sports lighting can be provided as an alternative.

Similarly, additional sports lighting can help resolve capacity issues for tennis and bowls as it can allow for greater court usage, especially during winter months.

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 with existing squares.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality but which are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand 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.

Changing provision

As aforementioned, there is also need to address changing provision at some sites in the City. These are generally centred at either club or parish council managed sites.

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

- ◀ Abbey Hulton Utd
- ◀ Bradely Football Centre
- ◀ Trubshaw Cross Lads & Dads
- ◀ Springbank Sports Ground
- ◀ Trentham RUFC
- ◀ Stoke City Football Club Academy Dome
- ◀ Kidsgrove Athletic FC Development Centre
- ◀ Foley Football Club

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

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

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

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding is secured for improved sports provision and directed to areas of need. This should be underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities, with the PPS able to be used as an evidence base for attracting investment.

Furthermore, to address community need, target priority areas and reduce provision duplication, a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPS Steering Group as well as with neighbouring local authorities. Cross-border developments can accommodate demand from with Stoke-on-Trent (and vice versa) and lessen requirements within the City.

To attract investment, the Council should stay informed in relation to relevant and appropriate funding pots, both in regard to what it can directly attract as well as to what clubs could attract independently (with the Council able to assist with this process). This can also be helped through the PPS Steering Group signposting partners to what could be available.

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. This includes delivery from education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector.

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

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

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council uses Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required. This should form the basis of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions and should aid the negotiation process with developers.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sport and by pitch type and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport and on that provision. That percentage is then applied to the population growth and the additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions. This then provides the associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) provided. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

The PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development (or group of developments) on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for contributions to be put towards improvements to

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

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that also contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused.

The preference from Sport England and the NGBs is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for further development in the future. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

Where new provision is not required but where contributions to existing sites is instead to be sought, the PPS Action Plan should be used to identify suitable sites within the locality that should receive the funding. This may involve directing investment into provision most likely to receive demand from the housing development, or into provision that is most in need (e.g., due to quality issues).

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives which should be implemented to enable best use of the Calculator:

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

For further information, please see Part 7 of this report.

AIM 3

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

Recommendations:

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

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

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 are presently used minimally or currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not seen as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches where there is a discrete need, where there is significant housing growth (see Part 7), where new schools are proposed, or where sites fall out of use and require mitigation.

For 3G pitches, priority should be placed in the North Analysis Area as this is where the shortfalls exists. Proposals and aspirations already exist that can be considered, whilst converting sand-based pitches is also an option given a general lack of hockey demand (other than at Trentham Community Sports Centre).

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 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6). First and foremost, it is imperative that the current levels of provision are protected and maintained to ensure that the overall picture does not worsen in the future.

To reduce the identified shortfalls, there is not necessarily a need for a significant level of new provision, with the current provision instead able to be better utilised to overcome most deficits. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity and/or to artificial surfaces.

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- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g., converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◀ Securing community use at education sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage and secure tenure.
- ◀ Exploring lease/management arrangements with appropriate clubs/organisations.
- ◀ Establishing additional sports lighting.
- ◀ Installing artificial surfaces (e.g., NTPs).

The PPS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality as well as unused and unsecure sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome. This is done on a site-by-site basis in the proceeding Action Plan.

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

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

| Sport | Future sports development trend | Strategy impact |
|----------|--|---|
| Football | Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults. | Additional need for 3G pitches. Sustain current pitch stock but give consideration to pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements. |
| | Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G pitches. | Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing. |

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| Sport | Future sports development trend | Strategy impact |
|------------|---|--|
| | A focus on increasing women's and girls' demand. | Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase, whilst ancillary facilities need to be suitable for inclusive access. |
| 3G pitches | Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes. Also a growing need for rugby union and potentially other sports (e.g., American football and lacrosse). | <p>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.</p> <p>Requirement for 3G pitches to be tested to host competitive matches.</p> <p>Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface and size.</p> |
| Cricket | <p>Except for grounds identified as poor quality, ECB predicts further growth in cricket demand for pitch use over the next few years.</p> <p>All Stars Cricket, the ECB national programme for 5-8 year olds, is engaging large numbers of children and has already been delivered over the past 3-4 years, with increasing numbers of participants year on year, alongside Chance to Shine cricket delivery in primary schools.</p> <p>Dynamos Cricket is the latest launch by the ECB, building on the existing All Stars programme for 5-8-year-olds. Participants will continue to develop their skills and be introduced to a countdown style of cricket match.</p> | <p>Pitches that are already identified in the PPS as being at capacity will not be able to accommodate additional playing demand generated and it is predicted there will be demand for additional cricket playing facilities or as an alternative the installation of NTP's at existing facilities.</p> <p>Greater usage of outfielders to accommodate demand from All Stars Cricket.</p> <p>Shorter formats of cricket, and additional formats including softball cricket, are also driving up demand for pitches.</p> <p>An increase stock of NTPs likely to be required to accommodate demand.</p> |

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| Sport | Future sports development trend | Strategy impact |
|-------------|---|--|
| | <p>Women’s and girls’ cricket is a national ECB priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority. Women’s softball activity.</p> | <p>Increased requirement for peak time access to pitches. Need to ensure access to good quality facilities including, segregated changing and toilet provision.</p> |
| Rugby union | <p>Locally, the RFU want to ensure access to pitches satisfies existing demand and predicted growth. It is also an aim to protect and improve pitch quality, as well as ancillary facilities.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| | <p>Inclusivity is a key priority for the RFU, particularly in regards to growing women’s and girls’ demand.</p> | <p>Ensure facilities, particularly at club sites, are suitable for female access.</p> |
| Hockey | <p>Current playing level is likely to increase.</p> | <p>Ensure continued use of sand-based AGPs to accommodate current 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.</p> |
| | <p>Initiatives such as Back to Hockey and Hockey Heroes (aimed at growing participation for under 10s).</p> | <p>Ensure that pitches are able to accommodate such demand and additional future demand that will derive.</p> |
| Bowls | <p>Potential increases linked to initiatives such as Play Bowls.</p> | <p>Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens, but clubs should be made aware of initiatives to help sustain and grow demand.</p> |

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| Sport | Future sports development trend | Strategy impact |
|--------|--|---|
| Tennis | The LTA has a key priority for the strategic development of tennis at key community venues such as local parks. This is linked to its investment fund. | Improve courts at park sites, particularly where large tennis offering can be provided. Utilise digital access systems and seek an appropriate ancillary facility offering. |
| Golf | Increase in membership following Covid-19, with focus on sustaining this growth. | Ensure all types of golfers are catered through a broad offering and the creation of pathways between facilities, where possible. |

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. The Action Plan is separated by analysis area.

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. 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 outdoor facility sites and associated provision.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance within the City i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest anticipated 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. | Single or multi-sport provision. | Single or multi-sport provision. |

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| Criteria | Hub sites | Key centres | Local sites |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| | Could also operate as a central venue. | Could also operate as a central venue. | |
| 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. |
| 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). |

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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.

Key centres are more community focused sites, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. There may be more of a focus on a specific sport.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment may 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 offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one facility or a low number of facilities that service just one or two sports. The level of priority attached to them for external investment may be relatively low.

For local authority sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

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

Some local sites are suitable for rationalisation providing that capital receipts are allocated to replace the lost provision at larger, multi-pitch sites.

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.

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- ◀ Football investment programme/3G pitch development with the FA and Football Foundation

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.

Priority

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

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

The **low** priority sites tend to be single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users.

Costs

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

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

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs.

Timescales

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

The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

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

Aim

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

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CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

Summary

| Sport | Analysis area | Pitch type | Current capacity (match equivalent sessions) | Future capacity (match equivalent sessions) |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------|--|---|
| Football (grass pitches) | Central | Adult | Spare capacity of 7.5 | Spare capacity of 5.5 |
| | | Youth 11v11 | Shortfall of 2 | Shortfall of 4.5 |
| | | Youth 9v9 | Spare capacity of 0.5 | Spare capacity of 0.5 |
| | | Mini 7v7 | Spare capacity of 2 | Spare capacity of 2 |
| | | Mini 5v5 | At capacity | Shortfall of 2.5 |
| | Stoke-on-Trent | Adult | Spare capacity of 13.5 | Spare capacity of 5 |
| | | Youth 11v11 | Shortfall of 7.5 | Shortfall of 13.5 |
| | | Youth 9v9 | Shortfall of 3 | Shortfall of 7 |
| | | Mini 7v7 | Spare capacity of 0.5 | Spare capacity of 0.5 |
| | | Mini 5v5 | Shortfall of 2 | Shortfall of 10 |
| | | | | |
| Football (3G pitches) | Central | Full size | At capacity | At capacity |
| | | | | |
| Cricket | Central | Saturday | Shortfall of 3 | Shortfall of 3 |
| | | Sunday | Shortfall of 3 | Shortfall of 3 |
| | | Midweek | Spare capacity of 5 | Shortfall of 7 |
| | Stoke-on-Trent | Saturday | Shortfall of 27 | Shortfall of 51 |
| | | Sunday | Shortfall of 27 | Shortfall of 33 |
| | | Midweek | Shortfall of 19 | Shortfall of 35 |
| | | | | |
| | Central | Senior | At capacity | At capacity |

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| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rugby union | Stoke-on-Trent | Senior | Shortfall of 5.25 | Shortfall of 8.25 |
| | | | | |
| Hockey (sand AGPs) | Stoke-on-Trent | Full size | No demand | No demand |
| Golf | Stoke-on-Trent | Facilities | Demand is being met | Demand is being met |
| Tennis | Stoke-on-Trent | Courts | Demand is being met | Demand is being met |
| Bowls | Stoke-on-Trent | Greens | Demand is being met | Demand is being met |
| Other sports | Stoke-on-Trent | - | Demand is being met | Demand is being met |

Recommendations

| Sport | Priority recommendations |
|-------------|--|
| Football | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites. Examples include FC Hanley and Eastwood Hanley Football Club. ◀ Improve security of tenure at key sites such as Birches Head Academy. ◀ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs. ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required. |
| 3G pitches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register |
| Cricket | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Alleviate overplay at J & G Meakin Cricket Club. ◀ Improve quality at Fenton Cricket Club and sustain quality of other squares. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required. |
| Rugby union | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required. |
| Hockey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required. |
| Golf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. |
| Bowls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. |

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| Sport | Priority recommendations |
|--------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ Ensure any development of disused provision meets Sport England requirements. |
| Tennis | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ Protect provision.◀ Seek to improve park courts such as at Bucknall Park, Northwood Park, Mount Pleasant Park and Hanley Park via implementation of LTA products. |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁷ | Cost ⁸ | Aim |
|---------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|---|---|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 5 | Anchor Road | Football (Disused) | Council | The site still has posts up for one adult and one youth 11v11 pitch but has not actively been used for the last few seasons. Various clubs are looking for a licence or lease arrangement for the site. | Bring the site back into use and explore the feasibility of agreeing a long term licence/lease agreement of the site to a suitable club. | SFA, FF | Local | H | S | M | Protect Enhance |
| 9 | Birches Head Academy | Football | Education | Two poor quality adult pitches that have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. Abbey Hulton United wants to explore the potential of formalising a community use agreement for the pitches. | Explore the feasibility of formalising a community use agreement for Abbey Hulton United. Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. | Education SFA, FF | Local | M | S | L | Protect Enhance |
| 9 | Birches Head Academy | Rugby union | Education | One poor quality (M0/D0) junior pitch that is played to capacity through curricular and extra curricular demand. | Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extra curricular demand. | Education RFU | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 11 | Bucknall Park | Football | Council | One good quality and one poor quality adult pitch. The good quality pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions. The poor quality pitch has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Site is not accompanied by any ancillary provision. | Improve poor pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Sustain good pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Examine the feasibility of pitch reconfiguration in order to alleviate shortfalls for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 football. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect Enhance |
| 11 | Bucknall Park | Tennis | Council | Three poor quality concrete courts which are not sports lit but are available for community use. Courts are to be improved via LTA investment with a gate access system and Clubspark implemented. Expected to be | Ensure improvements works are carried out to a high standard and seek to maximise usage once complete. | LTA | Local | H | S | L | Enhance Protect |

⁷ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁷ | Cost ⁸ | Aim |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|--|--|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | operational (via a national operator) in Spring 2024. | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Bucknall Park | Bowls / Bowls (Disused) | Council | One standard quality bowling green previously used by Bucknall Park BC, which has recently folded. There is also one disused bowling green on the site. | Explore options in relation to the active green following the loss of Bucknall Park BC (e.g., does alternative demand exist). The disused greens should be protected from development (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls. If it is determined by the PPS Steering Group that this site is not needed to be protected from development based on it being a disused with a low sporting value, then mitigation can be delivered through qualitative improvements to existing sites or pooled to contribute to a strategic hub site. | BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 11 | Bucknall Park | Cricket (Disused) | Council | A disused grass wicket square that has not been used or maintained since at least 2003. | Explore the requirements for cricket at the site if it progresses to become a hub site. | ECB, SCB | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 13 | Burslem Cricket Club | Cricket | Sports club | A good quality square with 12 wickets accompanied by an NTP. Site is owned by Burslem CC. The Club reports of issues with animal burrowing. The square has spare capacity Midweek. | Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Examine potential solutions to addressing issues with animal burrowing. | Sports club ECB, SCB | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 13 | Burslem Cricket Club | Bowls | Sports club | One standard quality green used by Burslem CC BC. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | Sports club BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 22 | Eastwood Hanley Football Club | Football | Council | One adult, two mini 5v5, three mini 7v7 and two youth 11v11 pitches all of which are poor quality and two youth 9v9 pitches | Improve pitch quality with an enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise funding from SFA to improve the remaining pitches | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | H | M | L | Protect Enhance |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁷ | Cost ⁸ | Aim |
|---------|---------------------|----------|-------------|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | that are poor quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session, whereas the youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches are each overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Spare capacity on the remaining pitches has been discounted due to poor quality. The adult pitch is suitable for Step 7 football. The site has received funding by SFA which should improve pitch quality in the next few seasons. | through enhanced levels of maintenance. Ensure the site (Pitch and ancillary provision) are of suitable for the relevant Step football being played. | | | | | | |
| 23 | Eaton Park Academy | Football | Education | One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education RFU | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 26 | Fenton Cricket Club | Cricket | Sports club | A standard quality square with 12 wickets. Capacity to accommodate additional teams Midweek. J&G Meakin CC has a long-term agreement in place. | Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. | Sports club ECB, SCB | Local | M | M | L | Enhance |
| 26 | Fenton Cricket Club | Football | Sports club | One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session at peak time. | Sustain quality through an appropriate maintenance regime and examine the feasibility of pitch reconfiguration in order to alleviate shortfalls for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 football. | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect |
| 27 | Fenton Park | Football | Council | Three good and one standard quality adult pitch. The pitches have an accumulative three match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision. | Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise actual spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls / accommodate future demand. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect |
| 27 | Fenton Park | Tennis | Council | Two poor quality concrete courts which are not sports lit but are available for community use. Courts were previously identified for potential LTA investment but | Seek to improve quality of courts for recreational demand, outside of the LTA's investment. | LTA | Local | M | M | L | Enhance Protect |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁷ | Cost ⁸ | Aim |
|---------|--|-----------------|-------------|---|---|------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | are no longer included within the funding due to their isolated location and severely poor state. | | | | | | | |
| 27 | Fenton Park | Bowls (Disused) | Council | Two disused bowling greens. | No bowls requirement; consider re-purposing for other sporting needs or for open space purposes. | BCGBA | Local | - | - | - | - |
| 35 | Hanley Park | 3G | Council | One 3G pitch which is community available and sports lit. Good quality having been refurbished from a sand based AGP circa 2021. | Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance and retain for continued recreational use. | SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 35 | Hanley Park | Tennis | Council | Four standard quality macadam courts which are sports lit and available for community use. Courts are to be improved via LTA investment with a gate access system and Clubspark implemented. Expected to be operational (via a national operator) in Spring 2024. | Ensure improvements works are carried out to a high standard and seek to maximise usage once complete. | LTA | Local | H | S | L | Enhance Protect |
| 35 | Hanley Park | Cricket | Council | A standalone NTP and four standalone practice nets that currently do not have nets in place. | Retain NTP and consider refurbishing the practice net area to enable usage. | ECB SCB | Local | M | L | L | Protect |
| 35 | Hanley Park | Bowls (Disused) | Council | One disused bowling green. | No bowls requirement; consider re-purposing for other sporting needs or for open space purposes. | BCGBA | Local | - | - | - | - |
| 36 | Hanley Town Football Club (Potteries Park) | Football | Sports club | One good quality pitch that has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. Site is suitable for Step 5 football. Pitch suffers from poor drainage. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore improving pitch drainage. Ensure the site meets the relevant requirements to sustain and progress in the football pyramid. | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁷ | Cost ⁸ | Aim |
|---------|---------------------------|----------|------------|--|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 37 | Harpfield Primary Academy | Football | Education | One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch both of which are poor quality and not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand. | SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 43 | Kemball Avenue | Football | Council | One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session at peak time. Site has no ancillary provision. | Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect |
| 45 | Kingsland C of E Academy | Football | Education | One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 51 | Lymevale Road | Football | Council | Two standard quality adult pitches that have actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Various clubs are looking for a licence or lease arrangement for the site. | Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility of agreeing a long term licence/lease agreement of the site to a suitable club. | SFA, FF | Local | M | S | L | Protect Enhance |
| 52 | Maple Court Academy | Football | Education | One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand. Pitch is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 56 | Mount Pleasant Park | Football | Council | One good quality adult pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions at peak time. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate overplay or for future demand. | SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 56 | Mount Pleasant Park | Tennis | Council | Two poor quality courts which are not sports lit but are available for community use. Courts are to be improved via LTA investment with a gate access system and Clubspark implemented. Expected to be operational (via a national operator) in Spring 2024. | Ensure improvements works are carried out to a high standard and seek to maximise usage once complete. | LTA | Local | H | S | L | Enhance Protect |
| 56 | Mount Pleasant Park | Bowls | Council | One disused bowling green. | No bowls requirement; consider re-purposing for other sporting | BCGBA | Local | - | - | - | - |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁷ | Cost ⁸ | Aim |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------|---|--|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| | | (Disused) | | | needs or for open space purposes. | | | | | | |
| 62 | Northwood Stadium | Football | Sports club | One good quality adult and two mini 7v7, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch all of which are standard quality. The pitches have 0.5, two, one and one match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity at peak time respectively. Managed by Stoke Athletics Club. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate overplay or accommodate future demand. | SFA, FF | Key centre | L | L | L | Protect |
| 62 | Northwood Stadium | 3G | Sports Club | One standard quality full size sports lit pitch that was built in 2013. Pitch was previously on the FA register. Managed by Stoke Athletics Club. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance. Ensure the pitch is retested to go back on the FA register. | SFA, FF | Key centre | L | L | L | Protect |
| 65 | Norwich Road | Football (Disused) | Council | Last marked for football circa 2018 and has been marked with a variety of pitches sizes (last known configuration was one adult and two youth pitches). | The site should be protected from development until all demand is met (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls. | Sport England SFA, FF | Local | - | - | - | - |
| 66 | Oakhill Primary School | Football | Education | One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 74 | Priors Field | Football | Council | One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. | Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise actual spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls / accommodate future demand. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁷ | Cost ⁸ | Aim |
|---------|------------------------------------|-------------|------------|---|---|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| 76 | Riverside Road | Football | Council | One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch with each pitch having actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. | Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise actual spare capacity to alleviate shortfalls / accommodate future demand. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect |
| 79 | Sandford Hill Primary School | Football | Education | One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 83 | Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre | Football | Education | One good quality adult pitch that is not available for community use. | Sustain quality and retain as current use. | Education SFA, FF | Key centre | L | L | L | Protect |
| 83 | Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre | 3G | Education | One full and one small size sports lit 3G pitch both of which are standard quality. The full size pitch was previously FA registered. | Sustain quality and retain as current use. If the full size pitch is being used for competitive demand, ensure it is FA certified. | Education SFA, FF | Key centre | L | L | L | Protect |
| 83 | Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre | Rugby union | Education | One good quality (M2/D1) senior pitch that is not available for community use. | Sustain quality and retain as current use. | Education RFU | Key centre | L | L | L | Protect |
| 88 | St Joseph's College | Tennis | Education | Three standard quality macadam courts which are sports lit but are not available for community use. | Look to improve court quality when required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education LTA | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 92 | St Peters Academy | Football | Education | One standard quality adult pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Sustain quality and retain as current use. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 92 | St Peters Academy | 3G | Education | One standard quality full size sports lit 3G pitch that is available for community use and is on the FA register. | Sustain quality and retain as current use. Ensure the pitch is retested when appropriate to remain on the FA register. Ensure there is a sinking fund in place to refurbish when appropriate. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | M | L | Protect |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁷ | Cost ⁸ | Aim |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--|------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| 92 | St Peters Academy | Tennis | Education | Three standard quality concrete courts that are available for community use but are not sports lit. | Look to improve court quality when required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education LTA | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 92 | St Peters Academy | Cricket | Education | A standalone NTP. | Retain and sustain quality with appropriate maintenance for curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education ECB, SCB | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 93 | Berryhill High School (Closed) | Football Rugby union Cricket LTA (Disused) | Council | Berryhill High School, closed in 2011, and is now disused. It previously accommodated three tennis courts, an NTP, three youth 11v11 football pitches and one rugby union pitch. Site is currently undergoing a separate mitigation strategy. | Continue with the development of a Mitigation Strategy to inform requirements and ensure the site is protected from development until all demand is met unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls. | SFA, FF RFU LTA ECB, SCB | Local | H | - | - | - |
| 99 | St. Teresas RC (A) Primary School | Football | Education | One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 108 | The Discovery Academy | Football | Education | One mini 7v7, one youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches all of which are standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions whereas remaining provision is played to capacity at peak time. Pitches are on a long term agreement with Bentilee Lads & Dads. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 108 | The Discovery Academy | 3G | Education | One standard quality full size sports lit 3G pitch. Provision is FA certified. | Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure the pitch remains on the FA register. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | S - L | L | Protect |

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|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|--|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | Ensure there is a sinking fund in place for the eventual refurbishment. | | | | | | |
| 109 | Mitchell High School (Closed) | Football Cricket (Disused) | Council | The former site of Mitchell High School (Business & Enterprise College) is disused having closed in 2011. The site previously accommodated one NTP, two adult pitches and one mini 5v5 pitch. It is currently undergoing a separate mitigation strategy. | Continue with the development of a Mitigation Strategy to inform requirements and ensure the site is protected from development until all demand is met unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls. | SFA, FF ECB, SCB | Local | H | - | - | - |
| 112 | Thistley Hough Academy | Football | Education | The School now leases land previously known as The Croft Sports Ground & Pavilion. Based on satellite imagery, two youth 11v11 and one mini 5v5 pitch were marked out circa 2007 before it became disused. | The site can be used to increase the playing pitch provision available to the School. For any other purpose, it should be protected from development until all demand is met (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls. | Education LTA | Local | M | S | M | Enhance Protect |
| 112 | Thistley Hough Academy | Tennis | Education | Four standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are not sports lit. | Look to improve court quality when required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education LTA | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 112 | Thistley Hough Academy | Cricket | Education | A standalone NTP. | Retain and sustain quality with appropriate maintenance for curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education ECB, SCB | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 123 | Woodhead Road Playing Fields | Football (Disused) | Council | Woodhead Road Playing Fields according to satellite imagery was actively used for football circa 2003 and accommodated | Consider re-establishing provision given size of the site to reduce area shortfalls. | Sport England SFA, FF | Local | M | S - M | L | Enhance |

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|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | one adult and one youth 11v11 pitch. | | | | | | | |
| 124 | YMCA North Staffordshire | 3G | Community organisation | One small size poor quality 3G pitch. YMCA North Staffordshire aspires to refurbish the pitch. | Assist YMCA North Staffordshire in the refurbishment of the 3G. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L - M | Enhance |
| 126 | Anchor Road Park | Bowls (Disused) | Council | One disused bowling green. | If the site is to be lost from development, mitigate in accordance with Sport England's planning policy. | BCGBA | Local | - | - | - | - |
| 128 | Birches Head Hotel | Bowls | Private | One good quality green used by Birches Head Hotel BC. The Club has 40 members. It also has plans to refurbish its clubhouse and create sports lights. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility of refurbishing clubhouse and creating sports lights. | BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 129 | Birches Head Gardeners Bowls Club | Bowls (Disused) | Unknown | One disused bowling green. | If the site is to be lost from development, mitigate in accordance with Sport England's planning policy. | BCGBA | Local | - | - | - | - |
| 130 | Bucknall ESM Club | Bowls (Disused) | Unknown | One disused bowling green. Club which previously used the site Bucknall ESM BC has folded. | If the site is to be lost from development, mitigate in accordance with Sport England's planning policy. | BCGBA | Local | - | - | - | - |
| 131 | Bucknall Bowls Club | Bowls | Sports club | One good quality green used by Bucknall BC. Membership is unknown. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | Sports club BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 132 | Etruria Park | Bowls | Council | One good quality bowling green used by Etruria Park BC. Membership is 22 | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 132 | Etruria Park | Cycling | Council | There are two purpose built cycling facilities within Stoke-on-Trent which are both basic looped tracks at Etruria Park. The track located closest to the onsite bowling green is better quality having been built circa 2012, with the other track being poor quality. It should be noted that these tracks are primarily used for | Look to protect and enhance both tracks as required based on levels of recreational and club demand. | British Cycling | Local | M | S - M | L - M | Protect Enhance |

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|---------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--|--|------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | recreational purposes as well as by the clubs. | | | | | | | |
| 135 | Fenton Private Bowling Club | Bowls | Sports club | One good quality bowling green used by Fenton Private BC. The Club has 120 members. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | Sports club BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 138 | New Stoke Park | Bowls (Disused) | Unknown | Two disused bowling greens. | If the site is to be lost from development, mitigate in accordance with Sport England's planning policy. | BCGBA | Local | - | - | - | - |
| 138 | New Stoke Park | Tennis (Disused) | Unknown | Three disused tennis courts. | If the site is to be lost from development, mitigate in accordance with Sport England's planning policy. | LTA | Local | - | - | - | - |
| 139 | Northwood Park | Tennis | Council | One poor quality macadam court that is available for community use but is not sports lit. Court has been identified for potential LTA investment. | Work with the Council and LTA to create a bespoke plan of investment into the site including court refurbishment and accessibility options considering ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access. | LTA | Local | H | S | L | Enhance Protect |
| 139 | Northwood Park | Bowls | Council | One standard quality green used by Northwood Park BC. Membership is 22 | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 140 | Watson Road Recreation Ground | Bowls | Council | One good quality bowling green used by Trent Vale BC which has 20 members. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 145 | Oakhill Bowling & Recreation Club | Bowls | Sports club | One good quality green used by Oakhill BC. Membership is 39 | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | Sports club BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 152 | FC Hanley | Football | Sports club | One poor quality adult pitch overmarked by two mini 7v7 pitches overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch overmarked by a youth 9v9 pitch overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions. FC | Improve pitch quality with an enhanced maintenance regime. Assist the Club in acquiring additional pitches on a long term agreement in order to alleviate shortfalls. | Sports club SFA, FF | Key centre | H | S | L - M | Enhance Protect Provide |

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|---------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------|---|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| | | | | Hanley already has a lease agreement for the site, however, due to its substantial growth over the past three years, it is in need of additional pitch provision. As such, the Club reports aspirations to take on one or more sites, on a similar arrangement to its current site. | | | | | | | |
| 158 | J & G Meakin Cricket Club | Cricket | Sports club | One good quality square with nine wickets accompanied by an NTP. Square is overplayed by three match equivalent session a season. Site is on a long term lease to J & G Meakin CC from Wedgewood. The Club aspires for new practice nets. | Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore greater utilisation of NTP to alleviate overplay. Explore the feasibility of creating new practice nets on the site. Explore the feasibility of creating hybrid wickets on the site when widely available. | Sports club ECB, SCB | Local | M | M | L | Protect |
| 165 | Bakewell Street Park | Tennis Bowls (Disused) | Council | Two tennis courts and one bowling which are disused and have not been used for over 30 years. | If the site is to be lost for development, mitigate in accordance with local planning policy. | Sport England LTA BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |

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NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Summary

| Sport | Analysis area | Pitch type | Current capacity (match equivalent sessions) | Future capacity (match equivalent sessions) |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------|--|---|
| Football (grass pitches) | North | Adult | Spare capacity of 3.5 | Spare capacity of 1 |
| | | Youth 11v11 | Shortfall of 6.5 | Shortfall of 8.5 |
| | | Youth 9v9 | Shortfall of 3.5 | Shortfall of 5 |
| | | Mini 7v7 | Shortfall of 2 | Shortfall of 2 |
| | | Mini 5v5 | Shortfall of 2 | Shortfall of 5 |
| | Stoke-on-Trent | Adult | Spare capacity of 13.5 | Spare capacity of 5 |
| | | Youth 11v11 | Shortfall of 7.5 | Shortfall of 13.5 |
| | | Youth 9v9 | Shortfall of 3 | Shortfall of 7 |
| | | Mini 7v7 | Spare capacity of 0.5 | Spare capacity of 0.5 |
| | | Mini 5v5 | Shortfall of 2 | Shortfall of 10 |
| | | | | |
| Football (3G pitches) | North | Full size | Shortfall of 3 | Shortfall of 3 |
| | | | | |
| Cricket | North | Saturday | Shortfall of 6 | Shortfall of 6 |
| | | Sunday | Shortfall of 6 | Shortfall of 6 |
| | | Midweek | Shortfall of 6 | Shortfall of 6 |
| | Stoke-on-Trent | Saturday | Shortfall of 27 | Shortfall of 51 |
| | | Sunday | Shortfall of 27 | Shortfall of 33 |
| | | Midweek | Shortfall of 19 | Shortfall of 35 |
| | | | | |
| Rugby union | North | Senior | At capacity | At capacity |
| | Stoke-on-Trent | Senior | Shortfall of 5.25 | Shortfall of 8.25 |

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| Hockey (sand AGPs) | Stoke-on-Trent | Full size | Spare capacity (three pitches) | Spare capacity (three pitches) |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Golf | Stoke-on-Trent | Facilities | Demand is being met | Demand is being met |
| Tennis | Stoke-on-Trent | Courts | Demand is being met | Demand is being met |
| Bowls | Stoke-on-Trent | Greens | Demand is being met | Demand is being met |
| Other sports | Stoke-on-Trent | - | Demand is being met | Demand is being met |

Recommendations

| Sport | Priority recommendations |
|-------------|---|
| Football | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites. Examples include Kidsgrove FC Development Centre and The Hardman Centre. ◀ Improve security of tenure at key sites such as Burnwood Community School, Milton Primary Academy and Norton Cricket Club & Miners Welfare Institute. ◀ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs. ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required. |
| 3G pitches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Establish additional 3G pitches, potentially at a single location via a hub site development, through converting sand-based AGPs or via existing aspirations (or a combination). ◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. |
| Cricket | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Alleviate overplay at Sandyford Cricket Club. ◀ Improve quality at Sandyford Cricket Club and sustain quality of other squares. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required. |
| Rugby union | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required. |
| Hockey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect at least one full size sand based AGP for potential future community hockey needs. |

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| Sport | Priority recommendations |
|--------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Ensure pitches remain sustainable if and when additional 3G pitches are established. ◀ Consider conversion of pitches to 3G to ensure long-term sustainability and to reduce 3G shortfalls (as opposed to creating a 3G hub site). |
| Golf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision that is in use. ◀ Consider future uses of Goldenhill Golf Course. |
| Bowls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure any development of disused provision meets Sport England requirements. ◀ Improve quality at Tunstall Park. |
| Tennis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Seek to improve park courts such as at Tunstall Park and Burslem Park via implementation of LTA products. |

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|---------|----------------------------|----------|-------------|--|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3 | Abbey Hulton Utd | Football | Sports club | One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. Site is suitable for Step 6 football however is accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision which is affecting growth, also may impact the club being promoted to Step 5. The Club also has ambitions to acquire additional land next to the site to create more pitches. | Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of the assisting the Club in improving ancillary provision to enable to grow and to meet the respective requirement to allow it to progress through the football pyramid. Explore the feasibility of the Club acquiring additional land to create more pitches. | Sports club SFA FF | Local | M | S | M - H | Protect Enhance Provide |
| 3 | Abbey Hulton Utd | Hockey | Sports club | One disused small size sand based hockey suitable AGP, Abbey Hulton Utd aspires to refurbish this pitch to 3G. The Club would need assistance in funding for this project. | Consider assisting the Club to refurbish the disused hockey suitable AGP to a 3G surface but consider this against potential hub site developments to ensure a 3G oversupply is not created. | Sports club EH SFA FF | Local | M | M | M | Enhance |
| 7 | Ball Green | Football | Council | Two adult and one mini 7v7 pitch all of which are poor quality. Spare capacity on the adult pitches has been discounted due to quality whereas the mini 7v7 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. | Explore the feasibility of agreeing a long-term licence/lease agreement of the site to a suitable club. If a long-term agreement is agreed with a club, assist it in improving current pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime and explore the feasibility of creating additional pitches with a focus on youth provision given existing shortfalls. | SFA FF | Local | M | S | L - M | Protect Enhance |
| 8 | Ball Green Primary Academy | Football | Education | One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch both of which are poor quality and not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |

⁹ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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| 10 | Bradeley Football Centre | Football / 3G | Sports club | Two poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed by one match equivalent session. Two poor quality youth 11v11 which are played to capacity. Recently, Port Vale Foundation has provided a press release regarding its ambition to create a community sports campus which will link development at the site with Dimensions Leisure Centre / Sproson Park. The aim is to develop an exciting set of proposals to benefit the community and residents across the City as well as to pave the way for the Club to develop its own training pitches and facilities and further develop training pitches that are nearby in for community use. | Assist Port Vale Foundation in its ambitions to create a community sports campus across the site. This should include relevant pitch enhancement, ancillary improvements and potential 3G development as required, whilst ensuring no overall loss of playing field land (in line with planning policy). | Sports club SFA FF | Key centre | H | M - L | H | Protect Enhance Provide |
| 12 | Burnwood Community School | Football | Education | One adult pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. | Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Examine securing tenure for community users via a CUA. | Education SFA FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 14 | Bycars Park | Football | Council | One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. | Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance. Look to use spare capacity to accommodate future demand / alleviate overplay. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect |
| 16 | Caverswall Cricket Club | Cricket | Sports club | A good quality square with 14 wicket which has no spare capacity to accommodate further demand. The Club indicates a need for additional space for training. | Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the creation of a NTP to alleviate overplay. Explore the feasibility of creating hybrid wickets on the site when widely available. Explore the feasibility of creating additional training facilities. | Sports club ECB, SCB | Local | M | M | L | Protect Enhance |

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|---------|----------------------------|----------|------------|---|---|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 17 | Chatterley Whitfield | Football | Council | One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. | Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance. Look to use spare capacity to accommodate future demand / alleviate overplay. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect |
| 21 | Dimensions Leisure Centre | 3G | Council | One full size and one small size 3G pitch both of which are standard quality and sports lit. FA certification on both pitches has expired. Recently, Port Vale Foundation has provided a press release regarding its ambition to create a community sports campus which will link its development with the site and Sproson Park. The aim is to develop an exciting set of proposals to benefit the community and residents across the City as well as to pave the way for the Club to develop its own training pitches and facilities and further develop training pitches that are nearby in for community use. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to retest both 3G pitches to regain FA certification. Ensure both pitches have relevant sinking funds. Assist, where possible, in Port Vale Foundation ambitions to create a community sports campus the links to the site whilst ensuring no loss of playing field land (in line with planning policy). | SFA FF | Local | H | M - L | H | Protect Enhance Provide |
| 32 | Goldenhill Primary Academy | Football | Education | One youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch both of which are poor quality. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 33 | Grange Park | Football | Council | One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session. | Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance. Look to use spare capacity to accommodate future demand / alleviate overplay. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect |
| 33 | Grange Park | Cricket | Council | A standalone NTP. | Retain and ensure quality with regular maintenance. | ECB, SCB | Local | M | L | L | Protect |
| 34 | Greenways Primary Academy | Football | Education | One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch that are not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |

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|---------|--|----------|-------------|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 38 | Haywood Academy | Football | Education | One poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand. | Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 38 | Haywood Academy | Tennis | Education | Four poor quality concrete which are not sports lit and are not available for community use. | Look to improve court quality when required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education LTA | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 38 | Haywood Academy | Cricket | Education | A standalone NTP. | Retain and sustain quality with appropriate maintenance for curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education ECB SCB | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 40 | Hillside Primary School | Football | Education | One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 42 | Holden Lane Primary School | Football | Education | Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 44 | Kidsgrove Athletic FC Development Centre | Football | Sports club | One adult, two mini 5v5, one mini 7v7, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch all of which are poor quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity, the mini 7v7 pitch has no spare capacity at peak time, the mini 5v5 pitches has spare capacity discounted due to quality, the youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 are overplayed by 3.5 and 2.5 match equivalent sessions, respectively. The Club has plans to improve pitch drainage. The Club is in the process of obtaining a lease of the clubhouse facilities, however, cannot get a lease of the pitches at this stage. | Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility in assisting the Club improve pitch drainage in order to alleviate overplay. Assist in securing a lease of the clubhouse and look into the feasibility of giving the Club long term tenure of the pitches. | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | H | S - M | L | Protect Enhance Provide |
| 46 | Latebrook Recreation | Football | Council | One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session. | Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance. | Council SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect |

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|---------|---------------------------|----------|------------|--|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| | | | | | Look to use spare capacity to accommodate future demand / alleviate overplay. | | | | | | |
| 53 | Mill Hill Primary Academy | Football | Education | One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand. Pitch is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 54 | Milton Primary Academy | Football | Education | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Sustain pitch quality and retain as current use. Examine securing tenure for community users via a CUA. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 55 | Monks Neil | Football | Council | Two adult pitches that have spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. | Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Examine the feasibility of pitch reconfiguration in order to alleviate shortfalls for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 football. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Enhance |
| 57 | New Ford Academy | Football | Education | One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand. Pitch is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |

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|---------|--|-------------------|------------|---|--|------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 63 | Norton Cricket Club & Miners Welfare Institute | Football | CISWO | One adult, two mini 5v5, one mini 7v7, one youth 9v9 and one youth 11v11 pitch all of which are standard quality. The adult and youth 11v11 are overplayed by one and 0.5 match equivalent sessions, respectively. Remaining pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. Stoke City Women's FC & RTC reports that the ancillary provision at Norton Cricket Club & Miners Welfare Institute would benefit from being enhanced both in quality and size. Furthermore, it references a need for a dedicated female official changing room. | Sustain pitch quality with appropriate maintenance. Examine the feasibility of securing tenure for community users. Look to improve the quality of ancillary facilities including creating dedicated female official changing rooms. | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect Enhance |
| 63 | Norton Cricket Club & Miners Welfare Institute | 3G | CISWO | One small size sports lit 3G pitch. | Sustain quality and retain as current use. | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 63 | Norton Cricket Club & Miners Welfare Institute | Cricket (Disused) | CISWO | The site previously accommodated an eight wicket grass square however this has not been maintained since for several years. | Sustain and retain as current use. | ECB, SCB | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 64 | Norton-Le-Moors Primary Academy | Football | Education | One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 67 | Ormiston Horizon Academy | Football | Education | One adult pitch which is standard quality. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Sustain pitch quality and retain as current use. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 67 | Ormiston Horizon Academy | Hockey | Education | One full size sports lit hockey suitable AGP that is available for community use. Pitch is standard quality having been built in 2013. | Resurface the pitch and consider for 3G conversion given lack of community hockey demand and 3G shortfalls in the area. This should be subject to support from EH and needs to factor in if there is any internal curricular hockey | Education SFA, FF | Local | H | M | M | Protect Enhance |

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|---------|----------------------------|----------|-------------|---|---|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | demand that may warrant its protection for the sport. | | | | | | |
| 67 | Ormiston Horizon Academy | Tennis | Education | Four standard quality courts that are not sports lit and are not available for community use. | Look to improve court quality when required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education LTA | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 72 | Port Vale (Vale Park) | Football | Sports club | Two good quality adult pitches used by Port Vale FC. | Retain as current use. | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 77 | Saint Nathaniel's Academy | Football | Education | One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch which are not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 78 | Sandbach Road | Football | Council | One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch both of which are good quality. The latter pitch is played to capacity at peak time whereas the former has spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions. | Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance. Look to use spare capacity to accommodate future demand / alleviate overplay. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect |
| 78 | Sandbach Road | Cricket | Council | A standalone NTP. | Retain and ensure quality with regular maintenance. | ECB, SCB | Local | M | L | L | Protect |
| 81 | Sandyford Cricket Club | Cricket | Private | A standard quality 12 wicket square which is overplayed by six match equivalent sessions a season. Sandyford CC is currently negotiating a lease with Network Space. | Improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the creation of a NTP to alleviate overplay. Assist the Club in securing long term tenure. Explore the feasibility of creating hybrid wickets on the site when widely available. | Sports club ECB, SCB | Local | M | M | L | Protect Enhance Provide |
| 81 | Sandyford Cricket Club | Football | Private | One poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. | Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Enhance |
| 84 | Sneyd Green Primary School | Football | Education | One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁹ | Cost ¹⁰ | Aim |
|---------|--|----------|------------|--|---|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 85 | Springbank Sports Ground | Football | Council | Two adult and one youth 11v11 pitch all of which are good quality. Adult pitches are played to capacity at peak time whereas the youth 11v11 pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. Site is accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision. | Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance. Look to use spare capacity to accommodate future demand / alleviate overplay. Explore the feasibility of improving the quality of onsite ancillary facilities. | SFA, FF | Local | M | M | L - M | Protect Enhance |
| 90 | St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy | Football | Education | One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 90 | St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy | Tennis | Education | Five poor quality concrete courts that are not available for community use and are not sports lit. | Look to improve court quality when required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education LTA | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 98 | St Joseph's Catholic Academy | Football | Education | One poor quality adult pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 98 | St Joseph's Catholic Academy | Hockey | Education | One small size community available hockey suitable AGP that is not sports lit. | Retain as current use. | Education EH | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 102 | Summerbank Primary Academy | Football | Education | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Sustain pitch quality and retain as current use. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 105 | The Co-Operative Academy of Stoke-On-Trent | Hockey | Education | One full size sports lit hockey suitable AGP which is standard quality and available for community use. | Resurface the pitch and consider for 3G conversion given lack of community hockey demand and 3G shortfalls in the area. This should be subject to support from EH and needs to factor in if there is any internal curricular hockey demand that may warrant its protection for the sport. | Education EH | Local | H | M | M | Protect Enhance |
| 105 | The Co-Operative Academy of Stoke-On-Trent | Tennis | Education | Two standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are not sports lit. | Look to improve court quality when required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education LTA | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁹ | Cost ¹⁰ | Aim |
|---------|--|---------------|-------------|---|---|------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 105 | The Co-Operative Academy of Stoke-On-Trent | Cricket | Education | A standalone NTP. | Retain and sustain quality with appropriate maintenance for curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education ECB, SCB | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 110 | The Hardman Centre | Football / 3G | Sports club | Two adult, two mini 5v5, one mini 7v7, two youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches all of which are standard quality. Adult pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas the mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity at peak time. The mini 7v7, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by two, 3.5 and one match equivalent session, respectively. There is also a good quality small size sports lit 3G pitch. Site is leased to Milton United FC which has plans to install sports lights on one adult pitch (for Step football) and create a full size 3G pitch and to enlarge its clubhouse facilities. | Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility in relation to plans for the site, including installing sports lights, enlarging the clubhouse and creating a full size 3G sports lit pitch. The latter development needs to be considered against potential hub site developments to ensure a 3G oversupply is not created. If a 3G pitch is created ensure it is FA registered for competitive demand. | Sports club SFA, FF | Key centre | H | S - L | L - H | Protect Provide Enhance |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁹ | Cost ¹⁰ | Aim |
|---------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|---|--|------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 116 | Trubshaw Cross Lads & Dads | Football / 3G | Sports club | Two good quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions, two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches overplayed by three match equivalent sessions. Two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 all of which are good quality and played to capacity at peak time. Three standard quality mini 7v7 pitches that are played to capacity at peak time. Site is leased to Trubshaw Cross Lads & Dads. SFA indicates that previous aspirations for a 3G pitch to be established at Trubshaw Cross Lads & Dads is now likely to instead involve grass pitch enhancements rather than the creation of any artificial surface. | Work with the Club and relevant stakeholder (SFA/FF) to improve the quality of grass pitches on the site through enhancement maintenance and/or drainage improvements. | Sports club SFA, FF | Key centre | H | S - L | L - H | Protect Provide Enhance |
| 117 | Tunstall Park | Football | Council | One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. | Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance. Look to use spare capacity to accommodate future demand / alleviate overplay. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect |
| 117 | Tunstall Park | Tennis | Council | Two standard and two poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are not sports lit. Courts are to be improved via LTA investment with a gate access system and Clubspark implemented. Expected to be operational (via a national operator) in Spring 2024. | Ensure improvements works are carried out to a high standard and seek to maximise usage once complete. | LTA | Local | H | S | L | Enhance Protect |
| 117 | Tunstall Park | Bowls | Council | Two poor quality greens available for pay & play. Previously used by Tunstall Park BC but the Club has folded. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to increase levels of participation and reinstate demand on the site. | BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁹ | Cost ¹⁰ | Aim |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--|--|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 127 | Baddeley Green Working Men's Club | Bowls | Sports club | One good quality bowling green used by Baddeley Green BC. The Club has 24 members. It has aspirations to install sports lights. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility of installing sports lights on the site. | Sports club BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 133 | Fegg Hayes Sports & Social Club | Bowls (Disused) | Unknown | One disused bowling green. | If the site is to be lost from development, mitigate in accordance with Sport England's planning policy. | BCGBA | Local | - | - | - | - |
| 136 | Goldenhill WMC | Bowls | Sports club | One standard quality green used by Goldenhill WMC BC. Membership is unknown. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | Sports club BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 142 | Middleport Park | Bowls (Disused) | Council | Two disused bowling greens. | If the site is to be lost from development, mitigate in accordance with Sport England's planning policy. | BCGBA | Local | - | - | - | - |
| 143 | Milton Bowling Recreation Club | Bowls | Sports club | One good quality green used by Milton BC. Membership is 31. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | Sports club BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 144 | Norton Central Social Club | Bowls | Sports club | One good quality green used by Norton Central BC. The Club has 25 members. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | Sports club BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 146 | Pitts Hill WMC | Bowls | Sports club | One standard quality green used by Pitts Hill WMC BC. The Club has 40 members. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | Sports club BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 147 | Former Milton United Ground | Football | Sports club | One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session at peak time. Abbey Hulton United has recently entered into a lease arrangement for the site | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. | Council SFA, FF | Local | H | S | L - M | Protect |
| 149 | Fegg Hayes Pitch | Football | Council | One poor quality adult pitch currently unused by the community. | Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity or consider rationalisation providing any loss meets national planning policy. | Sport England SFA, FF | Local | M | S - M | L | Enhance |
| 155 | The Excel Academy | 3G | Education | Eight small sized 3G pitches that are sports lit but not available for community use. This provision until early 2021 was managed by Goals, however, as the business | Sustain pitches and retain as current use. | Education SFA, FF | Key centre | M | S | L | Protect |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ⁹ | Cost ¹⁰ | Aim |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------------|------------|--|---|----------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | has gone into liquidation they are now managed by the school. | Explore the potential in opening up the provision for community use. | | | | | | |
| 155 | The Excel Academy | Hockey | Education | One full size hockey suitable AGP which has sports lighting and is poor quality. The school has aspirations to convert the surface to 3G. | Resurface the pitch and consider for 3G conversion given lack of community hockey demand and 3G shortfalls in the area. This should be subject to support from EH and needs to factor in if there is any internal curricular hockey demand that may warrant its protection for the sport. | Education EH SFA, FF | Key centre | M | S | M - H | Protect Enhance |
| 156 | Burslem Park | Tennis | Council | Two poor quality concrete courts that are available for community use but are not sports lit. Courts are to be improved via LTA investment with a gate access system and Clubspark implemented. Expected to be operational (via a national operator) in Spring 2024. | Ensure improvements works are carried out to a high standard and seek to maximise usage once complete. | LTA | Local | H | S | L | Enhance Protect |
| 156 | Burslem Park | Bowls | Council | One standard quality green which is not currently used. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 159 | Burslem Golf Club | Golf | Members | A 9-hole golf course managed by members. Most recent England Golf affiliation data (2018) put membership at 152 which is below the national average. | Retain as appropriate and look to enhance facilities where/when appropriate. | England Golf | Local | L | L | L | Protect Enhance |
| 162 | Former Goldenhill Golf Course | Golf (Disused) | Council | Closed to public in 2011 and has since been accessed as open space by surrounding residents. The site was identified to potentially reopen circa 2019; however, after a deal could not be finalised it has remained shut. | Explore options to re-provide golf at the site or repurpose it for other sporting needs. This can be informed in collaboration with Sport England and England Golf and via a Golf Needs Assessment. | England Golf | Local | M | M | M | Protect |

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SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA

Summary

| Sport | Analysis area | Pitch type | Current capacity (match equivalent sessions) | Future capacity (match equivalent sessions) |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------|--|---|
| Football (grass pitches) | South | Adult | Spare capacity of 2.5 | Shortfall of 1.5 |
| | | Youth 11v11 | Spare capacity of 1 | Shortfall of 0.5 |
| | | Youth 9v9 | At capacity | Shortfall of 2.5 |
| | | Mini 7v7 | Spare capacity of 0.5 | Spare capacity of 0.5 |
| | | Mini 5v5 | At capacity | Shortfall of 2.5 |
| | Stoke-on-Trent | Adult | Spare capacity of 13.5 | Spare capacity of 5 |
| | | Youth 11v11 | Shortfall of 7.5 | Shortfall of 13.5 |
| | | Youth 9v9 | Shortfall of 3 | Shortfall of 7 |
| | | Mini 7v7 | Spare capacity of 0.5 | Spare capacity of 0.5 |
| | | Mini 5v5 | Shortfall of 2 | Shortfall of 10 |
| | | | | |
| Football (3G pitches) | South | Full size | At capacity | At capacity |
| | | | | |
| Cricket | South | Saturday | Shortfall of 18 | Shortfall of 42 |
| | | Sunday | Shortfall of 18 | Shortfall of 24 |
| | | Midweek | Shortfall of 18 | Shortfall of 22 |
| | Stoke-on-Trent | Saturday | Shortfall of 27 | Shortfall of 51 |
| | | Sunday | Shortfall of 27 | Shortfall of 33 |
| | | Midweek | Shortfall of 19 | Shortfall of 35 |
| | | | | |

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| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Rugby union | South | Senior | Shortfall of 5.25 | Shortfall of 8.25 |
| | Stoke-on-Trent | Senior | Shortfall of 5.25 | Shortfall of 8.25 |
| | | | | |
| Hockey (sand AGPs) | Stoke-on-Trent | Full size | No demand | No demand |
| Golf | Stoke-on-Trent | Facilities | Sufficient levels | Sufficient levels |
| Tennis | Stoke-on-Trent | Courts | Spare capacity | Spare capacity |
| Bowls | Stoke-on-Trent | Greens | Spare capacity | Spare capacity |
| Other sports | Stoke-on-Trent | - | Spare capacity | Spare capacity |

Recommendations

| Sport | Priority recommendations |
|------------|--|
| Football | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites, especially those that are poor quality (none are overplayed). Examples include Bakersfield/Poplars Drive and Trentham Community Sports Centre. ◀ Where pitches remain overplayed, seek the transfer of demand. ◀ Improve security of tenure at key sites such as Florence Colliery Social Welfare Centre, Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy, St Thomas More Catholic Academy, and Trentham Community Sports Centre. ◀ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs. ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required. |
| 3G pitches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. ◀ Consider installation of an additional pitch if demand can be evidenced or if future growth requires such provision. |
| Cricket | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Alleviate overplay at Longton Cricket Club and Hanford Cricket Club |

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| Sport | Priority recommendations |
|-------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Improve quality at Hanford Cricket Club and sustain quality of other squares. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required. |
| Rugby union | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve quality at Longton and Trentham rugby clubs to reduce overplay. ◀ Explore the feasibility of increasing sports lighting at the sites. ◀ Consider pitch and ancillary enhancements at Trentham Rugby Club via potential S106 contributions. |
| Hockey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Provide the pitch at Trentham Community Sports Centre to a good quality and ensure long-term security of tenure for North Stafford HC. |
| Golf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. |
| Bowls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure any development of disused provision meets Sport England requirements. |
| Tennis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Seek to improve park courts such as at Longton Park and Hanford Park via implementation of LTA products. |

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STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ¹¹ | Cost ¹² | Aim |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 2 | Abbey Hill School & College | Football | Education | One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch both of which are standard quality and unavailable for community use. | Sustain pitch quality and retain as current use. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 2 | Abbey Hill School & College | Rugby union | Education | One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch that is not available for community use. | Sustain pitch quality and retain as current use. | Education RFU | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 4 | Alexandra Junior School | Football | Education | One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 6 | Ash Green Primary School | Football | Education | One mini 5v5 and one youth 9v9 pitch both of which are poor quality and unavailable for community use. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 24 | Edensor Technology College | Football Rugby union Cricket Tennis (Disused) | Council | Edensor Technology College closed in 2013 with the school building being demolished shortly afterwards. The accompanying playing fields, which accommodated two adult football pitches, one senior rugby union pitch, four tennis courts and an NTP, have been left unused since this date and are therefore now considered disused. Site is currently undergoing a separate mitigation strategy. | Continue with the development of a Mitigation Strategy to inform requirements and ensure the site is protected from development until all demand is met unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls. | SFA, FF RFU ECB, SCB LTA | Local | H | - | - | - |
| 25 | Fallowfields | Football | Council | One good quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent sessions at peak time. | Sustain pitch quality through an appropriate maintenance regime. Examine the feasibility of pitch reconfiguration in order to alleviate shortfalls for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 football. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Protect |

¹¹ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹² (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ¹¹ | Cost ¹² | Aim |
|---------|---|----------|------------|---|---|------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 28 | Florence Colliery Social Welfare Centre | Football | CISWO | One adult and one youth 9v9 both of which are good quality. Adult pitch is played to capacity whereas the youth 9v9 is played to capacity at peak time. Florence FC reports its main site is operating close to capacity at peak time. The Club indicates strong aspirations to increase levels of demand and wants to enter into a dialogue with the Council to understand if there are any potential sites in its locality it may be able to lease or licence. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to formalise tenure for Florence FC on the site with a long term lease or licence agreement. Enter into a dialogue between the Club and Council to understand the feasibility of it taking on a lease or licence agreement of another site. | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | L | M | L | Protect Provide |
| 28 | Florence Colliery Social Welfare Centre | 3G | CISWO | One small size sports lit 3G pitch used primarily by Florence FC. | Sustain quality and retain as current use. | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 28 | Florence Colliery Social Welfare Centre | Bowls | CISWO | One good quality bowling green used by Florence Colliery BC. The Club has 50 members and aspires to improve ancillary provision despite the lack of funding. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. Assist the Club where possible in improving ancillary provision. | BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect Enhance |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ¹¹ | Cost ¹² | Aim |
|---------|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 29 | Foley Football Club (Whitcombe Road) | Football | Sports club | One good quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. Pitch is suitable for Step 7 football. The Club is carrying drainage works over the next five years in conjunction with SFA. It also has planning permission to build a new clubhouse and to erect sports lights on its first team pitch, with works nearly complete. The site adjacent to the Club, Whitcombe Road Playing Fields, has plans to be developed for a new high school (Florence MacWilliams Academy). Set to come online in 2024 if approved, initial plans include a full size 3G pitch with four dedicated grass football pitches and there are also plans to collaborate the development with Foley Meir FC to provide the Club with additional capacity for growth. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure the Club's building of a new clubhouse and erection of sports lights is completed to a good quality to allow it to progress through the football pyramid. Ensure that if the new school is approved to secure community access for Foley Meir FC of the grass pitches and 3G. | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | H | M - L | M - H | Protect Enhance Provide |
| 39 | Hem Heath Cricket Club | Cricket | Sports club | A good quality square with 14 wickets which does not have spare capacity to accommodate other demand. | Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility of creating hybrid wickets on the site when widely available. | Sports club ECB, SCB | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 48 | Longton Cricket Club | Cricket | Sports club | A good quality square with 12 wickets overplayed by 18 match equivalent sessions a season. | Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the creation of a NTP to alleviate overplay. Explore the feasibility of creating hybrid wickets on the site when widely available, if cost-effective and able to be used for match play. | Sports club ECB, SCB | Local | M | M | L | Protect Enhance |
| 48 | Longton Cricket Club | Bowls | Sports club | One good quality bowling green used by Hem Heath BC. The Club has 14 members. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | Sports club BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |

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|---------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|---|--|------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 49 | Longton Park | Football | Council | Two adult pitches that have spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. | Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Examine the feasibility of pitch reconfiguration in order to alleviate shortfalls for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 football. | SFA, FF | Local | L | S | L | Enhance |
| 49 | Longton Park | Tennis | Council | Three poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are not sports lit. Courts are to be improved via LTA investment with a gate access system and Clubspark implemented. Expected to be operational (via a national operator) in Spring 2024. | Ensure improvements works are carried out to a high standard and seek to maximise usage once complete. | LTA | Local | H | S | L | Enhance Protect |
| 49 | Longton Park | Bowls (Disused) | Council | Three disused bowling greens. | No bowls requirement; consider re-purposing for other sporting needs or for open space purposes. | BCGBA | Local | L | S | L | Protect |
| 50 | Longton Rugby Football Club | Football | Sports club | Two standard quality adult pitches that have actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions at peak time. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate overplay or to accommodate future demand. | Sports club SFA, FF | Key centre | L | L | L | Protect |
| 50 | Longton Rugby Football Club | 3G | Sports club | One good quality small size sports lit 3G pitch refurbished in 2021. | Sustain quality with appropriate maintenance and retain as current use. | Sports club SFA, FF | Key centre | L | L | L | Protect |
| 50 | Longton Rugby Football Club | Rugby union | Sports club | Two age grade pitches and three senior pitches all of which are standard quality (M1/D2). Two of the senior pitches are sports lit. One of the sports lit pitches is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions. All remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. The Club aspires to carry out higher levels of maintenance but would require funding assistance to support this. | Improve levels of maintenance in order to reduce the amount of overplay. Explore increasing levels of sports lighting and dispersal of demand more evenly across each pitch. | Sports club RFU | Key centre | M | M | L - M | Protect Enhance |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ¹¹ | Cost ¹² | Aim |
|---------|------------------------------|-------------|------------|---|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 59 | Newstead Primary Academy | Football | Education | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Sustain pitch quality and retain as current use. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 60 | Lysander Road | Football | Council | One adult pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. | Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity or consider rationalisation providing any loss meets national planning policy. | Sport England SFA, FF | Local | M | S - M | L | Enhance |
| 61 | Normacot Recreation Ground | Football | Council | One good quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. | SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 68 | Ormiston Meridian Academy | Football | Education | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is available for community use. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Sustain pitch quality and retain as current use. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 68 | Ormiston Meridian Academy | Rugby union | Education | One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that is available for community use. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Sustain pitch quality and retain as current use. | Education RFU | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 68 | Ormiston Meridian Academy | Tennis | Education | Two standard quality macadam courts that are not sports lit and are not available for community use. | Look to improve court quality when required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education LTA | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 68 | Ormiston Meridian Academy | Cricket | Education | A standalone NTP. | Retain and sustain quality with appropriate maintenance for curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education ECB SCB | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 73 | Powerleague | 3G | Commercial | Ten small sized sports lit 3G pitches that are community available. Planning permission has been granted to create a another 7v7 size small 3G. | Sustain quality and retain as current use. Assist where possible in the creation of the additional 3G pitch. | SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 75 | Priory C of E Primary School | Football | Education | One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ¹¹ | Cost ¹² | Aim |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------|--|---|----------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 80 | Sandon Primary Academy | Football | Education | One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. Examine securing tenure for community users via a CUA. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance Protect |
| 82 | Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy | Football | Education | Four standard quality adult pitches that have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to formalise community use with a CUA in order to access spare capacity. | Education SFA, FF | Key centre | L | L | L | Protect |
| 82 | Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy | 3G | Education | One full size sports lit 3G pitch that is on the FA register and is standard quality. | Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure the pitch remains on the FA register. Ensure there is a sinking fund in place for the eventual refurbishment. | Education SFA, FF | Key centre | L | S - L | L | Protect |
| 82 | Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy | Rugby union | Education | One poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch that is available for community use. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education RFU | Key centre | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 82 | Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy | Tennis | Education | Three good quality macadam courts that are not sports lit but are available for community use. | Sustain court quality. | Education LTA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 87 | St Gregory's Catholic Academy | Football | Education | Two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches that are not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 95 | St Thomas More Catholic Academy | Football | Education | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance. | Education SFA, FF | Key centre | L | L | L | Protect |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ¹¹ | Cost ¹² | Aim |
|---------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 95 | St Thomas More Catholic Academy | 3G | Education | One good quality full size sports lit 3G pitch. FA certification has expired. The school indicates that it is open to enter dialogue with Blurton Reds FC to become an anchor tenant and have secured access to its 3G and grass pitch provision. However, the School reports that if this were to occur it would need to look at potential funding streams to create new ancillary provision which is separate the school and also closer to the 3G pitch. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance. Explore retesting the pitch for FA certification Explore formalising a community use agreement between the School and Blurton Reds FC for the use of the 3G and grass pitches. If a long term agreement can be secured explore options to establish new ancillary provision closer to the 3G. | Education SFA, FF | Key centre | M | S - M | L - M | Protect Enhance Provide |
| 95 | St Thomas More Catholic Academy | Rugby union | Education | One poor quality (M0/D1) junior pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education RFU | Key centre | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 95 | St Thomas More Catholic Academy | Tennis | Education | Four standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are not sports lit. | Look to improve court quality when required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education LTA | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 96 | St Augustines Catholic Academy | Football | Education | One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 100 | Stoke City FC (Bet365 Stadium) | Football | Elite sports | One good quality stadium pitch. | Retain as current use. | Elite sports SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ¹¹ | Cost ¹² | Aim |
|---------|---|---------------|--------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 101 | Stoke City FC Academy Dome (Indoor) | Football / 3G | Elite sports | One small size indoor 3G pitch that is FA certified. In order to better accommodate its current level of demand, Stoke City Community Trust plans to refurbish the indoor 3G pitch and carry out general repairs to the Academy Dome facility. Furthermore, it aspires to create a new full size indoor 3G pitch and an adult grass pitch; however, to do this it would require additional land. The Trust indicates that it is looking to take on any land close to its Academy Dome facility on a long term agreement in order to progress the project. | Assist Stoke City Community Trust plans to develop the site including the refurbishment of the current small size 3G pitch, general maintenance of ancillary provision and acquisition of additional land in order to create grass pitches. If an additional full size 3G pitch is created, explore community use opportunities and assess impact against hub site developments to ensure an oversupply of 3G provision is not created. | Elite sports SFA FF | Local | M | L | L - H | Protect Provide Enhance |
| 106 | The Crescent Academy | Football | Education | One mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all of which are poor quality and not available for community use. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 106 | The Crescent Academy | Hockey | Education | One small size community hockey suitable AGP which is not available for community use and is not sports lit. | Retain as current use. | Education EH | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 111 | The Meadows Primary Academy (Formerly Blurton Primary School) | Football | Education | One standard quality mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5, one mini 7v7, one youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches all of which are good quality. All pitches, apart from the mini 5v5 and standard quality mini 7v7, are played to capacity at peak time. These pitches have one and 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity, respectively. Blurton Reds FC reports potential aspirations to take on the site via a long term licence or lease agreement. | Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to formally secure tenure on the site for community users with a potential agreement with Blurton Reds FC. | Education Sports club SFA, FF | Local | H | S - M | L - M | Protect Enhance |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ¹¹ | Cost ¹² | Aim |
|---------|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|---|---|----------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 114 | Trentham Community Sports Centre | Football | Education | One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch both of which are poor quality. The adult pitch has spare capacity discounted due to quality whereas the youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. Examine securing tenure for community users via a CUA. | Education SFA, FF | Key site | M | L | L | Enhance Protect |
| 114 | Trentham Community Sports Centre | Rugby union | Education | One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch that is available for community use. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education RFU | Key site | M | L | L | Enhance |
| 114 | Trentham Community Sports Centre | Hockey | Education | A new full size sand-based pitch that is to be developed and which will cater primarily for demand from North Stafford HC. | Ensure the pitch is provided to a good quality and that a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Provide security of tenure to North Stafford HC and other potential hockey users to protect the pitch for such use. | Education EH | Key site | M | S | M | Protect |
| 114 | Trentham Community Sports Centre | Tennis | Education | Four standard quality concrete courts that are available for community use but are not sports lit. | Look to improve court quality when required to meet levels of curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education LTA | Key site | M | S | L | Enhance |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ¹¹ | Cost ¹² | Aim |
|---------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|--|---|--------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 115 | Trentham RUFC | Rugby union | Sports club | One good quality (M2/D2) senior pitch which is not sports lit and played to capacity at peak time. One good quality (M2/D2) senior pitch which is sports lit and overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions and one standard quality (M1/D2) junior pitch that is played to capacity. Trentham RUFC is in the process of obtaining an additional strip of land, from private ownership, in order to create additional playing field land. If it is successful, it plans to expand its current junior pitch to the size of a senior pitch. The Club is also situated adjacent to a large-scale development of between 400-500 houses and a new primary school, with S106 monies secured. It indicates aspirations to utilise this to enhance its facilities further whilst also catering for future levels of population increases from the housing growth and potential curricular/extracurricular demand from the primary school. This would include the creation of a WR compliant 3G pitch on the site and improvements to its clubhouse to better cater women, girls' and mini demand. | Assist Trentham RUFC in its plans to obtain additional land in order to enlarge its junior pitch to senior. Explore the feasibility of creating additional sports lighting on the pitches in order to disperse training demand. Use S106 monies in order to make relevant improvements to the site to better cater for future demand. Consider 3G aspirations against other 3G proposals, particularly in relation to potential hub site developments, to ensure a 3G pitch oversupply is not created. | Sports club RFU | Local | H | M | M | Protect Enhance |
| 118 | Watery Lane Playing Fields | Football | Council | One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 both of which are good quality. Each pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities. | Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity to alleviate overplay or to accommodate future demand. Explore options to improve changing facilities. | Council SFA, FF | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 118 | Watery Lane Playing Fields | Cricket | Council | A standalone NTP. | Retain and ensure quality with regular maintenance. | ECB, SCB | Local | M | L | L | Protect |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ¹¹ | Cost ¹² | Aim |
|---------|--------------------------------|----------|-------------|---|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 119 | Weston Junior Academy | Football | Education | One poor quality youth 9v9 that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. | Improve pitch quality as required to better meet curricular and extracurricular demand. | Education RFU | Local | L | L | L | Enhance |
| 120 | Whitcombe Playing Fields | Football | Council | The site has previously accommodated a youth 9v9 and adult pitch as late as 2012, although these are no longer marked out. However, the site is still used for formal training activity. A proposal exists to develop a new high school (Florence MacWilliams Academy) at the site. Set to come online in 2024 if approved, initial plans include a full size 3G pitch with four dedicated grass football pitches and there are also plans to collaborate the development with Foley Meir FC to provide the Club with additional capacity for growth. This will, however, entail the loss of playing field land. | Ensure any development meets Sports England Planning Policy. Ensure that if the new school provides secure community access for Foley Meir FC and other clubs, both in relation to the grass pitches and 3G. | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | H | M-L | H | Protect Provide |
| 134 | Florence Tennis & Bowling Club | Tennis | Sports club | Four good quality artificial turf courts which are sports lit and available for community use. The Club has aspirations to create indoor courts, although space is limited. It also suggests that ancillary provision will need enhancing if demand increases. | Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility of creating dedicated indoor courts or an alternative, in cohesion with the LTA. Explore the feasibility of enhancing the quality of ancillary provision. | Sports club LTA | Key centre | L | L | L | Protect Enhance |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ¹¹ | Cost ¹² | Aim |
|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|---|---|------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 134 | Florence Tennis & Bowling Club | Bowls | Sports club | One good and one standard quality bowling green both used by Florence T&BC. The Club has 90 members and has aspirations to create new sports lights onsite. The Club is also looking at development options in relation to one of its greens, which is said to be no longer required for bowls. | Sustain good quality green with appropriate levels of maintenance and explore the feasibility of creating sports lights on the site. Consider development options for the standard quality green providing that all demand can be accommodated on the other green and that the development is for sport (e.g., to expand the tennis offering). | Sports club BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect Enhance |
| 137 | Hanford Park | Tennis | Council | One poor quality macadam court that is available for community use but is not sports lit. Court has been identified for potential LTA investment. | Work with the Council and LTA to create a bespoke plan of investment into the site including court refurbishment and accessibility options considering ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access. | LTA | Local | H | S | L | Enhance Protect |
| 141 | Meir 45 Club | Bowls (Disused) | Unknown | Two disused bowling greens. | If the site is to be lost from development, mitigate in accordance with local planning policy. | BCGBA | Local | - | - | - | - |
| 148 | Lightwood Bowling Club | Bowls | Council | One standard quality green used by Lightwood BC. The Club has 55 members. | Sustain green with appropriate levels of maintenance. | BCGBA | Local | L | L | L | Protect |
| 153 | Barkersfield/Poplar Drive | Football | Sports club | One mini 7v7, one youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches all of which are poor quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity at peak time whereas the mini 7v7 and youth 9v9 pitches have actual spare capacity discounted due to quality. The site has been identified for pitch improvement funding by SFA. | Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Utilise funding by the SFA to improve and then sustain pitch quality. | Sports club SFA, FF | Local | H | S | M | Enhance |
| 154 | St Pauls CofE Primary School | Hockey | Education | One small size community hockey suitable AGP which is not available for community use and is not sports lit. | Retain as current use. | Education EH | Local | L | L | L | Protect |

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| Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales ¹¹ | Cost ¹² | Aim |
|---------|------------------------------|---------|-------------|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 157 | Hanford Cricket Club | Cricket | Sports club | A standard quality square with 12 wickets that is played to capacity. Nets need refurbished and there are aspirations for a mobile cage. | <p>Improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.</p> <p>Explore the creation of a NTP to create additional capacity.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of creating additional training facilities.</p> | Sports club ECB, SCB | Local | M | M | L | Protect Enhance |
| 160 | Lightwood Golf Driving Range | Golf | Proprietary | A proprietary owned driving range which offers a mixture of sports lit, open aired and covered bays. In total there are 20 bays. | Retain as appropriate and look to enhance facilities where/when appropriate. | England Golf | Local | L | L | L | Protect Enhance |
| 161 | Trentham Golf Club | Golf | Members | An 18 hole golf course managed by members. Most recent England Golf affiliation data (2018) put membership at 152 which is below the national average. | Retain as appropriate and look to enhance facilities where/when appropriate. | England Golf | Local | L | L | L | Protect Enhance |

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2040 (in line with the emerging new Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converting the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision and splits the total pitch requirement into natural turf pitches to meet peak period demand, artificial grass pitches to meet training demand, and the additional number of changing rooms required.

The scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions; where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on sports-lit grass pitches.

As the new Local Plan is still under development, the Council is still considering options surrounding population forecasting. However, for the purposes of the below scenarios, it is assumed that it will use the standard methodology (with a strategic uplift factored in), although a bespoke economic forecast model is a possibility.

The scenarios are as follows:

- ◀ **Scenario One** - Standard method (+uplift) suggests a minimum need for 679 dwellings per annum.
- ◀ **Scenario Two** - Standard method (+uplift) suggests a minimum need for 13,580 dwellings over the Plan Period (2040).

For reference, strategic uplift refers to growth above that which is suggested solely upon standard methodology. Furthermore, the indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.3¹³ per dwelling.

Scenario One – Standard method (+uplift) per annum

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 679 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household is 1,562 people.

¹³ The occupancy rate of 2.3 is in line with figures used in the 2011 Census.

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Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 679 dwellings

| Pitch sport | Estimated demand by sport for 679 dwellings | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| | Match demand per week ¹⁴ | Training demand ¹⁵ |
| Adult football | 0.25 | 1.91 hours |
| Youth football | 0.45 | |
| Mini soccer | 0.25 | |
| Rugby union | 0.07 | 0.06 match equivalent sessions |
| Rugby league | 0.00 | 0.00 match equivalent sessions |
| Adult hockey | 0.00 | 0.00 hours |
| Junior & mixed hockey | 0.00 | 0.00 hours |
| Cricket | 4.06 | - |

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

¹⁴ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

¹⁵ Hours equate to access to a full size sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

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Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

| Pitch type | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches | | | Changing rooms | |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--|----------------|--------------|
| | Number of pitches to meet demand | Capital cost ¹⁶ | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ¹⁷ | Number | Capital cost |
| Adult football | 0.25 | £23,151 | £4,885 | 0.51 | £79,871 |
| Youth football | 0.45 | £32,411 | £6,806 | 0.52 | £81,773 |
| Mini soccer | 0.25 | £5,788 | £1,215 | 0 | £0 |
| Rugby union | 0.07 | £8,971 | £1,920 | 0.14 | £22,107 |
| Rugby league | 0 | £0 | £0 | 0 | £0 |
| Cricket | 0.09 | £23,520 | £4,751 | 0.18 | £27,507 |
| Sand based AGPs | 0.05 | £45,464 | £1,849 | 0.1 | £15,764 |
| 3G | 0.05 | £45,464 | £1,849 | 0.1 | £15,764 |

Scenario Two – Standard method (+uplift) over the Plan Period

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 13,580 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household is 31,234 people.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 13,580 dwellings

| Pitch sport | Estimated demand by sport for 13,580 dwellings | |
|----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | Match demand per week ¹⁸ | Training demand ¹⁹ |
| Adult football | 5.09 | 38.15 hours |

¹⁶ Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2022 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

¹⁷ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England’s Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

¹⁸ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

¹⁹ Hours equate to access to a full size sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

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| Pitch sport | Estimated demand by sport for 13,580 dwellings | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | Match demand per week ¹⁸ | Training demand ¹⁹ |
| Youth football | 8.90 | |
| Mini soccer | 5.09 | |
| Rugby union | 1.41 | 1.67 match equivalent sessions |
| Rugby league | 0.00 | 0.00 match equivalent sessions |
| Adult hockey | 0.00 | 0.00 hours |
| Junior & mixed hockey | 0.00 | 0.00 hours |
| Cricket | 81.15 | - |

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

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

| Pitch type | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches | | | Changing rooms | |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--|----------------|--------------|
| | Number of pitches to meet demand | Capital cost ²⁰ | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²¹ | Number | Capital cost |
| Adult football | 5.09 | £462,930 | £97,678 | 10.17 | £1,597,110 |
| Youth football | 8.9 | £648,103 | £136,102 | 10.42 | £1,635,137 |
| Mini soccer | 5.09 | £115,733 | £24,304 | 0 | £0 |
| Rugby union | 1.41 | £179,386 | £38,389 | 2.82 | £442,057 |
| Rugby league | 0 | £0 | £0 | 0 | £0 |
| Cricket | 1.75 | £470,311 | £95,003 | 3.5 | £550,025 |
| Sand based AGPs | 0 | £0 | £0 | 0 | £0 |
| 3G | 1 | £909,110 | £36,964 | 2.01 | £315,219 |

²⁰ Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2022 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

²¹ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England’s Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

Summary

The examples above show that, through overall housing growth, demand will be generated for each playing pitch sport and pitch type, and this will be considerable enough to necessitate the creation of new pitches when viewed collectively. However, as shown in the first scenario, most developments are unlikely to result in the need for new provision, with demand from annual housing growth equating to less than a whole pitch for any sport. In instances such as this, contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g., to select suitable sites).

Notwithstanding the above, the Council are continuing to consider the evidence in relation to housing need through the Local Plan process. Until this is agreed and consulted on through the emerging Local Plan, the above scenarios only provide a broad indication of the demand that will be generated from each method and the potential monies which could be generated from S106/CIL.

At this stage there is no indication on specific site allocations meaning it is difficult to determine if onsite provision would be required at certain locations. When site allocations are outlined, the Council should work with relevant stakeholders and use the PPS, in conjunction with the Playing Pitch Calculator, to understand if onsite provision would be required, if contributions should be secured to improving existing sites, or if contributions should be pooled together to establish larger sites. This approach would minimise the potential of establishing single pitch sites which are not considered to provide long term sustainability for pitch sports.

Another determining factor which should be examined, in conjunction with the above, is the scarcity of suitable land for development. Anecdotal evidence suggests there are limited sites available of sufficient size which would result in enough demand for onsite provision. This would further support the approach of pooling monies to contribute to the development of larger sites or the improving of existing provision.

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

The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver the PPS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date (which this update seeks to do). However, a more tailored approach should also be considered for Stoke-on-Trent, aligning with the processes adopted by other local authorities in the region. An example of this is shown at the end of this section.

Delivery

The PPS provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Stoke-on-Trent. By addressing issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, where resources can be identified the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Authority could be met. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

To help ensure the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on 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 updating 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 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. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the steering group could operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

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It is agreed that the Council is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up to date in order that area-by-area action plans can be updated. Partnership working is essential in enabling the supply and demand data to be kept up to date. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

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

A review should not be regarded as a particular resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How 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 or reduce 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 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 that the PPS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives.
- ◀ Maintains links between relevant parties with an interest in local outdoor sports provision;
- ◀ 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

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- ◀ Lead a full review and update of the PPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

Alongside regular Steering Group meetings a good way to keep the PPS up to date and maintain relationships is to hold annual sport specific meetings with pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These could be part of a process of updating key supply and demand information plus, if necessary, amending assessment work, tracking progress in respect of implementing action plan recommendations and highlighting new issues and opportunities.

Meetings could be timed to coincide with annual NGB affiliation processes. This would help to signal 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 should also feed into these meetings.

NGBs will also be able to confirm any further performance quality assessments undertaken within the study area.

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Checklists

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

| Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy | Tick ✓ | |
|--|--------|--------------------|
| | Yes | Requires Attention |
| Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan | ✓ | |
| 1. Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions? | | |
| 2. Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information? | ✓ | |
| 3. Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work? | ✓ | |
| 4. Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them? | ✓ | |
| 5. Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions? | ✓ | |
| 6. Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented? | ✓ | |
| 7. Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed? | ✓ | |
| 8. Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand? | ✓ | |
| 9. Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided? | ✓ | |
| 10. Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches? | ✓ | |
| 11. Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented? | ✓ | |
| 12. Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented? | ✓ | |

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|---|---|--|
| 13. Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches? | ✓ | |
| 14. Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use? | ✓ | |
| 15. Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)? | ✓ | |
| 16. Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17? | ✓ | |
| 17. Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver? | ✓ | |
| 18. Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects? | ✓ | |
| Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy | ✓ | |
| 1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20? | | |
| 2. Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve? | ✓ | |
| 3. Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so? | ✓ | |
| 4. Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation? | ✓ | |
| 5. Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area? | ✓ | |
| 6. Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments? | ✓ | |

To help ensure the 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:

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| 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? | | |

For more information, see:

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>

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Example tailored approach

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

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