



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF
T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@kcp.co.uk www.kcp.co.uk



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CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ABBREVIATIONS

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is an update to the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Cheshire East, originally completed in March 2017. 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years of the work being signed off, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) will consider it to be out of date.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. This update therefore extends the lifespan of the PPS to 2022.

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

The Strategy is capable of:

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

Agreed scope

The PPS covers the following playing pitches including accompanying ancillary facilities:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ◀ Cricket squares
- ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ◀ Hockey pitches (Sand/water based AGPs)
- ◀ Lacrosse pitches

Please note that rugby league pitches have not been included as there is no recorded provision within Cheshire East and no existing or future demand identified.

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Study area

Cheshire East is a unitary authority with a population of 370,100 and an area of 116,638 hectares.

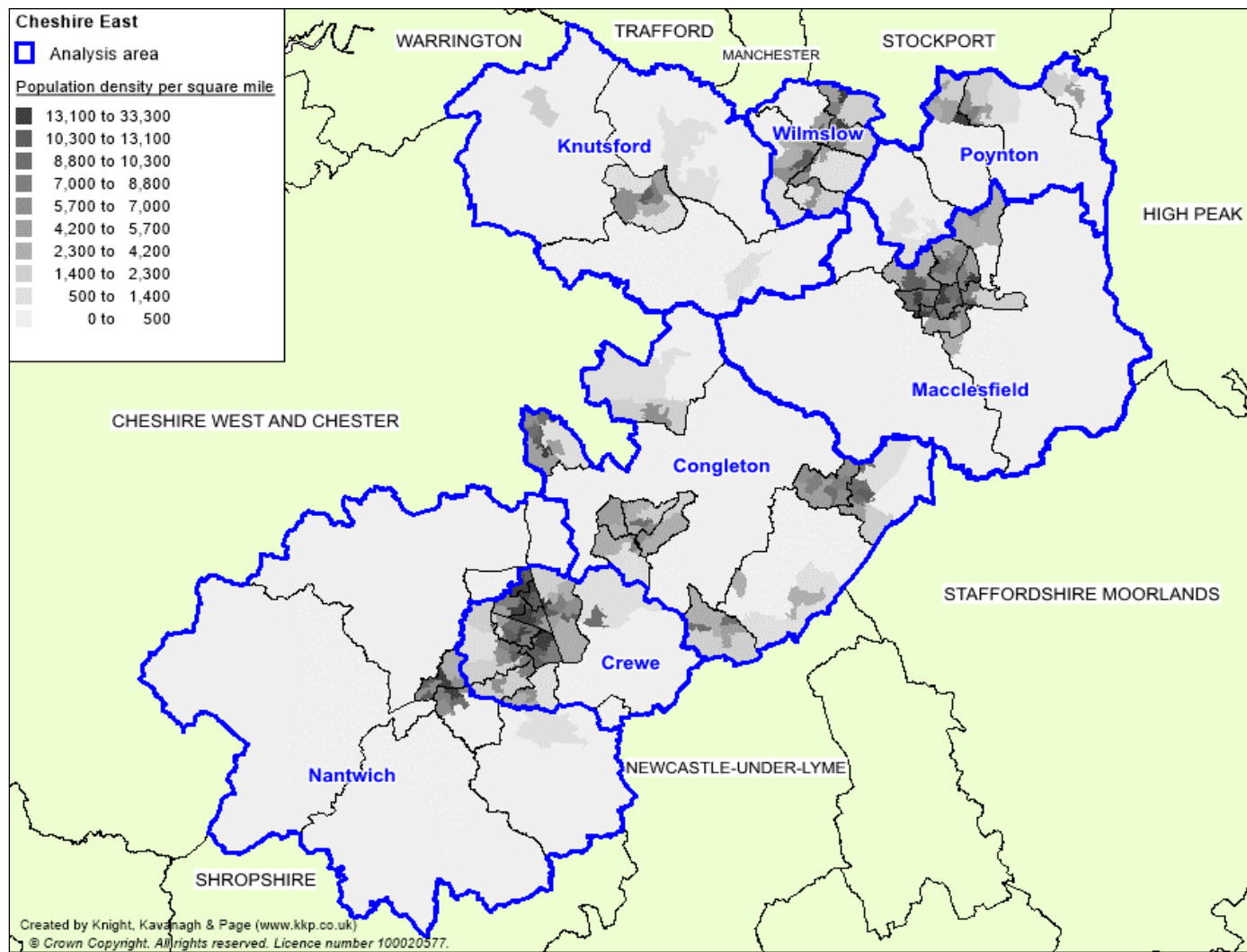
In addition to Cheshire West and Chester on the west, it is bounded by the Manchester conurbation to the north and east, Warrington to the north-west and Staffordshire and Shropshire to the south. It contains the major towns (population above 20,000) of Crewe, Macclesfield, Congleton and the commuter town of Wilmslow, as well as other significant centres of population (over 10,000) in Sandbach, Poynton, Nantwich, Middlewich, Knutsford and Alsager.

This strategy covers the whole Borough boundary area of Cheshire East; however, the data gathered has been presented in such a way as to be further analysed by smaller analysis areas. For this purpose, seven analysis areas have been agreed upon based on local area partnerships: Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Knutsford, Nantwich, Poynton and Wilmslow.

Throughout the report, sites are referenced by the name they are most commonly known as, to KKP's knowledge. It is however accepted that site names can differ locally, whilst due to the size of Cheshire East it is also appreciated that some sites might not have been previously known. As such, Part 6: Action Plan provides the postcode for each site and should therefore be referenced when the exact location is unclear.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

1.1: Structure

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

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

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

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

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

1.2: Context

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

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

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

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

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

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 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 97 and 98 discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraphs 99 and 100 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must continue to be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively;

Corporate and strategic:

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

Planning:

- ◀ The PPS will provide important evidence to support the Cheshire East Local Plan.
- ◀ It will support strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being in the emerging Cheshire East Local Plan.
- ◀ Evidence for Community Infrastructure Levy and developer contributions.

Operational:

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

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

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

Sports development:

- ◀ It helps identify which sites have community use and whether that use is secure or not.
- ◀ It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed to address any identified deficits in pitch provision.
- ◀ It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use. This includes information about both pitches and sports teams / user groups.
- ◀ It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams / community needs.

1.3: Headline findings

The table below highlights the updated quantitative headline shortfalls for each included sport with Cheshire East from 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.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2030) ²
Football (grass pitches)	Congleton	Shortfall of 0.5 adult, 4 youth 11v11 and 2.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1 adult, 6 youth 11v11, 6 youth 9v9, 1.5 mini 7v7 and 3.5 match equivalent sessions
	Crewe	No identified shortfalls	Shortfall of 1 youth 9v9 and 1 mini 5v5 match equivalent session
	Knutsford	Shortfall of 1 adult, 4 youth 11v11, 4.5 youth 9v9 and 6.5 mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1 adult, 4.5 youth 11v11, 5 youth 9v9, 6.5 mini 7v7 and 2 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions
	Macclesfield	Shortfall of 1.5 adult, 1.5 youth 11v11 and 1 youth 9v9 match equivalent session	Shortfall of 2.5 adult, 1.5 youth 11v11 and 1 youth 9v9 match equivalent session
	Nantwich	Shortfall of 1 adult match equivalent session	Shortfall of 1 adult and 0.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions
	Poynton	Shortfall of 2 adult, 2.5 youth 11v11 and 0.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2 adult, 2.5 youth 11v11, 0.5 youth 9v9 and 1 mini 7v7 match equivalent session
	Wilmslow	Shortfall of 1 adult and 2 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1 adult, 1 youth 11v11, 2 youth 9v9, 1 mini 7v7 and 1 mini 5v5 match equivalent session

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

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2030) ²
	Cheshire East³	Shortfall of 1 adult, 11.5 youth 11v11, 9.5 youth 9v9 and 7 mini 7v7 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 adult, 15.5 youth 11v11, 16 youth 9v9, 10 mini 7v7 and 7 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions
Football (3G pitches) ⁴	Congleton	Shortfall of 2 3G pitches; 1 in Congleton and 1 in Sandbach	Shortfall of 2 3G pitches; 1 in Congleton and 1 in Sandbach
	Crewe	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch	Shortfall of 2 3G pitches
	Knutsford	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch
	Macclesfield	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch
	Nantwich	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Poynton	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch
	Wilmslow	Shortfall of 2 3G pitches	Shortfall of 2 3G pitches
	Cheshire East	Shortfall of 8 full size 3G pitches	Shortfall of 9 full size 3g pitches
Cricket	Congleton	Shortfall of 17 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket	Shortfall of 29 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket
	Crewe	Shortfall of 5 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket	Shortfall of 5 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket
	Knutsford	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Macclesfield	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Nantwich	No identified shortfalls	Shortfall of 12 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket
	Poynton	Shortfall of 40 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket and 32 for junior cricket	Shortfall of 52 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket and 46 for junior cricket
	Wilmslow	Shortfall of 36 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket and 45 for junior cricket	Shortfall of 48 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket and 53 for junior cricket
	Cheshire East⁵	Shortfall of 78 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket	Shortfall of 138 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket
Rugby union	Congleton	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions
	Crewe	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Knutsford	Shortfall of 4 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions

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

⁴ Based on accommodating 38 teams to one full size pitch for training.

⁵ Figures for Cheshire East as a whole do not equate to a culmination of shortfalls in each analysis area as it also accounts for actual spare capacity of pitch types (which reduces or negates shortfalls).

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2030) ²
	Macclesfield	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions
	Nantwich	Shortfall of 1.25 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2.75 match equivalent sessions
	Poynton	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Wilmslow	No identified shortfalls	Shortfall of 0.25 match equivalent sessions
	Cheshire East⁶	Shortfall of 9.75 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 15.5 match equivalent sessions
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	Congleton	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Crewe	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Knutsford	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Macclesfield	Latent demand identified by Macclesfield HC	Latent demand identified by Macclesfield HC
	Nantwich	Latent demand identified by Crewe Vagrants HC.	Latent demand identified by Crewe Vagrants HC.
	Poynton	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Wilmslow	Exported and latent demand identified by Wilmslow HC and Alderley Edge HC	Exported and latent demand identified by Wilmslow HC and Alderley Edge HC
	Cheshire East	Insufficient provision for Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs	Insufficient provision for Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs
Lacrosse	Congleton	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Crewe	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Knutsford	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Macclesfield	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Nantwich	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Poynton	Latent demand expressed by Poynton Lacrosse Club.	Latent demand expressed by Poynton Lacrosse Club.
	Wilmslow	No identified shortfalls	No identified shortfalls
	Cheshire East	Latent demand expressed by Poynton Lacrosse Club.	Latent demand expressed by Poynton Lacrosse Club.

Conclusions

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

⁶ Figures for Cheshire East as a whole do not equate to a culmination of shortfalls in each analysis area as it also accounts for actual spare capacity of pitch types (which reduces or negates shortfalls).

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Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to overcoming shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing outdoor sports provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost. The only exception to this is in the case of sports provision being replaced by a different form of sports provision on the assumption that no clubs are left without alternative provision and providing that this is agreed upon by Sport England and the appropriate NGBs.

For the most part, shortfalls can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional floodlighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. Another example of how to develop existing provision to overcome shortfalls is through pitch re-configuration (or re-designation). That being said, in isolated cases, some clubs definitely require additional provision, such as Knutsford RUFC, whilst a case could also be made for others such as Wilmslow and Alderley Edge hockey clubs due to travel difficulties regarding existing provision.

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

As there is no surplus provision identified, qualitative improvements to mitigate the loss of a playing field will not meet the requirements of planning policy i.e. paragraph 97 of the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy. In cases where an alternative development leads to the loss of playing field or part of a playing field, a quantitative replacement will be required in addition to qualitative improvements.

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PART 2: VISION

2.1 Vision

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

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

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

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

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PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 1.2 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all stakeholders.

AIM 1

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

AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England 2015

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Football – grass pitches

Summary

- ◀ **There is a current shortfall of adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches, with minimal spare capacity existing and mini 5v5 pitches.**
- ◀ **When accounting for future demand, there is a shortfall of each pitch type.**
- ◀ The audit identifies 334 grass football pitches within Cheshire East across 190 sites, of which, 251 pitches are available, for community use across 134 sites.
- ◀ Grass football pitches are to be provided to replace existing provision as part of the development of the former Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) site in addition to a full size, floodlit 3G pitch and changing rooms.
- ◀ A proposed housing development at the Crown Estates site in Knutsford consisting of 190 dwellings includes the provision of a grass youth 11v11 football pitch; this has outline planning permission (17/3853M).
- ◀ Egerton Youth Club has planning permission to develop five adult pitches on land adjacent to its current site; however, the land owner has recently been granted outline planning permission for the site for a residential led scheme (making the land unavailable for playing pitches (18/3672M)).
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club is in negotiations with a local landowner to purchase nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the football pitches, although this is dependent on securing planning permission and the sale of its existing site (it must also be noted that both the existing site and the alternative location are allocated sites in the SADPD).
- ◀ There are four lapsed and nine disused sites identified.
- ◀ In total, 15 community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 166 as standard quality and 70 as poor quality.
- ◀ The LFFP for Cheshire East identifies 13 key sites for grass pitch improvements.
- ◀ Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 17 are serviced by good quality facilities, 64 by standard quality facilities and 67 by poor quality facilities.
- ◀ Congleton Rovers FC and Poynton FC report a need to improve their clubhouse facilities (at Congleton High School and Poynton Spots Club respectively), whilst the LFFP for Cheshire East identifies eight key sites for improvement.
- ◀ Crewe FC, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC and Vale Juniors FC express an aspiration to acquire their own sites on a long-term lease.
- ◀ In addition to Crewe Alexandra FC and Macclesfield Town FC, which are professional clubs, a further 13 male teams and one female team in Cheshire East play on the football pyramid.
- ◀ In total, 643 teams from within 121 clubs were identified as playing within Cheshire East consisting of 133 adult men's teams, nine adult women's teams, 283 youth boys' teams, nine youth girls' teams and 195 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ When compared to PPS data collated in 2016/2017, there are 85 more teams currently participating in Cheshire East, with each format of play experiencing a growth in demand.
- ◀ Alsager Town FC and Crewe Alexandra Ladies FC as well as Poynton Sports Club express exported demand that would prefer to play within Cheshire East.
- ◀ Five clubs report latent demand amounting to six match equivalent sessions.

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- Team generation rates (2030) predict a growth of 16 youth 11v11 teams, whilst future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 35 teams and 17.5 match equivalent sessions.
- In total, 24.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exists across 22 sites in Cheshire East, with most expressed on adult pitches and in Crewe.
- Overplays occurs on 46 pitches across 30 sites equating to 51.5 match equivalent sessions.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

In total there are 46 pitches overplayed in Cheshire East across 30 sites equating to 51.5 match equivalent sessions. 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 that all current levels of overplay 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

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁷	Good quality capacity rating ⁸
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	2	2
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
11	Back Lane	Adult	2	Poor	2	2
34	Congleton High School	Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	1	3
		Youth (9v9)	2	Standard	1	3
41	Deva Close	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1
44	Egerton Youth Club	Adult	1	Standard	1	
		Youth (11v11)	3	Standard	4	2
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	4.5	2.5
		Mini (7v7)	6	Standard	6.5	5.5
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Adult	2	Standard	0.5	1.5
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Adult	3	Poor	2.5	0.5
		Youth (9v9)	2	Poor	3	3

⁷ Match equivalent sessions

⁸ Match equivalent sessions

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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁷	Good quality capacity rating ⁸
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
64	King George V Playing Field	Adult	1	Poor	2	
85	Barnaby Road Playing Fields	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
103	Poynton Sports Club	Adult	1	Poor	1	1
105	Reaseheath College	Adult	1	Good	1	1
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Youth (11v11)	2	Good	1.5	2.5
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	Adult	1	Standard	2	1
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
139	Willaston White Star Football Club	Adult	1	Standard	1	
178	Christ the King Primary	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
		Mini (7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2.5
231	Vernon Primary School	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	2	
248	Jasmine Park	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	2	
249	Mount Vernon	Adult	1	Poor	1	1

As seen, the majority of overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality increased to good. The only exceptions to this are adult pitches at the Peacock Sports Ground and Reaseheath College as well as a youth 9v9 pitch at Egerton Youth Club. Some play at these sites should therefore be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity, to an existing or additional 3G pitch, or if space and other usage allows, pitch re-configuration should be considered.

In addition, there are currently 22 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to poor quality. Improving pitch quality at these sites will provide and increase overall actual spare capacity, which can be used to accommodate demand from currently overplayed sites as well as latent and future demand.

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

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Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

As improving the quality of certain overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving strategic sites. The Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) identifies 13 sites for grass pitch improvements that are considered to be in need of investment and that are key for football across Cheshire East. The table below identifies what the impact would be on the supply and demand balance of pitches in Cheshire East if quality was improved by one increment at these sites (i.e. standard to good or poor to standard).

Table 4.2: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Improved capacity rating
11	Back Lane	Adult	2	Poor	2	0
		Youth (11v11)	2	Poor	1	3
		Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
		Mini (7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
12	Barony Sports Complex	Adult	3	Poor	0.5	3.5
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	3.5
34	Congleton High School	Adult	2	Standard	0	2
		Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	1	3
		Youth (9v9)	2	Standard	1	3
		Mini (7v7)	2	Standard	4	8
		Mini (5v5)	2	Standard	4	8
36	Cranage Playing Field	Adult	1	Standard	1	2
		Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1	2
41	Deva Close	Adult	1	Standard	0	1
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Adult	3	Poor	2.5	0.5
		Youth (9v9)	2	Poor	3	1
		Mini (7v7)	2	Poor	4	8
65	King George V Playing Field	Adult	4	Standard	7	11
80	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	Adult	3	Poor	1	4
102	Poynton High School	Adult	1	Poor	0	1
		Youth (11v11)	2	Poor	0	2
		Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	0	1
121	Sutton Lane Playing Field	Adult	1	Poor	1.5	2.5
128	Macclesfield College	Adult	1	Standard	0	1
		Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	0.5	4.5
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	3.5
141	Wilmslow High School	Adult	2	Standard	0	2
		Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	0	4
		Youth (9v9)	2	Standard	0	4
245	Cumberland Arena	Adult	1	Poor	1	2

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Improved capacity rating
	(Razzer)					

Improving quality as set out in the table above would create 69 match equivalent sessions of additional capacity. In addition, for those pitches that are overplayed, overplay will be alleviated except in the case of the youth 9v9 pitches at Jim Evison Playing Fields. At some of the sites, there is also a possibility of creating additional capacity through the creation of additional pitches e.g. at Cumberland Arena (Razzer) and Sutton Lane Playing Field.

Providing security of tenure

Currently 51 match equivalent sessions are played on unsecured pitches throughout Cheshire East. If these pitches were to fall out of use, shortfalls would be exacerbated, as evidence in the table below.

Table 4.3: Supply and demand balance without unsecure sites

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Current total	Unsecure usage	Potential total	Latent demand	Future demand	Potential future total
Adult	1	15	16	-	1.5	17.5
Youth 11v11	11.5	8	19.5	0.5	3.5	23.5
Youth 9v9	9.5	8	17.5	3.5	3	24
Mini 7v7	7	11	18	0.5	2.5	21
Mini 5v5	1.5	9	7.5	1.5	7	16

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

Securing access to currently unavailable sites

By opening up sites currently unavailable for community use, an additional six match equivalent sessions of spare capacity on adult pitches would be created, as well as ten match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and 13 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. For mini football, 35 match equivalent sessions would be available on mini 7v7 pitches and 11 match equivalent sessions would be available on mini 5v5 pitches.

As with unsecured sites, the majority of sites not currently offering community use are school sites. As accessing all school sites is considered improbable, initial focus should be on schools offering a large number of pitches, such as Poynton High School and Terra Nova School. For non-school sites, there is an opportunity to secure community use where there is investment, whether that be through NGB funding or via S106 funding.

Reconfiguring pitches

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

If youth 11v11 demand was to be transferred away from adult pitches, spare capacity would be created on adult pitches in each analysis area, as evidenced in the table below. Although some of this spare capacity should be retained as strategic reserve i.e. to help protect/improve quality, there are likely to be opportunities to reconfigure adult pitches to better cater for youth 11v11 demand and to reduce youth pitch shortfalls.

Table 4.4: Capacity if youth 11v11 demand was removed from adult pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Current adult capacity	Future adult capacity	Youth 11v11 demand on adult pitches	Current adult capacity if removed	Future adult capacity if removed
Congleton	0.5	1	13	12.5	12
Crewe	6	6	8	14	14
Knutsford	1	1	5	4	4
Macclesfield	1.5	2.5	4.5	3	2
Nantwich	1	1	3	2	2
Poynton	2	2	4	2	2
Wilmslow	1	1	9	8	8
Cheshire East	1	2.5	47.5	46.5	45

As a starting point for re-configuration, Carnival Field, Cranage Playing Fields, Deva Close, King George V Playing Fields and Middlewich High School should be considered as these sites currently have no adult activity, meaning no adult teams would be adversely affected.

Future developments⁹

The loss of grass football pitches at the King's School (Westminster Road and Fence Avenue) will not affect the overall picture of provision as the current facilities are unavailable for community use. It may, however, affect curricular and extra-curricular activity. The creation of pitches at Alderley Road will increase capacity under the terms of the community use agreement as a condition of consent (15/4286M).

The creation of grass football pitches at Alsager Sports Hub will reduce shortfalls in Congleton and will offer a replacement to the increased number of pitches that were in active use when the University was open. The site will also offer a viable alternative to the exported demand expressed by Alsager Town FC as well as the latent demand reported by the Club.

The creation of an increased number of grass football pitches at Egerton Youth Club will alleviate overplay on the site's current pitch stock, which, as aforementioned, cannot be fully achieved through quality improvements. However, this is now deemed as unlikely to happen. As of March 2019, the Club are instead finalising an agreement to relinquish its lease of the parcel of land, with a variety of potential funding sources available to fund an additional 3G pitch, which will also reduce overplay at the site as demand can be transferred from the grass pitches. Whilst the LFFP identifies the site for a smaller sized 3G pitch, the proposal is now for a full size pitch due to increased demand since the LFFP took place.

⁹ Historic pitches at sites included within this section were not included within the PPS

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The potential development at Poynton Sports Club will reduce shortfalls in Poynton and will alleviate overplay on the site's current stock of pitches providing the replacement pitches are provided to a good quality.

The provision of a youth 11v11 football pitch as part of the housing development at the Crown Estates site in Knutsford (land North of Northwich Road, 17/3853M) will improve the supply and demand balance for this pitch type given that shortfalls are present within the Analysis Area. Once the development goes ahead, supporting infrastructure should be considered given the unsustainability of many single pitch sites.

The possible provision of grass football pitches as part of the creation of a Garden Village in Handforth could help reduce shortfalls in the Wilmslow Analysis Area. However, given that this site proposal is in its infancy, it is recommended that further work is carried out to fully determine the necessary pitch stock required as a means to satisfy both the School and the wider community (using the updated PPS as a tool to inform this).

The development at Alderley Park will result in increased capacity on youth 9v9 pitches in the Knutsford Analysis Area. Capacity on adult pitches will remain the same given that there is already an adult pitch on site.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore pitch reconfiguration to accommodate more youth 11v11 pitches where possible.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Use the LFFP as a guide to determine suitable sites for grass pitch investment.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity or to sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Work to accommodate displaced, latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements and support negotiation with private landowners to secure appropriate access (e.g. via a leaser arrangement).
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, using the LFFP as a guide.
- ◀ and explore transfer of match play onto 3G.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, which will usually be the case, 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, where possible, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

3G pitches

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Summary

- ◀ **With 642 teams currently playing in Cheshire East, there is a need for 17 full size 3G pitches, meaning a current shortfall of seven pitches (discounting pitches at Reaseheath Training Complex and Reaseheath College).**
- ◀ **When considering future demand for an additional 51 teams, the shortfall increases to eight full size 3G pitches.**
- ◀ **Alternatively, if each team was to remain within their respective analysis area for training, there is a current shortfall of eight 3G pitches and a future shortfall of nine.**
- ◀ **Shortfalls are present in Congleton, Crewe, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Poynton, Sandbach and Wilmslow.**
- ◀ There are 12 full size 3G pitches within Cheshire East, all of which are floodlit and 11 of which are available to the community (Reaseheath Training Complex is not).
- ◀ In addition, there are also five smaller sized 3G pitches.
- ◀ The LFFP identifies seven potential sites for full size 3G pitch development and a further two sites for smaller sized 3G pitch development; however, this will need to be re-assessed in light of this update – the PPS should take precedence in directing sports provision until the two documents align.
- ◀ Eight of the 11 full size 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches (Nantwich Town Football Club, Reaseheath College and Reaseheath Training Complex are not).
- ◀ The pitch at Reaseheath College is World Rugby compliant and can therefore be used to accommodate competitive rugby union usage.
- ◀ Pitches at both Alexandra Soccer Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club are over ten years old (having been installed in 2007) and therefore require imminent resurfacing.
- ◀ Each FA approved pitch is in use for match play and 122 teams currently play home matches on them, which is a considerably high number when compared to the majority of other local authorities.
- ◀ Nantwich Town Football Club is also in current use for competitive matches, despite it not being on the FA register.
- ◀ For football, priority should not only be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches, with precedence placed on areas with shortfalls, but also on sustaining the current pitch stock.
- ◀ For rugby union, consideration should be given to further 3G provision given overplay of grass pitches.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for 17 full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East. Discounting Reaseheath Training Complex, which is unavailable for community use and Reaseheath College, which prioritises rugby union use (although some football training activity is taking place), there are currently ten full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of seven pitches. When considering future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is a demand for 18 full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of eight pitches.

Alternatively, if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area in which they play their matches in, a current shortfall of eight full size 3G pitches and a future shortfall of nine is identified. The current shortfall equates to two pitches in

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Wilmslow and one pitch in Congleton, Crewe, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Poynton and Sandbach, whilst the additional pitch required based on future demand is in Crewe (increasing its shortfall to two pitches).

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

The LFFP for Cheshire East identifies the following sites for 3G development:

- ◀ Cheshire College South and West
- ◀ Eaton Bank Academy
- ◀ Jim Evison Playing Fields
- ◀ Macclesfield Academy / Macclesfield College or Congleton Road
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Sandbach Community Football Centre
- ◀ Wilmslow High School

The PPS supports all of these developments based on the FA model used above; however, additions are required to alleviate all shortfalls. The shortfalls in Congleton, Macclesfield, Poynton, Sandbach and Wilmslow will be alleviated by adhering to the LFFP but an additional full size pitch is required in Knutsford to meet both current and future demand and in Crewe to meet future demand.

In relation to the either/or option for Macclesfield Academy / Macclesfield College and Congleton Road, the priority for the Council is now considered to be Congleton Road. This is because the long-term future of the site is under threat, with site improvements and development considered key for safeguarding its use as a playing pitch site. The LFFP should therefore be updated to reflect this position.

Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA and it is relatively popular within Cheshire East already with 122 teams already playing competitively on 3G surfaces.

The FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches (including parish and town council pitches) be transferred.

Table 4.5: Number of teams currently using council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	49
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	50
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	22
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	11
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	4
Total			136

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Format	No teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y) = x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
Adult	49	24.5	32	784	12.25
11v11	50	25	32	800	12.50
9v9	22	11	10	110	1.72
7v7	11	5.5	8	44	0.69
5v5	4	2	4	8	0.13

Transferring all matches currently played on council pitches would equate to the need for 27 (rounded down from 27.29) full size 3G pitches as the requirements for each pitch type needs to be added together (as peak time is the same). In practice, creating this number of 3G pitches is considered to be unrealistic and it may therefore be more appropriate to consider the requirement for specific formats of play such as mini football or youth 9v9 football.

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

Table 4.7: 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 mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for 11 full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 84 teams playing 5v5 football requiring 11 pitches (rounded up from 10.5) and 106 teams playing 7v7 football requiring nine pitches (rounded up from 8.8). As such, it is considered that only two additional full size 3G pitches are required to accommodate all mini football (discounting Reaseheath College and Reaseheath Training Complex).

The table below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football. This demand could also be accommodated on two additional pitches as it equates to the need for 11 (exactly) full size 3G pitches based on 132 teams playing this format within Cheshire East. It is also worth noting that if all youth 9v9 football was moved to a Saturday and all mini football was retained on a Sunday (or vice versa), it is feasible that all current demand for mini and 9v9 football could be accommodated on 11 full size 3G pitches.

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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.

Reaseheath College provides the sole World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Cheshire East, with teams from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC using the pitch for training and occasional match play. Given the grass pitch shortfalls identified for rugby, evidence exists for an increase in provision. Sandbach, Congleton, Macclesfield and Wilmslow rugby clubs would all benefit from access to a suitable 3G surface.

Other developments

A smaller sized 3G pitch (suitable for youth 9v9 football) has been included as part of outline plans to create a Garden Village in Handforth, with the provision co-located with a primary school and village hall. However, given that this is in its infancy, it is recommended that further work is carried out to fully determine the necessary pitch stock required as a means to satisfy both the School and the wider community (using the updated PPS as a tool to inform this).

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Using the LFFP as a guide, develop additional 3G pitches to alleviate identified shortfalls and consider identifying an additional site in both Knutsford and Crewe for further provision not identified in the LFFP.
- ◀ Support creation of additional 3G pitches above and beyond football training shortfalls if it can satisfy rugby demand as well as football demand; or, explore creation of 3G pitches that are both football and rugby appropriate when alleviating shortfalls.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Seek to resurface existing stock of 3G pitches that have exceeded recommended lifespan; Alexandra Soccer Centre and Nantwich Town Football Club.
- ◀ Ensure all 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability¹⁰.
- ◀ Ensure that all pitches currently on the FA register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place.

Cricket pitches

¹⁰ This is a term and condition tied into 3G pitches receiving Football Foundation funding.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Summary

- ◀ **For senior cricket, a significant overall shortfall of squares is identified, amounting to 38 match equivalent sessions currently and 98 match equivalent sessions when factoring in future demand.**
- ◀ **For junior cricket, overall spare capacity exists both currently (327 match equivalent sessions) and in the future (255 match equivalent sessions); however, there remains a need to alleviate identified overplay.**
- ◀ In total, there are 49 grass cricket squares in Cheshire East located across 43 sites, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the grass wicket squares in Cheshire East, 23 contains some grass wickets that can only accommodate junior demand due to their proximity from the boundary edge.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at 14 sites (15 squares) and there are standalone NTPs at 17 sites.
- ◀ Standalone NTPs were previously in place at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Sir William Stanier School but are now considered to be disused.
- ◀ Tenure is considered unsecure for Audlem, Over Peover and Prestbury cricket clubs, which rent their squares on an annual basis, and for Bunbury CC, which has only seven years remaining on its lease.
- ◀ Macclesfield CC has unsecure tenure on its second square; the Council is awaiting transfer of the provision as part of a planning agreement before leasing to the Club.
- ◀ The audit of grass wicket squares found 37 community available pitches to be good quality, 11 to be standard quality and one to be poor quality (at Sandbach Boys' School).
- ◀ Of particular concern is the condition of clubhouse buildings servicing Poynton Cricket Club and Mere Cricket Club.
- ◀ Three clubs (Wilmslow, Audlem and Mere cricket clubs) are currently without access to cricket nets and four clubs (Disley, Holmes Chapel, Knutsford and Nantwich cricket clubs) express a demand for more nets to be provided.
- ◀ In total, there are 35 clubs generating 287 teams, which equates to 109 senior men's, six senior women's, 166 junior boys' and six junior girls' teams.
- ◀ Since 2017, participation has been on the whole static, with the overall number of teams dropping from 290 to 289; however, this does not show that many clubs have experienced significant increases in demand, only to be offset by clubs suffering a decline in participation.
- ◀ The biggest increase is seen in female demand, with four more senior women's teams and four more junior girls' teams participating now when compared to demand in 2017.
- ◀ There is currently no Last Man Stands (LMS) operating in Cheshire East, however, it is a target area for the future, particularly in Crewe and/or Macclesfield.
- ◀ Future demand expressed by clubs equates to growth of four senior men's, one senior women's and two junior teams.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict a growth of eight junior boys' teams, with two in Congelton and one in each of the remaining analysis areas.
- ◀ Peak time demand for senior cricket is Saturday, whereas for junior cricket it is midweek.
- ◀ There are 34 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets, totalling 635 match equivalent sessions per season; however, only three of these have actual spare capacity at peak time for senior cricket.
- ◀ For junior cricket, 22 squares have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand at peak time.
- ◀ Overplay in Cheshire East is high, with 13 squares overplayed across 12 sites by 161 match equivalent sessions.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay (e.g. Alsager Cricket Club and Langley Cricket Club), a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

For the majority of overplayed sites, the best solution would be to install a NTP *in situ* as this would allow for the transfer of junior demand away from grass wickets. The following overplayed sites are currently without an NTP:

- ◀ Alderley Edge Cricket Club
- ◀ Bollington Recreation Ground (Bollington Cricket Club)
- ◀ Lindow Cricket Club
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club)
- ◀ Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club)

As a caveat, whilst the inclusion of an NTP for the management of fixtures would alleviate overplay issues, usage is subject to league rules and minimum pitch specifications. Furthermore, this should not lead to undue pressure being placed on clubs and volunteers using the above sites to install self-funded NTPs.

Although attempts should be made to reduce identified overplay, in reality, clubs do not necessarily accept that there is an issue and have managed in the past to accommodate such demand.

For the other remaining overplayed sites, and especially for those substantially overplayed such as Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club) and Lindow Cricket Club, greater use of already installed NTPs is required. If overplay persists, demand should be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity (potentially via new provision), or to sites with a standalone NTP such as currently unused school sites. This is also a viable option for clubs using sites that are overplayed without an accompanying NTP (and also solves the issue of the above caveat), although clubs are often reluctant to hire secondary venues due to cost and travel implications.

Accommodating future demand

Both clubs expressing future demand for an increase in junior teams can do so on their current facility stock. Disley CC and Holmes Chapel CC both have spare capacity during midweek and the former also has an NTP that can be used rather than grass wickets.

Expressed senior demand from Disley, Mobberley, Nantwich and Rode Park & Lawton cricket club can be accommodated provided that it is outside of the peak period (i.e. on a Sunday). This is because their squares have overall spare capacity albeit not offering such capacity (on a Saturday). If the teams are fielded on a Saturday, secondary venues will need to be accessed or new provision will be required.

In contrast, Styal CC cannot realise its senior growth plans on the pitch stock currently available to the Club without it resulting in overplay as only three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity currently exist. As such, it will either have to access a secondary venue that has spare capacity or new provision will be required.

Chelford Cricket Club

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Chelford Cricket Club is now unused following the collapse of Chelford CC. An opportunity therefore exists for another club to take over the running of the site in order to reduce local shortfalls. The square should therefore not be re-purposed, unless approval is received from the ECB, or developed upon, unless replacement provision is provided to an equality or better quantity and quality.

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.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for Bunbury, Audlem, Over Peover and Prestbury cricket clubs.
- ◀ Improve the changing facilities servicing Mere, Macclesfield and Poynton cricket clubs.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities.
- ◀ Address overplay via the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity or through an increase in NTPs accompanying grass wickets.
- ◀ Ensure clubs can realise future growth plans.
- ◀ Explore potential sites that are suitable to host an LMS franchise in Crewe and/or Macclesfield.
- ◀ 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 within the locality.

Rugby union - grass pitches

Summary

- ◀ **Overall, there is a shortfall of 9.75 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand.**
- ◀ **The overall picture worsens when considering future demand, with a shortfall of 15.5 match equivalent sessions recognised and each analysis areas with club rugby activity experiencing a shortfall.**
- ◀ There are 24 sites containing 44 senior, ten junior and ten mini rugby union pitches, with 27 senior, six junior and all mini pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ The King's School is to provide five additional rugby union pitches at Alderley Road as part of its consolidation to the site; however, both the existing junior pitches at Fence Avenue and Westminster Road (that are not to RFU standards) will be lost.
- ◀ Knutsford Academy, working alongside Knutsford RUFC, has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire so that it can increase its supply of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Holmes Chapel RUFC has only eight years remaining on its licence of Holmes Chapel Community Centre and tenure is also considered to be unsecure for Knutsford RUFC at Knutsford Academy as no community use agreement is in place.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, 22 are assessed as good quality, 13 are assessed as standard quality and eight are assessed as poor quality.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow rugby clubs all report development plans or issues with their changing facilities.
- ◀ Seven rugby union clubs play within Cheshire East consisting of 93 teams, which as a breakdown equates to 22 senior, 35 junior and 36 mini teams.
- ◀ There are eight less teams currently than when compared to 2016/2017 data, with an overall decline in senior (eight fewer teams) and mini (three fewer teams) participation albeit junior participation has increased (three more teams).
- ◀ Sandbach, Knutsford, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield and Wilmslow rugby clubs all train on match pitches using floodlighting, with Crewe & Nantwich RUFC also accessing the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict a growth of four junior boys' and one junior girls' team, whilst Crewe & Nantwich, Holmes Chapel, Macclesfield and Wilmslow rugby clubs have plans to expand.
- ◀ Despite 12 senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity, only three are available for further use during the peak period for senior rugby (Saturday PM).
- ◀ There are eight pitches across seven sites that are overplayed by a combined 11.25 match equivalent sessions.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

Improving pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and the installation of drainage systems would alleviate overplay at Back Lane, Congleton Park, Hankinson's Field and Knutsford Academy (lower) but some would remain at Sandbach Rugby Club, Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club).

Given the above, and given that Back Lane, Congleton Park, Hankinson's Field and Knutsford Academy (lower) are council and school sites where such significant improvements may not be feasible, alternatives need to be considered to eradicate overplay.

Increasing access to floodlit training provision (grass pitches)

Overplay at Sandbach Rugby Club cannot be fully alleviated through pitch quality improvements and there are no plans for the Club to be provided with a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. As such, an increase in the number of floodlit pitches available to the Club is required (in addition to clubhouse improvements). This will allow it to spread out its training demand across a greater number of pitches and can be achieved either via provision of dedicated, permanent floodlighting or through the use of portable floodlights.

Similarly, additional floodlighting would resolve capacity issues at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) as currently only one pitch is floodlit, with the remaining pitches containing spare capacity to accommodate training demand if lighting was provided. The Club previously explored the installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch on site; however, planning permission was refused. If an alternative approach to provide the Club with access to such provision was possible (such as compliant off-site provision e.g. through the development of a 3G pitch elsewhere in the locality in partnership with the FA) then this should be considered.

Although the pitches at Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) are currently at capacity rather than overplayed, additional floodlighting may be required as any further use will cause capacity issues, reducing the pressure on the Club to improve quality and enabling it to realise its future growth plans. As floodlighting has been maximised at Memorial

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Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club), potential floodlighting at Jim Evison Playing Field could be explored, as could the provision of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. Given that Jim Evison Playing Field has been identified as a potential site for a 3G pitch for football, a partnership between the FA and the RFU for multi-sport compatibility should be explored. The local authority would be considered a key partner in any development at this site.

Given that usage of the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC is unsecure, the loss of access should be considered. If the Club could no longer use the provision, all of its training demand would have to return to the floodlit pitch at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, which would significantly increase the overplay that is already identified. Currently the floodlit pitch at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions; if access to Reaseheath College was lost, it is likely that this would increase to overplay of 5.25 match equivalent sessions. No other pitches at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club could be used to accommodate this demand as no floodlighting is provided. As such, installing additional floodlighting should be considered.

Congleton RUFC, Holmes Chapel RUFC and Knutsford RUFC have access to floodlit provision away from the grass pitches used for matches; however, none of these use full size pitches, with Congleton RUFC using unmarked space, Holmes Chapel RUFC using a disused bowling green and Knutsford RUFC using a junior pitch. As such, consideration should be given to providing floodlighting on existing full size pitches used by the clubs in order to provide a better training and match environment.

Increasing pitch stock

Overplay at Knutsford Academy (lower) can be fully alleviated through a combination of improving maintenance (M2) and installing a drainage system (D3), however, this is presumed to be unlikely given that the pitches are located at a school. Moreover, Knutsford RUFC currently trains off-site, meaning all overplay is a result of match play and therefore cannot be alleviated through providing increased floodlit provision. Options should therefore be explored to increase the pitch stock available to the Club.

In addition, as mentioned above, if additional pitches are provided, consideration should be given to floodlighting at least one of them in order to provide more appropriate training provision to the Club.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Explore community use aspects at currently unused educational sites to fully determine availability and, as minimum, protect the pitches for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.
- ◀ Support aspirations for ancillary facility improvements relating to Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow rugby clubs.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for Holmes Chapel RUFC and Knutsford RUFC through providing long term lease agreements (minimum 25 years).
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems, particularly at sites containing overplayed pitches that are not a result of training demand (e.g. Knutsford Academy (lower), Back Lane and Congleton Park).
- ◀ Increase the floodlit provision available to Macclesfield, Sandbach and Wilmslow rugby clubs to alleviate overplay as a result of concentrated training demand or explore options to provide the clubs with access to World Rugby compliant 3G provision.

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- ◀ Seek to secure usage at Reaseheath College and explore additional floodlighting at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club to negate any loss of access.
- ◀ Support Knutsford RUFC in its needs to access additional pitches to alleviate overplay at Knutsford Academy and consider floodlight installation on the increased provision.
- ◀ Explore options to provide Congleton RUFC and Holmes Chapel RUFC with floodlighting on full size pitches in order to ensure an appropriate training and match environment is available and to aid future growth and development.
- ◀ 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.

Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Summary

- ◀ **Due to the landscape of hockey within Cheshire East, the priority should be to protect or mitigate the loss of any of the 12 pitches currently in use by hockey clubs.**
- ◀ **Precedence should also be placed on accommodating expressed displaced, latent and future demand, which, in at least one aspect, relates to each club.**
- ◀ There are currently 16 full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cheshire East. Most pitches are floodlit, although Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (Girls) and Cheshire College South and West are not.
- ◀ All of the full size AGPs are available for community use, however, four are currently unused for hockey purposes, two of which are without hockey goals.
- ◀ In addition, there are also 16 smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use, which, although too small to host competitive matches, can be used to accommodate some training demand.
- ◀ The King's School is to provide two full size, floodlit AGPs (both with community use agreements) as part of its consolidation to Alderley Road, rather than the one full size and one smaller sized pitch that currently service the School.
- ◀ All full size AGPs are readily available to the community during the peak period, as identified by Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM).
- ◀ Ten of the full size AGPs have reached the end of their lifespan and therefore require resurfacing.
- ◀ A common issue raised by clubs such as Alderley Edge, Triton and Macclesfield hockey clubs is that their social space is located separate to their pitches because there is no suitable space offered to the clubs at the sites that they use for matches.
- ◀ Both the Edge Hockey Centre and Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre are considered to be serviced by poor quality changing facilities.
- ◀ There are currently seven clubs fielding teams in Cheshire East; combined, the clubs contribute a membership of 441 senior men, 348 senior women and 1,072 juniors and consist of 30 senior men's teams, 23 senior women's teams and 35 junior teams.
- ◀ When compared to data in 2016/2017, there are now 277 more members attached to the clubs in Cheshire East, which represents a significant increase.
- ◀ Wilmslow HC expresses exported demand as it occasionally accesses Cheadle Hulme High School, in Stockport, due a lack of pitch capacity within Cheshire East.
- ◀ Wilmslow, Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Crewe Vagrants hockey clubs express latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitches were available to them.

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- ◀ EH applies a growth rate to current affiliated membership numbers and for Cheshire East this is 15%, which results in a projected overall increase of 280 members, equating to 120 seniors and 160 juniors.

Scenarios

Accommodating future, latent and exported demand

Knutsford, Triton and Sandbach hockey clubs report that all their demand can be accommodated on pitches currently in use; however, that is not the case for Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs cannot.

For Macclesfield, Alderley Edge and Wilmslow hockey clubs, the development of the pitches at King's School will help relieve capacity issues in the wider area, although the site is not ideally located for either Alderley Edge HC or Wilmslow HC. Therefore, England Hockey's preferred approach is for an additional pitch to be provided within the Wilmslow Analysis Area for these clubs as there is no existing pitch in the locality that is not already at capacity.

Shavington Leisure Centre is considered to have spare capacity for an increase in usage on a Saturday and offers a viable option for Crewe Vagrants HC, should the Club be willing to access a secondary venue. That said, the pitch will have to be resurfaced as it is currently unsuitable for hockey use due to its poor quality.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

None of the 12 sites containing sand based AGPs currently in use for hockey should be considered for conversion unless replacement provision is provided within the locality. For clarity, this applies to the following:

- ◀ Alsager School
- ◀ Alsager Sports Hub
- ◀ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club
- ◀ Fallibroome Academy
- ◀ Knutsford Leisure Centre
- ◀ Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (girls)
- ◀ Sandbach School (boys)
- ◀ The Edge Hockey Centre
- ◀ The King's School
- ◀ Wilmslow High School
- ◀ Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club
- ◀ Tytherington High School

The AGPs at the remaining sites (Macclesfield College/Academy, Cheshire College South and West, Shavington Leisure Centre and Malbank School and Sixth Form College) could be considered. Of these, Cheshire College South and West is a site of interest for the FA and has been identified within the LFFP for Cheshire East; the others are not considered suitable at this time.

Recommendations

- ◀ As a minimum, protect the pitches at the 12 sites currently in use by hockey clubs.

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- ◀ Consider providing an additional AGP in the Wilmslow area to better satisfy demand from Wilmslow and Alderley Edge hockey clubs.
- ◀ Explore options to accommodate latent and future demand expressed by Crewe Vagrants HC.
- ◀ Resurface the AGPs at Alsager School, Sandbach School (boys), Knutsford Leisure Centre and Wilmslow High School.
- ◀ Also consider resurfacing of AGPs at Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre, Tytherington High School and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club before quality further deteriorates.
- ◀ Encourage providers to have sinking funds in place at all sites to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Pursue long-term security of tenure for all clubs, particularly those using education sites, through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey and revisit hockey demand when and if a conversion is proposed to ensure that the pitch in question is not required.
- ◀ Ensure any new 3G pitch developments do not make sand-based provision in the locality unsustainable following transfer of football activity.

Lacrosse pitches

Summary

- ◀ **Consideration must be given to providing Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to more pitches given the high levels of latent and future demand it expresses.**
- ◀ **As Wilmslow Lacrosse Club does not express any latent demand and as it has access to more pitches, it is considered that the Club has enough to provision to accommodate both current and future demand.**
- ◀ There are seven senior lacrosse pitches located across three sites (Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, Poynton Sports Club and Mount Vernon), all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ Both Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Poynton Sports Club are managed internally by the respective clubs, whereas Mount Vernon is owned and managed by the Council.
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are rated as standard quality; Mount Vernon is considered to poor quality.
- ◀ Both Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, whereas Mount Vernon is without changing rooms.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club fields three senior men's teams, an u19s development team, three junior boys' teams and two junior girls' team; Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields two senior men's teams, an u19s development team and two junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club has grown its participation over the previous two years, whilst Wilmslow Lacrosse Club has suffered a decline in demand following the loss of a junior team and its senior women's team.
- ◀ Both clubs use AGPs at their home ground to accommodate the majority of training demand, particularly during winter months as this saves the grass pitches from added wear.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club has future demand amounting to four additional junior teams if it had more available pitches.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club expresses remaining future demand equating to one senior men's, one senior women's and one junior girls' teams, whereas Wilmslow Lacrosse Club has remaining future demand equating to two junior teams.

Scenarios

Transferring demand to 3G pitches

Lacrosse clubs accessing 3G pitches is becoming increasingly common nationally and could offer a viable option for Poynton Lacrosse Club given its expressed latent and future demand. That said, there are currently no full size 3G pitches within the Poynton Analysis Area, although it is noted that at least one is required in the future and any development could therefore be utilised by the Club. Currently, All Hallows Catholic College provides the nearest pitch; it is located approximately eight miles away from the Club's current home base.

Recommendations

- ◀ Consider options to help Poynton Lacrosse Club field its expressed latent and future demand, particularly through the use of a 3G pitch, or via the use of potential new provision at Langley Cricket Club.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at Mount Vernon and sustain pitch quality at Poynton Sports Club.
- ◀ Ensure the supply of pitches available to Wilmslow Lacrosse Club remains sufficient both in terms of quantity and quality.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that playing pitches are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is a requirement for playing field land to meet the identified shortfalls. Playing field land also forms part of the Council's open space and green infrastructure provision so is protected under a broader policy.

NPPF paragraph 97 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

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

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The following sites in Cheshire East are identified as being lapsed:

- ◀ Bisto Football Club (CW10 0HD)
- ◀ Cranage Hall (CW4 8EY)
- ◀ Crewe Hall (CW1 6UZ)
- ◀ Goddard Street (CW1 3BD)

And the following sites as disused:

- ◀ Brooke Dean Community College (SK9 3QN)
- ◀ Brook House Playing Field (CW2 6NA)
- ◀ Cedar Avenue (ST7 2QP)
- ◀ Hazelbadge Road Playing Field (SK12 1HE)
- ◀ Peover Playing Fields (WA16 8TU)
- ◀ Portland Drive (ST7 3BS)
- ◀ St John's Road (CW12 2AU)
- ◀ Wheelock Playing Field (CW11 4RD)
- ◀ Wybunbury Recreation Ground (CW5 7SD)

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls.

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

New housing development - where proposed housing development is located within proximity of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvements to existing pitches in that area in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. The PPS should be used to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand for, and capacity of, existing sites, and whether improvement to increase capacity or new provision is required.

Housing Growth scenarios have been provided in Part 7 of this document to estimate the additional demand generated by housing by sport and pitch type.

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Policy Exception E1:

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

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

Policy Exception E4:

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

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

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 Cheshire East for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of use, such as Eaton Bank and Academy and Knutsford Academy (lower).

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

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

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

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

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All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)¹¹. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

Each club interested in leasing a council site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below. Clubs in Cheshire East that express an interest in acquiring a lease that do not currently do so include Crewe, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes and Vale Juniors football clubs and Knutsford RUFC.

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

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/NGBs accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Club Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a Borough wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p>

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

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

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

¹¹ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

To maximise community use a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Cheshire East, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from schools, especially some academies, to open up provision is also an issue.

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

- ◀ Adlington Primary School (Macclesfield)
- ◀ Astbury St Mary's CE Primary (Congleton)
- ◀ Calverley School (Nantwich)
- ◀ Dean Oaks Primary School (Wilmslow)
- ◀ Elworth Primary School (Sandbach)
- ◀ Fallibroome Academy (Macclesfield)
- ◀ Havannah Primary School (Congleton)
- ◀ Ivy Bank Primary School (Macclesfield)
- ◀ Little Bollington Primary (Macclesfield)
- ◀ Millfields Primary School (Nantwich)
- ◀ Offley Primary School (Congleton)
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Rode Heath Primary School (Congleton)
- ◀ Sandbach School (girls)
- ◀ Sound and District Primary (Nantwich)
- ◀ St Mary's Primary School (Congleton)
- ◀ St Michael's Community Academy (Crewe)
- ◀ Terra Nova School (Congleton)
- ◀ The Dingle Primary School (Crewe)
- ◀ The Oaks Academy (Crewe)
- ◀ Vine Tree Primary School (Crewe)
- ◀ Weston Village Primary School (Crewe)
- ◀ Willaston Primary School (Crewe)
- ◀ Wilmslow High School
- ◀ Wisaston Green Primary School (Crewe)
- ◀ Wrenbury Primary School (Nantwich)
- ◀ All Hallows Catholic College (Macclesfield)
- ◀ Audlem St James Primary School (Crewe)
- ◀ Cranberry Academy (Congleton)
- ◀ Disley Primary School (Poynton)
- ◀ Excalibur Primary School (Congleton)
- ◀ Goostrey Primary School (Congleton)
- ◀ Hurdsfield Primary School (Macclesfield)
- ◀ Leighton Academy (Crewe)
- ◀ Mabllins Lane Primary School (Crewe)
- ◀ Mossley CE Primary School (Congleton)
- ◀ Pebble Brook Primary School (Crewe)
- ◀ Rainow Primary School (Macclesfield)
- ◀ Sandbach Community Primary School
- ◀ St Anne's Catholic Primary (Nantwich)
- ◀ St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School
- ◀ St Mary's Primary School (Crewe)
- ◀ Stapeley Broad Lane Primary (Nantwich)
- ◀ The Berkley Academy (Crewe)
- ◀ The King's School (Macclesfield)
- ◀ Tytherington High School (Macclesfield)
- ◀ Warmingham Primary School (Crewe)
- ◀ Wheelock Primary School (Sandbach)
- ◀ Wilmslow Grange Primary School
- ◀ Wistaston Church Lane School (Crewe)
- ◀ Woodcocks Well CE Primary (Congleton)

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

As a priority, community use options should be explored at large schools offering numerous pitches, such as Poynton High School and Tytherington High School. Securing access to these sites will significantly reduce grass pitch shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Although there is a growing number of academies over which Cheshire East 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.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor 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.

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

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

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

For the football, Cheshire East's LFFP identifies strategic sites in need of improvement and should therefore be used to guide investment. The PPS was used into inform the LFFP and this update aligns with its recommendations.

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

The FA has recently granted funding to the Council for improvements across a number of sites, whilst the Council has been securing S106 funds to making substantial improvements to pitches to improve capacity. This has been a key source of funding since the original PPS was produced.

Addressing quality issues

Quality in Cheshire East is variable but generally pitches are assessed as poor or standard quality with the exception of cricket squares, which are mostly assessed as good 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 pitches is also essential.

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on pitch quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the pitches tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that pitch quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

Good quality refers to pitches with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces, that are free from vandalism and litter. For rugby, a good pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking.

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

Poor quality refers to pitches with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. For rugby, pitches will have inadequate natural drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate (too small) changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old, dated interiors. If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

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

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

For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces: www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the 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

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guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

Table 5.1: Carrying capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football (grass)	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union ¹²	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	Four matches per day	N/A	N/A

Whilst no capacity guidelines are set for lacrosse, it is assumed that a similar approach should be taken to that of football and rugby pitches.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

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

For rugby union, additional floodlighting will reduce the majority of overplay at club sites as it will allow clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative. Sandbach, Macclesfield and Wilmslow rugby clubs would particularly benefit from this.

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

¹² The RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and the maintenance programme afforded to a site.

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Increasing maintenance

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

The FA has the Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) which has been developed in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise council-maintained sites. A number of PIP have recently taken place across Cheshire East.

In addition, PIP also aims to focus on developing an improved maintenance programme with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority maintained sites. The Council is already in discussions with the FA over this.

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

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

At local authority sites in Cheshire East, maintenance of grass pitches (carried out by ANSA) is deemed to be minimal due to budget constraints. As such, if budget restrictions allow, additional work on council pitches should be carried out. This could include sand dressing, weed-killing and/or fertilising pitches (none of which currently takes place) and an improvement in post-season remedial work is also recommended. The Council should work with users and the relevant NGBs (as it has done recently with the FA) to achieve this and to fully determine the most appropriate pitch improvements on a site-by-site basis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

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

For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's New Playing Pitch Development Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. This uses team generation rates from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then converts this into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs (both for providing the provision and for its life cycle). There is an expectation from Sport England that the calculator should be used as a guide by local authorities with a robust PPS in place.

The PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. As previously stated, where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, as part of a wider sports needs assessment on major strategic sites and in line with the Council's policy to provide Recreational and Outdoor sports facilities on all developments over 10 dwellings, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality.

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To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused. The preference is for multi-pitch and multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development.

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

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

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

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches, the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England New Development Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

As set out in the Assessment Report, the Council has an overall housing requirement for at least 36,000 new homes and proposals to achieve 31,400 additional jobs within its Local Plan period (2010-2030). Since the start of the Local Plan period (2010), there have been 9,556 housing completions (to March 2018). This means that a further 26,444 new homes are required to meet the Local Plan target, with 21,881 commitments already in place. Should these commitments go ahead, the remaining target is 4,563 new homes.

The impact on future demand for pitch sports is contained in Part 7 of the report.

OBJECTIVE 3

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

Recommendations:

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

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

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council's own playing pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that presently used minimally or currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches and NTPs where there is a need, where there is significant housing growth, or where new schools are proposed.

For new schools, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the School to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the School as well as the wider community via a community use agreement.

Any new provision, whether that be at a school or as a result of housing growth, should also consider the Council's wider sporting need. This means that the focus should not solely be on playing pitches but also other types of sports facilities as well as provision for wider recreational activity.

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

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

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming that an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of playing pitches.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

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

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

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

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
Type of sport	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.
Management	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.
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 Borough wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

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

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both hub sites and key 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 is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision. The Action Plan identifies some sites that may be considered suitable for clubs to lease and sites that are already of an interest to existing clubs. Other potential sites should be identified by the Council and the steering group.

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

Management and development

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions. Given the extent of potential actions it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all of the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to provide support.

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

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 which can be found at:

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

Timescales

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

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

Aim

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

CONGLETON ANALYSIS AREA - SUMMARY

Football

Summary

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ¹³	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	2	2.5	-	0.5	-	0.5	1
Youth pitches 11v11	2	5.5	0.5	4	-	2	6
Youth pitches 9v9	-	2.5	-	2.5	2.5	1	6
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-	0	0.5	1	1.5
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-	0	1.5	2	3.5

- There is a current shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and a future shortfall of one match equivalent session.
- There is a current shortfall of four match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and a future shortfall of six match equivalent session.
- There is a current shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of six match equivalent sessions.
- Mini 7v7 pitches are currently played to capacity whilst future demand results in a shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Mini 5v5 pitches are currently played to capacity whilst future demand results in a shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Overplay is evident on pitches at Alsager Leisure Centre, Back Lane, Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Sandbach Community Football Centre.
- There are 24 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Changing facilities servicing Back Lane, Congleton High School, Sutton Lane Playing Field and Wood Park are considered to be poor quality.
- There are 16 providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- There is current training demand shortfall of one full size 3G pitch in the towns of Congleton and Sandbach, whilst demand in Alsager, Holmes Chapel and Middlewich is being met.

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity, especially at key sites such as Back Lane, Sutton Lane Playing Field and Cranage Playing Field.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Improve changing facilities at Back Lane, Congleton High School, Sutton Lane Playing Field and Wood Lane and provide facilities at Cranage Playing Field.

¹³ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer (e.g. Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC).
- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Identify potential sites to increase 3G pitch stock in Congleton (e.g. Eaton Bank Academy) and Sandbach (e.g. Sandbach Community Football Centre).
- ◀ Ensure all current 3G pitches have sinking funds in place for long-term sustainability and ensure all remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Further maximise usage of 3G pitches, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are 11 grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and two standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ Of the grass wicket squares, nine are rated as good quality, one (Mossley Cricket Club) as standard quality and one (Sandbach School) as poor quality.
- ◀ Sandbach CC expresses an aspiration for additional practice nets to be installed at its site, whereas Holmes Chapel CC reports a need for its existing nets to be improved.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at five sites, however, none are available for an increase in play at peak time for senior demand (Saturday).
- ◀ Alsager, Congleton and Elworth cricket clubs are overplayed by two, five and one match equivalent sessions respectively, as well Sandbach School (Boys), which is overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 17 match equivalent sessions currently and 29 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ For junior cricket there is spare capacity amounting to 63 match equivalent sessions currently and 45 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at Sandbach School and Mossley Cricket Club and deliver improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Sandbach CC and Holmes Chapel CC in aspirations for training facility improvements.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Congleton Cricket Club through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at the remaining sites through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ◀ Ensure clubs can fulfil their future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are 11 senior, three junior and three mini rugby union pitches available for community use.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Back Lane, Congleton Park and Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre contain pitches assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Holmes Chapel RUFC has only eight years remaining on its licence of Holmes Chapel Community Centre from Holmes Chapel Parish Council.
- ◀ Congleton RUFC reports a need for the changing facilities servicing Back Lane to be improved.
- ◀ Back Lane, Sandbach Rugby Club and Congleton Park and Hankinson's Field contain pitches that are overplayed.
- ◀ There is an overall shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions currently, which increases to 5.5 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance, particularly at poor quality and overplayed sites.
- ◀ Consider installation of additional floodlighting at Sandbach Rugby Club to spread out training demand and alleviate overplay of current training pitch.
- ◀ Seek to better accommodate Congleton RUFC's training demand, ideally by floodlighting a match pitch that they access.
- ◀ Explore options to provide Holmes Chapel RUFC with floodlighting on a full size pitch in order to ensure an appropriate training and match environment is available to the Club to aid future growth and development.
- ◀ Attempt to improve security of tenure for Holmes Chapel RUFC through providing a lease agreement (minimum 25 years), to be informed via discussions between the RFU and the Parish Council that owns the site.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unavailable pitches for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Back Lane to make them more rugby appropriate.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs and all four are in current use by hockey clubs.
- ◀ Alsager School and Sandbach School (boys) are assessed as poor quality, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College (girls) is assessed as standard quality (albeit is over ten years old), and Alsager Sports Hub is assessed as good quality.
- ◀ The two hockey clubs (Triton HC and Sandbach HC) report that both their current and future demand can be accommodated on the current stock of pitches.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure all pitches are protected for hockey use.
- ◀ Resurface Alsager School, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College (girls) and Sandbach School (boys) in the near future.
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place at all sites for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Pursue security of tenure for all clubs through community use agreements.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

CONGLETON ANALYSIS AREA – ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ¹⁴
4	Alsager Cricket Club	ST7 2NW	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 12 senior grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or transfer demand to sites with spare capacity.			M	S	L
5	Alsager Leisure Centre / School	ST7 2HP	Football	ESAR	One adult, two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed as standard quality. One of the youth 11v11 pitches is over marked by the youth 9v9 pitch. The youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed, whereas the adult pitch is at capacity.	Seek to improve quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand off site.	FA ESAR School	Key centre	M	L	L
			Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as poor quality. Available for community use but unused. Also unused by Alsager High School due its quality.	Replace NTP for curricular and extra-curricular use and consider as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Alsager Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.			ECB ESAR School	L	S
			Sand AGP (Hockey)	School	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Triton HC. Operated by the School rather than the Leisure Centre. Assessed as poor quality and not re-surfaced since 1995. No floodlighting is allowed on Sundays.	Refurbish AGP to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School		H	S	M
					Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.	H			L	L	
					Ensure security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.	H			S	L	
			6	Alsager Sports Hub	ST7 2HL	Football	ESAR		Grass football pitches to be complete in Summer 2020.	Ensure pitches are provided to a good quality and are the right configuration to satisfy demand.	FA ESAR
		Seek to maximise usage, ideally through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites in the locality e.g. Alsager Leisure Centre.				H		S	L		
3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch recently developed and assessed as good quality. Supporting changing provision also provided.				Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA ESAR	H	L	L	
		Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.				H		M	L		
		Seek to maximise usage.				H		L	I		
Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that has recently been developed and will be used by Triton HC. Assessed as good quality. Supporting changing facilities also being provided.				Protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH ESAR	H	L	L	
		Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.				H		L	L		
		Seek to maximise hockey usage.				H		S	L		

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

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost		
11	Back Lane	CW12 4RB	Football	Council	Two adult, two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch that are all assessed as poor quality. Adult pitches are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions whilst spare capacity on the remaining pitch types is discounted due to poor quality. Identified for pitch and ancillary facility improvements in the LFFP, with FA funding secured for the pitches.	Implement quality improvements to alleviate overplay.	FA	Key centre	H	S	M		
						If overplay cannot be alleviated, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			M	S	L		
						Improve changing facilities.			H	S	M		
			Rugby union			One senior pitch and one junior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0). Used by Congleton RUFC. Senior pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions; junior pitch is played to capacity. Serviced by changing facilities that are deemed unsuitable for rugby union purposes. The Club has submitted a planning application for improvement.			Improve pitch quality through improved maintenance and/or drainage to alleviate overplay.	RFU	M	S	L
									Consider planning application in order to improve changing facilities for rugby union purposes.		H	S	M
									Seek to better accommodate Congleton RUFC's training demand.		H	S	L
Explore potential re-orientation of pitches to accommodate increased rugby provision.	M	S	L										
15	Black Firs Primary School	CW12 4QJ	Football	School	A mini 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L		
						Further explore community use aspects.			L	S	L		
19	Booth Street Stadium (Congleton Football Club)	CW12 4BJ	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is suitable for Step 5. Actual spare capacity amounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Retain spare capacity to protect quality.	FA Club	Local site	L	L	L		
						Ensure club can progress through the football pyramid.			L	L	L		
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	CW11 1GH	Rugby union	Club	Five senior, two junior and three mini pitches. Two senior pitches are floodlit; two others have a drainage system installed (D2). All others have natural, adequate drainage (D1). All pitches are maintained to a good level (M2). One floodlit pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions; the other is reserved for first team matches. Remaining pitches are played to capacity.	Reduce overplay through installing a drainage system on more of its pitches to increase pitch capacity.	RFU Club	Key centre	M	S	M		
						To fully alleviate overplay, provide the Club with additional floodlighting, either permanent or portable. This will allow training demand to spread across a greater number of pitches.			M	S	M		
23	Congleton Park	CW12 1JG	Rugby union	Council	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0). Used by Congleton RUFC and overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality through improved maintenance and/or drainage to alleviate overplay.	RFU	Local site	M	S	L		
24	Buglawton Primary School	CW12 2EL	Football	School	A mini 7v7 pitch that is assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L		
						Seek to provide club users with secure tenure via a community use agreement.			L	L	L		

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
33	Congleton Sports and Social Club (Congleton Cricket Club)	CW12 4DG	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with six senior and three junior grass wickets and an NTP. Overplayed by five match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Alleviate overplay through greater use of NTP or via the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			M	S	L
34	Congleton High School	CW12 4NS	Football	School	Two adult, two youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used. Both adult pitches are over marked by the youth 9v9 pitches and both youth 11v11 pitches are over marked by the mini pitches. The youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by one match equivalent sessions, whilst the remaining pitches are at capacity at peak time. The changing provision servicing the pitches is considered to be poor quality and improvement is recommended in the LFFP.	Alleviate overplay through improving pitch quality to good or seek transfer of demand.	FA School Club	Key centre	M	S	M
						Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			M	S	L
						Improve changing facilities.			H	M	M
			3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. Assessed as good quality having been installed in 2016. FA approved and used for matches as well as training.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA School		H	L	L
						Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			H	L	L
						Seek to maximise usage for competitive fixtures.			M	S	L
Cricket	A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School	S	L	L					
		Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Congleton Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.		M	S	L					
36	Cranage Playing Fields	CW4 8FB	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch played to capacity at peak time and an unused poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Identified for grass pitch and ancillary facility improvements in the LFFP.	Improve pitch quality and consider developing permanent changing facilities.	FA	Local site	H	S	L
						Explore asset transfer to Holmes Chapel Hurricanes FC.			M	S	L
37	Cranberry Academy	ST7 2LE	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
43	Eaton Bank Academy	CW12 1NT	Football	School	Two youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all assessed as poor quality. Actual spare capacity on the mini 7v7 pitches is discounted due to quality issues, whilst the remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality to sustain current usage and to provide actual spare capacity.	FA School	Key centre	M	S	M
						Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			M	S	L
			3G		A planning proposal has been submitted for a full size 3G pitch, as identified in the Cheshire East LFFP, with Vale Juniors FC noted as a partner club.	Support, as appropriate, 3G aspirations to alleviate local shortfalls.	FA School		H	S	H
			Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L	L
						Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Congleton Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.			M	S	L
Rugby union	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0) that is unavailable for community use.	Protect and improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School	L	L	L					
45	Elworth Cricket Club	CW11 3BF	Cricket	Club	Two good quality squares; one with 12 senior grass wickets and an NTP and one with three junior grass wickets. For the first square, spare capacity exists amounting to five match equivalent sessions; however, it is used to capacity at peak time for senior cricket. The second square is at capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Ensure no additional usage of second square to avoid future overplay.			M	S	L
47	Forge Fields	CW11 3RD	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality and current usage through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity to cater for future demand and/or the transfer of demand from overplayed pitches.			L	S	L
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	CW4 8NB	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 pitch assessed as standard quality with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality and current usage through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity to cater for future demand and/or the transfer of demand from overplayed pitches.			L	L	L
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 45 x 35 metres.	Review community use potential and explore surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA		L	L	L

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
53	Hankinson's Field	CW12 1JL	Rugby union	Council	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, drainage (D1). Used by Congleton RUFC and overplayed by one match equivalent session. Unmarked areas surrounding the pitch are used for training and mini rugby via portable floodlighting.	Explore quality improvements to increase capacity and to allow for increased use.	RFU	Local site	M	S	L
						Seek to better accommodate the Club's training demand.			H	S	L
55	Hermitage Primary School	CW4 7NP	Football	School	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is available to the community and used to capacity.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			L	S	L
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	CW4 8AA	Rugby union	Parish Council ESAR	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, drainage (D1). Used by Holmes Chapel RUFC in an agreement that has eight years remaining. Spare capacity amounts to one match equivalent session; however, pitch is used to capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, sustain quality and ensure any increased usage is met by improvements to avoid future overplay.	RFU Parish ESAR	Local site	M	L	L
						Explore providing increased security of tenure via a lease agreement of at least 25 years and explore providing floodlights on full size pitch in order to provide a more appropriate training and match environment to aid future growth and development.			M	S	L
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	CW4 7BE	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with eight grass wickets. Spare capacity remains amounting to 16 match equivalent sessions; however, the square is used to capacity at peak time for senior cricket. Floodlit disused bowling green is used to accommodate training demand and is deemed sufficient.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Improve quality of practice nets			M	S	L
						Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations through playing outside of the peak period or through transfer of play.			M	S	L
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	CW4 7DZ	Football	School	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch assessed as standard. Overplayed by 0.5 and one match equivalent session respectively.	Alleviate overplay through the transfer of demand or quality improvements.	FA School	Key centre	M	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			M	S	L
			3G	A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2015 and assessed as good quality. Some spare capacity remains.	Explore options to maximise usage, both for midweek training and competitive matches.	FA School	M	L	L		
					Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.		M	L	L		
					FA testing every three years to ensure suitability for matches.		M	L	L		
			Cricket	A standalone NTP was replaced by the 3G pitch.	Consider replacing NTP elsewhere if it is required to cater for school needs.	ECB School	M	S	L		
			Rugby union	Two senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0). Available to the community, however, unused.	Protect and improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School	L	S	L		
					Explore opportunities for the site to accommodate Holmes Chapel RUFC should Holmes Chapel Community Centre ever reach capacity.		L	L	L		

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
59	Holmes Chapel Primary School	CW4 7EB	Football	School	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and played to capacity.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			L	S	L
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	CW10 9EZ	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 14 senior and four junior grass wickets. Overall spare capacity remains; however, it is used to capacity at peak time for senior cricket.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre (High School)	CW10 9BU	Football	School	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Played to capacity, solely by youth 11v11 teams. One pitch is a dual use rugby union pitch. Unofficial use recorded despite the site being fenced off.	Sustain quality, pitch over markings and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	L	L	L
						Consider pitch re-configuration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			L	L	L
						Provide a resolution to unofficial use.			L	S	L
			3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2012 and assessed as standard quality. Some spare capacity remains.	Explore options to maximise usage, both for midweek training and competitive matches.	FA School		M	L	L
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			M	L	L
						Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play.			H	L	L
Rugby union	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Unavailable for community use due to dual use football pitch.	Protect and sustain quality for continued curricular and extra-curricular use and ensure maintenance is appropriate to sustain over markings.	RFU School	L	L	L					
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	CW10 9DR	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is suitable for Step 7 football. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Retain minimal actual spare capacity to protect quality.	FA Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Ensure club has facilities that enable it to progress through the football pyramid.			L	L	L
			3G		A floodlit, smaller size 3G pitch measuring 55 x 30 metres. Available for community use and well used, particularly by the hosting club.	Retain for continued community use.	FA Club		L	L	L
86	Milton Park	ST7 2ES	Football	Council	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of a youth 11v11 team from an adult pitch.			L	S	L

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
96	Offley Primary School	CW11 1GY	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
99	Pikemere School	ST7 2SW	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine community needs/demand.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	CW11 3LZ	Football	Club	Five adult, two youth 11v11 and three 9v9 pitches all assessed as good quality. One of the adult pitches is over marked by one of the 9v9 pitches. One of the adult pitches is suitable for Step 7 football. The youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions; remaining pitches are at capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Hub site	M	L	L
						Transfer demand from youth 11v11 pitches to alleviate overplay or explore pitch re-configuration to increase supply.			M	S	L
						Ensure site has facilities that enable Sandbach United FC to progress through the football pyramid.			M	L	L
			3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2012 and assessed as standard quality. Site identified in the LFFP as being suitable for a second full size 3G pitch, thus making the site a multi 3G pitch hub site.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA Club		H	L	L
						Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			H	L	L
						Support aspirations for a second 3G pitch to be installed given shortfalls within Sandbach and given that the existing pitch is operating at capacity.			H	M	H
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	CW11 3LZ	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 12 senior and five junior grass wickets. Minimal spare capacity remains but the square is played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Consider aspirations for additional practice nets to be installed.			L	S	L
109	Sandbach High and Sixth Form College (Girls)	CW11 3NT	Sand AGP (Hockey)	School	A full size, sand-based AGP that is without floodlighting. Used by Sandbach HC for match play. Assessed as standard quality albeit the surface is over ten years old (2004).	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School	Local site	M	M	M
						Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			M	L	L
						Ensure security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			M	S	L

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost					
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	CW11 3NS	Football	School	One adult and one youth 11v11 assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use. Both pitches are dual use rugby union pitches.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use options given local shortfalls.	FA School	Key centre	L	S	L					
			Cricket		One good quality square with ten grass wickets and one poor quality square with six grass wickets. Available to the community and used. The good quality square has spare capacity of ten match equivalent sessions, although this is discounted to take account of school use, whilst the poor quality square is overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions. Pavilion is considered to be unsuitable for cricket.	Sustain good quality square and improve poor quality square to alleviate overplay.	ECB School		M	L	L					
					Consider installation of NTP to relieve grass wickets of use by the School and junior teams.	M			S	L						
					Explore potential improvements to the pavilion to make it more cricket appropriate.	M			M	L						
			Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Sandbach HC, mostly for training purposes. Assessed as poor as the surface is over ten years old (2003).	Refurbish to improve quality and retain as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School		H	M	M					
						Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			M	L	L					
						Ensure security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			M	S	L					
			Rugby union		Four senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Unavailable for community use due to heavy school usage. Two of the pitches are dual use football pitches.	Protect and sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L	L					
			121		Sutton Lane	CW10 0ES	Football		Council	One adult pitch assessed as poor quality. Actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities. Space exists for more pitches to be supplied. Identified in the LFFP for grass pitch and changing facility improvements, with FA funding secured for the pitches.	Improve pitch quality and maximise usage through future demand and the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.	FA	Local site	M	S	M
											Improve changing rooms to bring them back into use.			M	S	M
Consider marking out additional pitches given local shortfalls.	M	S		L												
122	Terra Nova School	CW4 8BT	Football	School	One youth 11v11, one 9v9 and two 7v7 pitches that are available for community use but unused. Assessed as standard quality.	Retain for school use and further explore lack of community demand.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L					
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 80 x 45 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School		L	L	L					

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
145	Wood Park	ST7 2BS	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			L	L	L
146	Wood Park (Alsager Town Football Club)	ST7 2DP	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Used for Step 6 football. Identified in the LFFP for changing facility improvements given the current provision is poor quality. The Club also expresses exported demand.	Retain spare capacity to protect pitch quality.	FA Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Ensure pitch enables the Club to progress through the football pyramid.			L	L	L
						Support the Club in its aspirations to improve the changing facilities.			M	S	H
						Explore options to return exported demand.			L	S	L
157	Mossley Cricket Club	CW12 3BN	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with five senior and two junior grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are at capacity.	Review quality issues and provide improvements where possible in an attempt to improve square to good.	ECB Club	Local site	M	L	L
						Without quality improvements, ensure any increased demand takes place away from the grass wickets to avoid overplay.			L	L	L
160	Rode Park and Lawton Cricket Club	ST7 3QT	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 11 senior and three junior grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 2- match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time for senior cricket.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations through playing outside of the peak period or through transfer of play.			M	L	L
167	Alsager Highfields Primary School	ST7 2NW	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
169	Astbury St Mary's CE Primary School	CW12 4RG	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
174	Brereton Primary School	CW11 1RN	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
179	Cledford Primary School	CW10 0DD	Football	School	A poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
180	Daven Primary School	CW12 3AH	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
183	Elworth Hall Primary School	CW11 1TE	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
184	Elworth Primary School	CW11 3FY	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
185	Excalibur Primary School	ST7 2RQ	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
186	Goostrey Primary School	CW4 8PE	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
188	Havannah Primary School	CW12 5DF	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
198	Marlfields Primary School	CW12 4BT	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches that are available for community use and used. Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			L	S	L
199	Middlewich Primary School	CW10 9BS	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches that are available for community use and used. Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			L	S	L
202	Mossley CE Primary School	CW12 3JA	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
208	Rode Heath Primary School	ST7 3SH	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
209	Sandbach Community Primary School	CW11 4NS	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
210	Scholar Green Primary School	ST7 3HF	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
212	Smallwood Primary School	CW11 2UR	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular needs.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
						Explore options of transferring demand to the site from overplayed sites or transferring exported demand.			L	S	L
218	St Gabriel's Catholic Primary	ST7 2PG	Football	School	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
219	St John's Primary School (Sandbach)	CW11 2LE	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
220	St Mary's Primary School (Congleton)	CW12 1HT	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
222	St Mary's Primary School (Middlewich)	CW10 9DH	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is available to the community and used. Played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			L	S	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
229	The Quinta Academy	CW12 4LX	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
236	Wheelock Primary School	CW11 4PY	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
239	Woodcocks Well CE Primary	ST7 3NQ	Football	School	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
-	Green Street, Sandbach	CW11 1GX	Football	Council	Open green space with the potential to host mini pitches to reduce local shortfalls.	Consider creation of mini pitches or informal football provision (site could potentially be added to the LFFP when it is updated).	FA	Local site	L	S	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CREWE ANALYSIS AREA - SUMMARY

Football

Summary of current and future demand football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ¹⁵	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	9	3	-	6	-	-	6
Youth pitches 11v11	3	1.5	1	0.5	-	0.5	0
Youth pitches 9v9	-	-	-	0	-	1	1
Mini pitches 7v7	0.5	-	-	0.5	-	0.5	0
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-	0	-	1	1

- ◀ There is current and future spare capacity of six match equivalent sessions on adult pitches.
- ◀ There is current spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches; however, future demand negates this.
- ◀ Youth 9v9 pitches are currently at capacity; however, future demand results in a shortfall of one match equivalent session.
- ◀ There is current spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches; however, future demand negates this.
- ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches are currently played to capacity; however, a shortfall is evident when including future demand equating to one match equivalent session.
- ◀ Overplay is evident on adult pitches the Peacock Sports Ground and at Willaston White Star Football Club.
- ◀ There are 14 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ Changing facilities servicing Audlem Playing Fields are considered to be poor quality.
- ◀ There are 15 providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- ◀ There is current training demand for three full size 3G pitches, of which, there are currently two (Alexandra Soccer Centre and Cumberland Arena).
- ◀ Future demand results in an increased shortfall of two full size 3G pitches.
- ◀ The 3G pitch at the Alexandra Soccer Centre requires resurfacing as it has exceeded its recommended lifespan.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity, especially at key sites such as King George V Playing Fields.
- ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- ◀ Explore options to improve changing facilities at Audlem Playing Fields and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.
- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer (e.g. Crewe FC).

¹⁵ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Identify potential sites to increase 3G pitch stock (e.g. Cheshire College South and West).
- ◀ Resurface the 3G pitch at Alexandra Soccer Centre so that it can continue to accommodate demand.
- ◀ Ensure all 3G pitches have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and to ensure that they remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Maximise usage of 3G pitches, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are three grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and four standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ All of the grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Weston CC is exploring the development of a secondary square, however, no formal plan is in place.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at Haslington Cricket Club and Weston Cricket Club, however, neither are available for an increase in play at peak time for senior cricket (Saturday).
- ◀ Eric Swan Sports Ground (Wistaston Sports and Leisure Ground, Church Lane) is overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to five match equivalent sessions both currently and in the future.
- ◀ For junior cricket there is spare capacity amounting to 11 match equivalent sessions currently and three match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain quality of grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Weston CC in its aspiration to develop a secondary square given its lack of peak time capacity on its existing square.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Haslington Cricket Club through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Eric Swan Sports Ground (Wistaston Sports and Leisure Ground, Church Lane) through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ◀ Explore creation of an LMS venue at a strategically suitable location (e.g. King George V Playing Fields).

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There is one senior pitch available to the community use (Sir William Stanier School) and one pitch unavailable for community use (St Thomas More Catholic High School).
- ◀ Both pitches are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ No demand exists from the community as no clubs play in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Retain pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and improve quality where possible.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs although neither are in current use for hockey purposes.
- ◀ Shavington Leisure Centre is assessed as poor quality and is deemed unsuitable for hockey, whereas Cheshire College South and West is assessed as good quality but is without floodlighting due to nearby housing.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore resurfacing Shavington Leisure Centre to provide a possible secondary venue for Crewe Vagrants HC given lack of capacity at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club (see Nantwich Analysis Area).
- ◀ Consider allowing Cheshire College South and West to be converted in order to reduce 3G pitch shortfalls.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CREWE ANALYSIS AREA – ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ¹⁶
2	Alexandra Soccer Centre	CW2 5AF	3G	Club	A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community and a smaller sized 3G pitch that is also floodlit and available to the community. The full size pitch is FA approved and well used for matches as well as training; however, it has reached the end of its lifespan.	Provide imminent resurfacing before quality further deteriorates.	FA Club	Key centre	H	S	M
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			H	L	L
						Administer FA testing of full size pitch every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			H	L	L
14	Beechwood Primary School	CW1 2PH	Football	School	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
39	Cumberland Arena	CW1 2BD	Football	Council	A good quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Suitable and used for Step 7 football.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key centre	M	L	L
						Ensure Crewe FC can progress through the football pyramid and explore options to provide the Club with additional provision.			M	L	L
			3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and well used for matches despite. Resurfaced in 2018 and assessed as good quality.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA		M	S	M
						Administer FA testing of full size pitch every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			M	M	L
						Ensure sinking funds are in place.			M	L	L
51	Haslington Cricket Club	CW1 5SE	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 11 senior and three junior grass wickets and an NTP. The square is played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Ensure no additional play to avoid future overuse.			M	S	L
52	Haslington Playing Fields	CW1 5SE	Football	Parish	A poor quality adult pitch that is unused. Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. The site previously contained a second pitch but that is no longer the case.	Given good quality supporting infrastructure, look to improve quality of pitch to attract usage and if warranted, look to re-establish second pitch.	FA	Local site	L	S	L
60	Hungerford Primary School	CW1 5HA	Football	School	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
65	King George V Playing Field	CW2 8TT	Football	Council	Four standard quality adult pitches with three match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Identified as a key site for investment in grass pitches in the LFFP. Also identified as a site for small-sided 3G.	Improve quality to attract increased usage.	FA	Key centre	H	S	M
						Utilise actual spare capacity through transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.			M	S	L
						Support plans for 3G provision.			M	S	H
			Cricket		No current cricket provision; site identified as location for LMS venue.	Consider installation of a standalone NTP for LMS franchise.	ECB		M	S	L

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

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ¹⁶
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	CW2 8WD	Football	Private	Two standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.	Utilise actual spare capacity through transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA	Local site	L	S	L
76	Manchester Metropolitan University (Cheshire Sports Centre)	CW1 5DU	3G	University	A floodlit, smaller sized 3G pitch measuring 55 x 40 metres that is available for community use. It was reported in early December 2018 that a new health science campus will open on the 40-acre Manchester Metropolitan University site in Crewe. The facility, currently used by MMU, will host students undertaking degrees in Biomedical Sciences and Podiatry from September 2019. The stated aim is to reach the site's 5,000 student capacity by 2024 and is expected to support around 500 jobs. On this basis, the site would therefore remain as a university campus site when the current University leaves in 2019.	Ensure replacement providers retain 3G pitch for continued community use.	FA University	Local site	L	M	L
106	Ruskin Community High School	CW2 7JT	Football	School	One adult and two youth 11v11 pitches assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but currently unused despite recent access.	Retain for curricular use and explore lack of community demand.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for future users through a community use agreement.				L	S	L
			Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as poor quality. Unavailable for community use.	Replace NTP for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	S	L
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 78 x 40 metres. Well used for football training purposes.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School		L	L	L
111	Shavington Academy	CW2 5DH	Football	School	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
					Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.				L	S	L
			Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L	L
						Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of demand from overplayed sites.			L	S	L
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	CW2 5DJ	Hockey	ESAR	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is unsuitable for hockey due to its poor quality. Last resurfaced in 2004. Well used for football but unlikely to be suitable for 3G given close proximity of the Alexandra Soccer Centre.	Resurface pitch to improve quality and explore potential of it providing a secondary venue for Crewe Vagrants HC.	EH ESAR	Local site	M	S	M
						Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			M	S	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ¹⁶
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	CW1 4EB	Football	ESAR	One adult pitch and three youth 11v11 pitches assessed as poor quality. Available to the community but currently unused despite recent access. Adult pitch is dual use rugby union.	Improve pitch quality for curricular use and to attract community usage. Secure tenure for future users through a community use agreement.	FA School	Key centre	L	S	L
			Cricket		A standalone NTP that was replaced when the School was re-built.	Consider replacing NTP if it is required for school needs.	ECB School		L	S	L
			Rugby union		Senior pitch with poor maintenance (M0) and natural maintenance (D1). Available to the community but unused. Dual use football pitch.	Protect and implement maintenance improvements for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		L	L	L
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 55 x 35 metres. Well used for football	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH School		L	M	L
114	Cheshire College South and West	CW2 8AB	Football	College	A good quality adult pitch that is available to the community and with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Retain minimal spare capacity to protect quality.	FA College	Key centre	L	L	L
			Sand AGP		A full size, sand-based AGP that is without floodlighting due to nearby housing. Unused for hockey. Built in 2011 and assessed as good quality. Identified for 3G conversion in LFFP.	Resurface pitch to 3G to alleviate current 3G shortfalls providing that floodlights can be installed. If floodlighting is not possible, explore other areas of the site for a new AGP development.	EH College		H	S	H
									H	M	H
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	CW2 8AE	Football	School	One and one youth 11v11 pitch assessed as standard quality. Adult pitch is a dual use rugby union pitch. Adult pitch is available to the community and used; youth 11v11 pitch is unavailable to the community. Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use. Pursue security of tenure for club users in order to provide actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
			Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use. Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.	ECB School		M	S	L
									L	L	L
			Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate maintenance (D0). Available to the community but unused. Dual use football pitch.	Protect and implement quality improvements for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		L	S	L
123	The Berkeley Academy	CW2 6RU	Football	School	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ¹⁶
129	The Oaks Academy	CW2 7NQ	Football	School	One youth 11v11, two youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 pitches assessed as poor quality. Youth 11v11 pitch is available to the community but unused; remaining pitches are unavailable to the community. One of the youth 9v9 pitches is over marked by a mini 5v5 pitch.	Improve quality through improved drainage for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and then re-examine community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	S	M
			Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L	L
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized sand-based AGP measuring 85 x 30 metres that is not floodlit.	Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.			L	S	L
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	CW5 6NE	Football	Council	One adult, one youth 11v11 and two mini 7v7 pitches assessed as standard quality. The mini 7v7 pitches are over marked. The adult and youth 11v11 pitch are overplayed by two and 1.5 match equivalent sessions respectively.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	M	S	L
139	Willaston White Star Football Club	CW5 6PY	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions. A youth 9v9 pitch is marked out within its perimeter via the use of cones.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA Club	Local site	M	S	L
						Alternatively, provide a permanent resolution to prevent a 9v9 pitch being marked out unofficially, which in turn will alleviate overplay of the adult pitch.			M	S	L
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground (Wistaston Sports and Leisure Ground, Church Lane)	CW2 8EZ	Football	Community	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			L	L	L
			Cricket		A good quality square with nine senior and two junior grass wickets and an NTP. Senior wickets are overplayed by five match equivalent session; junior wickets by two match equivalent sessions. Used by Wisaston CC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L	L
						Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or transfer demand to sites with spare capacity.			M	S	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ¹⁶
149	Wistaston Church Lane Primary School	CW2 8EZ	Football	School	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
150	Crewe Alexandra Football Club	CW2 6EB	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch used for professional football.	No action required.	Club	Local site	-	-	-
187	Haslington Primary School	CW1 5SL	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
193	Leighton Academy	CW1 3PP	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
196	Mablins Lane Community Primary School	CW1 3YR	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
					A smaller sized sand-based AGP recently installed. Not floodlit and not available for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School		L	L	L
201	Monks Coppenhall Primary School	CW1 4LY	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
205	Pebble Brook Primary School	CW2 6PL	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
211	Shavington Primary School	CW2 5BP	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
221	St Mary's Primary School (Crewe)	CW2 8AD	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
223	St Michael's Community Academy	CW1 3SL	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
228	The Dingle Primary	CW1 5SD	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
232	Vine Tree Primary School	CW2 8AD	Football	School	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
235	Weston Village Primary School	CW2 5LZ	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
237	Willaston Primary School	CW5 6QQ	Football	School	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
238	Wistaston Green Primary School	CW2 8QS	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ¹⁶
245	Cumberland Arena (Razzer)	CW1 2BD	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch currently unused by the community. Identified in the LFFP as a key site for improvement given the locality of Crewe FC.	Improve quality to attract usage and consider suitability of a lease arrangement with a partner club e.g. Crewe FC in order to attract funding for improvements.	FA	Local site	L	S	L
-	Joey the Swan Playing Fields	CW2 8RL	Football	Council	A site currently with informal goalposts that has the potential to accommodate formal pitches.	Consider marking out football pitches with appropriate maintenance to reduce local shortfalls.	FA	Local site	L	L	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

KNUTSFORD ANALYSIS AREA - SUMMARY

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ¹⁷	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Youth pitches 11v11	-	4	-	4	0.5	-	4.5
Youth pitches 9v9	-	4.5	-	4.5	0.5	-	5
Mini pitches 7v7	-	6.5	-	6.5	-	-	6.5
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-	0	-	2	2

- ◀ There is a current shortfall of one match equivalent session on adult pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of four match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches a future shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of five match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent session on mini 7v7 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches are currently at capacity; however, future demand results in a shortfall of two match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overplay is evident at Egerton Youth Club.
- ◀ There are six youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ Egerton Youth Club has planning permission to develop five adult pitches on land adjacent to its current site; however, the land owner has recently been granted outline planning permission for the site for a residential led scheme (making the land unavailable for playing pitches).
- ◀ Changing facilities servicing Knutsford Football Club (Manchester Road) and Mary Dendy Playing Fields are considered to be poor quality.
- ◀ There is one provider (Little Bollington Primary School) that does not allow for community use of its pitches.
- ◀ There is current training demand shortfall of one full size 3G pitch.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity, especially at key sites such as Mary Dendy Playing Fields.
- ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Mary Dendy Playing Fields and explore options in relation to Knutsford Football Club (Manchester Road) whilst seeking, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.

¹⁷ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Ensure that the 3G pitch at Egerton Youth Club has a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and ensure that it remains on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Maximise usage of 3G, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.
- ◀ Identify site to alleviate 3G shortfall (e.g. by providing another pitch at Egerton Youth Club).

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are eight grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and no standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ Rostherne Cricket Club is assessed as standard quality; all other grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Knutsford Academy intends to supply a grass wicket square that will be available for community use should it acquire adjacent land as planned.
- ◀ Toft CC is exploring the development of a secondary square.
- ◀ Over Peover CC is without security of tenure as it currently rents its square on a rolling annual basis from a local landowner.
- ◀ The clubhouse at Mere Cricket Club is considered too small and poor quality.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at eight sites, however, only Mere Cricket Club has actual spare capacity for an increase in demand at peak time for senior cricket (Saturday).
- ◀ No squares are overplayed.
- ◀ For senior cricket there is spare capacity amounting to 20 match equivalent sessions currently and eight match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ For junior cricket there is spare capacity amounting to 146 match equivalent sessions currently and 138 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at Rostherne Cricket Club and provide improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Knutsford Academy in its aspiration to create a grass wicket square and maximise community usage if provision is provided.
- ◀ Support Toft CC in its aspiration to develop a secondary square given expressed overplay and its lack of peak time capacity on its existing square.
- ◀ Provide Over Peover CC with greater security of tenure.
- ◀ Support clubhouse improvements at Mere Cricket Club.
- ◀ Ensure Mobberley CC can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ There is one senior and two junior pitches available for community use.
- ◀ All three pitches are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ Knutsford Academy (lower) has an aspiration to acquire adjacent land to increase its stock of pitches; Knutsford RUFC uses the pitches, however, no security of tenure is provided as no community use agreement is in place.
- ◀ The Club reports an aspiration for its own clubhouse to be provided in closer proximity to the pitches.
- ◀ Both the senior pitch and the junior pitch are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.

Recommendations

- ◀ Provide Knutsford RUFC with security of tenure through a long-term lease agreement (minimum 25 years).
- ◀ If the above happens, support the School in its aspiration to purchase additional land for development that can be used to provide additional pitches to fully alleviate shortfalls and overplay and a clubhouse for use by Knutsford RUFC.
- ◀ Improve quality of existing pitches at Knutsford Academy to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance.
- ◀ Protect the pitch at Booths Park as a training venue for Knutsford RUFC.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There is one full size hockey suitable AGP (Knutsford Leisure Centre).
- ◀ The pitch is poor quality and is beyond its recommended lifespan on account of not being resurfaced since 2003.
- ◀ Knutsford HC reports that all of its current and future demand can be accommodated on the pitch.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect Knutsford Leisure Centre as a hockey suitable surface.
- ◀ Resurface the pitch imminently to sustain usage.
- ◀ Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for Knutsford HC through a community use agreement.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

KNUTSFORD ANALYSIS AREA – ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ¹⁸
8	Ashley Cricket Club	WA15 0QP	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 15 senior and three junior grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 11 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time for seniors.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
20	Toft Cricket Club	WA16 8QX	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 15 senior and four junior grass wickets. Actual spare capacity amounting to 19 match equivalent sessions; however, no capacity is available at peak time for seniors.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Support club in its aspirations to develop a second square to enable additional senior teams to be fielded.			M	S	M
32	Alderley Park	SK10 4TS	Football	ESAR	A standard quality adult pitch that is currently unused by the community. Subject to development. New provision will include one adult and one youth 9v9 pitch with community access enabled through ESAR.	Ensure approved development provides good quality pitches and seek to sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	M	M	M
			Cricket		A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 20 match equivalent sessions exists, however, none is available at peak time for senior cricket. Used by Lindow CC. Development will see the provision remain on site.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			ECB Club	L	L
							Support Lindow CC and ensure security of tenure is provided.			M	L

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

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
44	Egerton Youth Club	WA16 6SL	Football	Club	One adult, three youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and six mini 7v7 pitches assessed as standard. The youth 11v11 pitches are over marked by the mini 7v7 pitches. Each type is overplayed, substantially so in regards to the youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches. Adult pitch is suitable for Step 7 football. The Club has permission to develop additional pitches on adjacent land; however, the land owner has recently been granted outline planning permission for the site for a residential led scheme (making the land unavailable for playing pitches).	Support the Club in its plans to relinquish its lease and in funding an additional 3G pitch.	FA Club	Key centre	H	S	H
						If the above does not happen, alleviate overplay through improving pitch quality or through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity.			H	S	M
						Ensure club can progress through the football pyramid.			M	L	L
			3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2010 and assessed as standard quality. The LFFP recommends the installation of an additional small-sided 3G pitch on site given that the existing provision is at capacity.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA Club	H	L	L	
						Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.		H	L	L	
						Consider installing an additional full size 3G pitch on site instead of a small-sided pitch as demand has increased since the LFFP.		H	M	H	
66	Knutsford Academy (upper)	WA16 0BL	Football	School	Two poor quality pitches that are available to the community but unused. Played to capacity through school use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity and ensure no external demand takes place beforehand to avoid overplay.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	WA16 0BL	Sand AGP (Hockey)	ESAR	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Knutsford HC. Last resurfaced in 2003 and assessed as poor quality.	Refurbish AGP to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH ESAR	Local site	H	S	M
						Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			H	L	L
68	Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club)	WA16 6SZ	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 15 grass wickets. Spare capacity amounting to 39 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time for senior cricket.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
77	Knutsford Football Club (Manchester Road)	WA16 0NU	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. The changing facilities on site are considered to be poor quality. Used for Step 7 football.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Retain actual spare capacity to protect quality.			L	S	L
						Improve changing facilities.			M	S	M
80	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	SK9 5PZ	Football	Council	Three adult pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to quality. Poor quality changing facilities. Identified in the LFFP for both grass pitch and ancillary facility investment.	Improve pitch quality to attract additional usage to the site given how well used it has been in the past.	FA	Key centre	M	S	M
						Improve changing facilities.			M	S	M

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	WA16 7RD	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 16 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to eight match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time for senior cricket.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations through playing outside of the peak period or through transfer of play.			M	L	L
94	Nuffield Fitness and Wellbeing Centre (Radbroke Hall)	WA16 9EU	Football	Commercial	A standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			L	S	L
			Sand AGP	A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 30 x 20 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA	L	L	L		
98	Peover Superior Endowed Primary School	WA16 8TU	Football	School	A poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
118	St John's Wood Academy	WA16 8PA	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch that is no longer marked out. It was previously available to the community but unused.	Consider re-instating pitch for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
156	Mere Cricket Club	WA16 0TD	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 20 match equivalent sessions exists and this is considered to be actual spare capacity. The clubhouse is considered to be poor quality.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Explore possibilities of spare capacity being used to alleviate overplay at other sites.			L	S	L
						Support club in efforts to improve clubhouse.			M	M	M
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	WA16 8TZ	Cricket	Private	A good quality square with 11 senior and three junior grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 35 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. No security of tenure is provided.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Provide the Club with improved security of tenure.			M	S	L
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	WA16 6RY	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with six grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions exists, however, this is insufficient for additional teams to be fielded.	Improve quality to increase capacity and potentially provide actual spare capacity.	ECB Club	Local site	M	S	L
194	Little Bollington Primary School	WA14 4SZ	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
197	Manor Park Primary School	WA16 8DB	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
203	Nether Alderley Primary School	SK10 4TP	Football	School	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	WA16 0EA	Football	School	A youth 11v11 and a youth 9v9 pitch both assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Key centre	L	L	L
						Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and maximise usage through future demand and/or the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.			L	S	L
			Cricket		The School intends to supply a grass wicket square that will be available for community use should it acquire adjacent land, as planned.	Support the School in its aspirations to supply a square given local shortfalls and maximise usage, possibly via Mere CC.	ECB School		M	S	M
			Rugby union		A senior pitch and a junior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Used by Knutsford RUFC. Both pitches are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. No clubhouse provided.	Reduce overplay through quality improvements via improved maintenance and/or the installation of a drainage system.	RFU School		M	S	M
						Provide security of tenure to Knutsford RUFC via a lease agreement (minimum 25 years); if this is not possible, pursue a community use agreement as a minimum.			H	S	L
						Explore options for Knutsford RUFC to access additional pitches to fully eradicate overplay and consider providing floodlights.			M	S	M
Support the Club in its aspiration to develop a clubhouse as part of the School's purchase of additional land.	M	S		M							
255	Booths Park	WA16 8QZ	Rugby union	Private	A floodlit junior pitch used for training by Knutsford RUFC and played to capacity.	Retain provision in order to continue accommodating training demand.	RFU	Local site	L	L	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

MACCLESFIELD ANALYSIS AREA - SUMMARY

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ¹⁹	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	0.5	2	-	1.5	-	1	2.5
Youth pitches 11v11	0.5	2	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Youth pitches 9v9	1	2	-	1	-	-	1
Mini pitches 7v7	0.5	1.5	-	1	-	-	1
Mini pitches 5v5	1	-	-	1	-	1	0

- There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and a future shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
- There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- There is a current shortfall of one match equivalent session on youth 9v9 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- There is a current shortfall of one match equivalent session on mini 7v7 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- Minimal spare capacity currently exists on mini 5v5 pitches; however, capacity is reached when including future demand.
- Overplay is evident at King George Playing Field. Christ the King Primary School and Jasmine Park.
- There are nine youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Changing facilities servicing Bollington Recreation Ground and Congleton Road are considered to be poor quality.
- There are nine providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- There is current training demand for two full size 3G pitches, of which, there is currently one (All Hallows Catholic College).

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity, especially at key sites such as Congleton Road.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Improve changing facilities at Congleton Road as part of a major site redevelopment and explore options in regards to Bollington Recreation Ground whilst seeking, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.
- Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.

¹⁹ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Identify potential sites to increase 3G pitch stock (e.g. Congleton Road).
- ◀ Ensure the 3G pitch at All Hallows Catholic College has a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and ensure it remains on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Further maximise usage of 3G pitches, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are 12 grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and five standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ Chelford Cricket Club and Kerridge Cricket Club as well as squares at the King's School are assessed as standard quality; all other grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ The squares at Fence Avenue and Westminster Road are to be lost as part of the King's School relocation to Alderley Road, with an indoor cricket centre being created; this does not impact on provision at Cumberland Street or Derby Fields.
- ◀ Notwithstanding the above, a separate planning application has been submitted at Cumberland Street that would result an additional new square being provided at Alderley Road, if successful (19/1270M).
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at six sites, however, Kerridge Cricket Club has actual spare capacity for an increase in demand at peak time for senior cricket (Saturday).
- ◀ Bollington, Macclesfield and Langley cricket clubs are overplayed by nine, seven and two match equivalent sessions respectively.
- ◀ For senior cricket, squares are at capacity both now and when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ For junior cricket there is spare capacity amounting to 46 match equivalent sessions currently and 38 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at Chelford Cricket Club and Kerridge Cricket Club and provide improvements where possible.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to bring Chelford Cricket Club back into use following the collapse of the host club.
- ◀ Ensure opportunities at the new facilities at King's School (Alderley Road) are maximised.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Bollington Recreation Ground through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Macclesfield Cricket Club and Langley Cricket Club through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ◀ Explore creation of an LMS venue at a strategically suitable location (e.g. Congleton Road or Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College).

Rugby union

Summary

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ There are four senior and four mini rugby union pitches available for community use and seven senior and four junior pitches unavailable for community use.
- ◀ Of the pitches available for community use, the senior pitches are assessed as good quality and the mini pitches are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ All pitches unavailable for the community are located within schools and are assessed as standard or poor quality.
- ◀ Existing junior pitches at the King's School (Fence Avenue and Westminster Road) will be replaced as part of plans to provide five additional rugby union pitches at Alderley Road.
- ◀ Planning permission for the installation of a 3G pitch as well as clubhouse improvements at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) has been refused.
- ◀ One of the senior pitches at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ In contrast, one of the senior pitches is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overall, there is a current shortfall amounting to one match equivalent session and a future shortfall equating to 2.5 match equivalent sessions.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance.
- ◀ Explore options to provide the Club with increased training provision, such as through additional floodlighting or through access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ Explore options to improve the clubhouse at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club).
- ◀ Ensure rugby demand expressed by the King's School remains provided for following development plans.
- ◀ Explore partnership arrangement between the King's School and Macclesfield RUFC.
- ◀ Retain remaining pitches for curricular and extra-curricular use and provide quality improvements, where possible.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs.
- ◀ Fallibroome Academy is in use by Alderley Edge HC, Tytherington High School is in use by Macclesfield HC, and the King's School (Westminster Road) is in use by Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs.
- ◀ The Macclesfield Academy is not in use for hockey purposes and it does not provide hockey goals.
- ◀ The King's School (Westminster Road) is assessed as good quality (although soon to be replaced), Fallibroome Academy and Tytherington High School are assessed as standard quality and Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College is assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ The King's School has planning approval to provide two full size, floodlit, sand-based AGPs (in replacement of its current pitch) as part of its consolidation to Alderley Road.
- ◀ Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs report that they cannot accommodate all of their future demand on pitches currently used.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect pitches provided by the King's School, Fallibroome Academy and Tytherington High School for continued hockey use.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure new pitches at the King's School are accessible to hockey clubs and seek to maximise usage.
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for clubs using school-based pitches through a community use agreement.
- ◀ Explore options to provide Wilmslow HC and Alderley Edge HC with alternative provision in closer proximity to their home bases.
- ◀ Consider viability of converting the pitch at the Macclesfield Academy/Macclesfield College to 3G to reduce local shortfalls providing it is agreed upon by England Hockey and is not detrimental to any hockey clubs.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

MACCLESFIELD ANALYSIS AREA – ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ²⁰
7	Ash Grove Academy	SK11 7TF	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
13	Beech Hall School	SK10 2EG	Football	School	A poor quality adult pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Improve quality for curricular use and then explore community demand to utilise resultant actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 30 x 20 metres. Unavailable to the community.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School		L	L	L
16	Bollington Cross (Atax)	SK10 5EA	Football	Council	One youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 pitches assessed as standard quality. None of the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
17	Bollington Cross Playing Field	SK10 5EA	Football	Town Council	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Town Council	Local site	L	S	L
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	SK10 5JT	Football	Town Council	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. Serviced by a poor quality changing facility.	Provide a resolution to drainage issues. Explore improving changing facility.	FA Town Council	Local site	L	L	L
			Cricket		A good quality square with nine senior and two junior grass wickets. The senior wickets are overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions and the junior wickets by two.	Sustain quality and explore changing facility improvements in line with football recommendation. Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	ECB Club Town Council		L	L	L
									L	S	L
35	Congleton Road	SK11 7XB	Football	Council	Two adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity exists on each pitch type. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities. The LFFP suggests the site should be considered for a 3G pitch.	Given importance of the site, seek to improve quality.	FA	Hub site	M	L	M
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.			M	S	L
						Improve changing provision.			M	S	M
						Consider as a key site for new 3G pitch provision.			H	S	H
46	Fallibroome Academy	SK10 4AF	Football	School	Two poor quality adult pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then explore community use aspects.	FA School	Key centre	L	S	L
			Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Alderley Edge HC. Assessed as standard quality albeit over ten years old (2005).	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface. Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure security of tenure through an updated community use agreement.	EH School		H	M	L
									H	S	L
									M	S	L

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

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ²⁰
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	SK10 5AH	Football	Club	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to over marking cricket outfield.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and ensure pitches continue to be marked out given level of use.	FA Club	Local site	L	L	L
			Cricket		A standard quality square with 11 senior and one junior grass wicket. Overall spare capacity amounting to 22 match equivalent sessions and this is considered to be actual spare capacity.	Review quality issues and provide improvements where possible.	ECB Club		M	S	L
						Explore utilisation of actual spare capacity to alleviate overplay at other sites.			L	S	L
64	King George V Playing Field	SK11 7JD	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions and well used by the local community.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	L	S	L
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	SK10 3JE	Cricket	Club	Two good quality squares, one known locally as Macclesfield Cricket Ground and one as Parkside Cricket Ground. The former has 12 grass wickets and an NTP, whilst the latter has nine grass wickets and an NTP. The grass wickets are overplayed by a combined seven match equivalent sessions combined.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTPs or through the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			M	S	L
79	Marlborough Primary School	SK10 2HJ	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
88	Moss Rose Stadium (Macclesfield Town Football Club)	SK11 7SP	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is used for professional football.	No action required.	Club	Local site	-	-	-
97	Parkroyal Community School	SK11 6QX	Sand AGP	School	A smaller sized, sand-based AGP measuring 40 x 30 metres. Neither floodlit nor available to the community.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School	Local site	L	L	L
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	SK10 4AE	Rugby union	Club	Four senior pitches and four mini pitches. One senior pitch is floodlit. All senior pitches receive good maintenance (M2); mini pitches receive standard maintenance (M1). All pitches have natural, adequate maintenance (D1). Floodlit pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas all remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Planning was refused for 3G and clubhouse developments.	Reduce overplay through improving pitch quality via the installation of a drainage system.	RFU Club	Key centre	M	S	M
						To fully alleviate overplay, provide additional floodlighting or secure access to an existing or new World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.			M	S	M
						Explore options relating to the need for an improved clubhouse facility.			M	S	M
						Retain smaller sized 3G pitch for continued training and recreational activity.			L	L	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
117	The King's School (Cumberland Street)	SK10 1DA	Cricket	School	A standard quality square with nine grass wickets. Not impacted upon by the School's current development; however, a separate application has been submitted that will result in the square being replaced by an additional square at Alderley Road.	Retain for continued school use or seek appropriate mitigation (via a new square at Alderley Road) should provision be lost as part of any future developments.	School ECB	Local site	M	M	M
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	SK10 1DA	Football	School	Two standard youth 9v9 pitches to be lost as part of the School's development but will be replaced by some youth pitches at Alderley Road.	Ensure the School's footballing needs remain provided for once provision is lost.	School FA	Key centre	L	L	L
			Cricket		A standard quality square with four grass wickets and an NTP. This will be lost as part of the development but will be adequately replaced.	Ensure the School's cricketing needs remain provided for once provision is lost.	School ECB		L	L	L
			Rugby union		A senior pitch unavailable for community use to be lost as part of the School's development, with additional pitches supplied at Alderley Road.	Ensure the School's needs continue to be met after the development.	School RFU		L	L	L
						Explore partnership with Macclesfield RUFC.			L	L	L
Sand AGP (Hockey)	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by three hockey clubs and a smaller sized pitch. Both will be lost as part of the School's wider development plans, with two full size AGPs being provided instead.	Ensure clubs remain provided for once the development goes ahead and seek to maximise hockey usage of the new provision.	School EH	H	S	L					
126	The King's School (Derby Fields)	SK10 4RH	Cricket	School	Three grass squares available to the community but unused.	Retain and explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	ECB School	Local site	L	L	L
			Rugby union		Four senior and two junior pitches, all rated standard quality (M1/D1) and all unavailable to the community.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular usage and explore partnership with Macclesfield RUFC.	RFU School		L	S	L
127	The King's School (Fence Avenue)	SK10 1LS	Football	School	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches that are unavailable. Pitches will be lost as part of the School's development but will be replaced by some youth pitches at Alderley Road.	Ensure the School's footballing needs remain provided for once provision is lost and explore community use of new provision.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
			Cricket		Two standalone NTPs to be lost as part of the School's development but will be replaced.	Ensure the School's cricketing needs remain provided for once provision is lost.	ECB School		L	L	L
			Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate maintenance (D1). Unavailable for community use and will be lost as part of the School's wider development, with additional pitches supplied at Alderley Road.	Ensure the School's needs continue to be met after the loss of the pitches and the development at Alderley Road.	RFU School		L	L	L
						Explore partnership with Macclesfield RUFC.			L	S	L
Sand AGP	A smaller sized, sand-based AGP measuring 80 x 45 metres. Neither available to the community nor floodlit. The pitch will be lost as part of the School's redevelopment plans.	Ensure hockey clubs remain provided for once the development goes ahead and seek to maximise hockey usage of the new provision.	EH School	H	S	L					

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
NEW	King's School (Alderley Road)	SK10 4RH	Rugby union	School	Five rugby pitches to be provided with a community use agreement included. Also includes the creation a sports building with changing provision.	Maximise usage of the provision and sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	RFU School	Key centre	H	S	L
			Cricket	School	Three squares and indoor nets to be provided, with a community use agreement included. Also includes the creation a sports building with changing provision. In addition, a further planning application will see an additional square created to replace provision at Cumberland Street, if successful.	Maximise usage of the provision and sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB School		H	S	L
						Ensure replacement provision is provided should square at Cumberland Street be permanently lost.			H	M	M
128	The Macclesfield Academy / Macclesfield College	SK11 8JR	Football	School	One adult, two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch that are available to the community and used. Each pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	M	L	L
						Ensure security of tenure for users via community use agreements.			M	S	L
			Sand AGP	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is not used for hockey. No hockey goals provided. Last resurfaced in 1990 and assessed as poor quality. The LFFP suggests the site could be suitable for a 3G conversion as an either/or option with Congleton Road.	Consider resurfacing AGP to alleviate 3G pitch shortfalls in the locality, potentially with Macclesfield Town FC operating out of the site.	EH FA School	M		S	M	
					Alternatively, potentially resurface pitch to improve quality and explore potential of it providing a secondary venue for Macclesfield, Wilmslow and Alderley Edge hockey clubs.		M		S	M	
					Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.		M		S	L	
132	Tytherington Pitches	SK10 2JD	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists on both pitches.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites to through future demand.			L	L	L
134	Victoria Park	SK10 1GA	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity discounted due to quality. Improvements are to take place during the 2019/2020 season.	Carry out planned quality improvements.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
136	Weston Playing Field	SK11 8SR	Football	Council	An unused adult pitch that has actual spare capacity discounted due to quality.	Improve quality.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
138	Whirley Primary School	SK10 3JL	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available to the community and used to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure to users through a community use agreement.			L	S	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
151	All Hallows Catholic College	SK11 8LB	Football	School	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality to enable community use.	FA School	Key centre	M	S	L
			3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2014 and assessed as good quality.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA School		M	L	L
						Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play.			M	M	L
			Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as poor quality. Unavailable for community use.	Replace NTP for curricular and extra-curricular purposes.	ECB School		L	S	L
						Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.			L	S	L
152	Chelford Cricket Club	SK11 9BR	Cricket	Private	A standard quality square with ten grass wickets. Now unused following the collapse of the host club. Previously accessed by Alderley CC; however, it is no longer maintained to an appropriate level. No security of tenure is provided. No practice nets.	Ensure site is not re-purposed, unless ECB approval is gained, or re-developed, unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or better quantity and quality.	ECB Club	Local site	L	S	L
						Explore issues that resulted in the Club folding and explore any future demand that may exist.			M	S	L
						Seek to provide any future users with security of tenure.			M	S	L
153	Langley Cricket Club	SK11 0DE	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 11 senior and two junior wickets and an NTP. Senior wickets are played to capacity at peak time for senior demand but have 10 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity. Junior wickets are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. The Club has recently improved and extended its pavilion, with further plans to create a dedicated changing block.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTPs or through the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			M	S	L
						Support plans for dedicated changing block as well as wider plans to create football/lacrosse/MUGA provision.			M	M	M
155	Marton Primary School	SK11 9HD	Cricket	School	A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School	Local site	L	L	L
						Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.			L	L	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
162	Tytherington High School	SK10 2EE	Football	School	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is available to the community and used. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Provide security of tenure to users through a community use agreement.	FA School	Key centre	L	L	L
						L			S	L	
			Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular purposes Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.	ECB School		L	L	L
						L			S	L	
			Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate maintenance (D0). Unavailable for community use.	Protect and provide quality improvements for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		L	L	L
			Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Macclesfield HC. Assessed as standard quality. Resurfaced in 2007 and therefore coming to the end of its lifespan. Supporting infrastructure also needs improving e.g. fencing.	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface. Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure security of tenure through a community use agreement.	EH School		H	S	M
									H	S	L
M	S	L									
172	Bollinbrook Primary School	SK10 3AT	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L
173	Bollington St John's Primary School	SK10 5EF	Football	School	A mini 5v5 pitch that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity and to retain current usage. Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L
									L	L	L
176	Broken Cross Community School	SK11 8UD	Football	School	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
178	Christ the King Primary School	SK11 7SF	Football	School	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available to the community and used. Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to a site with actual spare capacity. Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
									L	S	L
190	Hollinhey Primary School	SK11 0EE	Football	School	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
191	Hurdsfield Community Primary School	SK10 2LW	Football	School	A poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use then explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
192	Ivy Bank Primary School	SK11 8PB	Football	School	A poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use then explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
206	Puss Bank Primary School	SK10 1QJ	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
207	Rainow Primary School	SK10 5UB	Football	School	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary School	SK10 3HJ	Football	School	A poor quality youth 9v9 pitch and a poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that are available to the community and used. Both pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
						Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			L	S	L
230	Upton Priory Primary School	SK10 3ED	Football	School	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch assessed as standard. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular use and explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	SK10 5RT	Cricket	Club	A good square with 14 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 36 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time for senior cricket.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
247	Prestbury Playing Fields	SK10 4JJ	Football	Parish Council/ Council	An adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Currently unused according to affiliation data, although local consultation suggests that it is well utilised informally (e.g. for training/coaching sessions).	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity and explore lack of formal community use given previous demand.	FA Parish	Local site	L	S	L
						Further explore informal usage to properly determine available capacity.			L	S	L
248	Jasmine Park	SK10 3GH	Football	Club (CIC)	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches assessed as standard. The youth 9v9 pitch is over marked by the mini pitches. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions whilst the mini 5v5 pitches have spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session. The other pitches are played to capacity.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay on the youth 11v11 pitch or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA Club	Local site	M	S	L
250	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	SK10 5HS	Football	School	A mini 7v7 that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent session exists.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			L	S	L
251	Dean Valley Primary School	SK10 5HR	Football	School	A mini 7v7 that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent session exists.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			L	S	L
-	Macclesfield Leisure Centre	SK10 4AF	Football	ESAR	A grass area in the middle of an athletics track created with the intention of hosting football demand.	Explore creation of a pitch for junior football, potentially as part of wider site improvements.	FA ESAR	Local site	M	S	L
						Ensure quality is of a sufficient level, particular in regards to drainage given current issues.			M	S	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

NANTWICH ANALYSIS AREA - SUMMARY

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ²¹	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	0.5	1.5	-	1	-	-	1
Youth pitches 11v11	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
Youth pitches 9v9	1	-	-	1	0.5	1	0.5
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
Mini pitches 5v5	0.5	-	-	0.5	-	-	0.5

- There is a shortfall of adult pitches amounting to one match equivalent session currently and when taking into account future demand.
- Youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity both currently and when taking into account future demand.
- There is current spare capacity on youth 9v9 pitches amounting to one match equivalent session; however, future demand results in a shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity both currently and when taking into account future demand.
- There is minimal spare capacity on mini 5v5 pitches amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions both currently and when accounting for future demand.
- Many teams, particularly at mini and youth level, export demand to the Crewe and Congleton analysis areas to access a central venue league system.
- Overplay is evident at Bunbury Playing Field and Reaseheath College.
- There are eight youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Changing facilities servicing Goodwill Hall Playing Fields and Wrenbury Recreation Ground are considered to be poor quality.
- There are ten providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- Training demand for one full size 3G pitch is currently being met (discounting Reaseheath Training Complex and Reaseheath College).
- The 3G pitch at Nantwich Town Football Club requires resurfacing as it has exceeded its recommended lifespan and is no longer FA tested for competitive matches.

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity, especially at key sites such as Barony Sports Complex.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to build further future capacity.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Explore options to improve changing facilities at Goodwill Hall Playing Fields and Wrenbury Recreation Ground and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.

²¹ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ◀ Implement community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Resurface 3G pitch at Nantwich Town Football Club, seek FA testing and ensure it has a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Further maximise usage of 3G pitches, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are six grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and three standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ Audlem Cricket Club is assessed as standard quality; all other grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Audlem CC is without security of tenure as it currently rents its square on a rolling annual basis from a local landowner, whereas Bunbury Cricket Club has only nine years remaining on its lease arrangement.
- ◀ Audlem CC is without practice nets, whereas Nantwich CC reports a need for its existing nets to be improved.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at six sites, however, no capacity exists for an increase in demand at peak time for senior cricket (Saturday).
- ◀ For senior cricket, demand is currently being met (at capacity); however, future demand results in a shortfall of 12 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For junior cricket there is spare capacity amounting to 98 match equivalent sessions currently and 90 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at Audlem Cricket Club and secure improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Nantwich CC in its aspiration to develop a secondary square given its lack of peak time capacity on its existing square.
- ◀ Provide both Audlem CC and Bunbury CC with greater security of tenure.
- ◀ Provide Audlem CC with training provision and support Nantwich CC in its need for its existing provision to be improved.
- ◀ Ensure Nantwich CC can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are six senior and three mini rugby union pitches available for community use.
- ◀ Barony Sports Complex previously provided an additional senior pitch; however, this is no longer marked out after Acton Nomads RUFC folded.
- ◀ Crewe & Nantwich RUFC aspires to refurbish its existing changing rooms at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and extend its clubhouse.
- ◀ None of the pitches contain actual spare capacity.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club contains a senior pitch that is overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is an overall shortfall of 1.25 match equivalent sessions currently and 2.75 match equivalents when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ Reaseheath College contains a full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is World Rugby compliant and used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.
- ◀ Ensure the Club has continued access to the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College for training purposes to ensure overplay does not significantly worsen.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unavailable pitches for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Support Crewe & Nantwich RUFC in its aspiration to provide additional changing facilities.
- ◀ Ensure pitch can be re-provided at Barony Sports Complex should Acton Nomads RUFC (or another club) reform in the future.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs.
- ◀ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is used by Crewe Vagrants HC, whereas Malbank School and Sixth Form College is not used for hockey, in part due to a lack of floodlighting.
- ◀ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is assessed as good quality; Malbank School and Sixth Form College is assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ Crewe Vagrants HC reports that it cannot accommodate all of its future demand at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect Crewe Vagrants Sports Club for continued hockey use.
- ◀ Due to a lack of nearby housing, explore floodlighting potential at Malbank School and Sixth Form College and then explore options to maximise community use.
- ◀ If the above is possible, also provide resurfacing of Malbank School and Sixth Form College and seek to maximise community usage.
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure Crewe Vagrants HC can grow as planned, possibly via access to a secondary pitch (see Crewe Analysis Area).

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

NANTWICH ANALYSIS AREA – ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ²²
9	Aston Cricket Club	CW5 8DE	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with eight senior and six junior grass wickets. Actual spare capacity amounting to 22 match equivalent sessions; however, the square is played to capacity at peak time for seniors. A nearby development may cause ball striking issues.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Explore relocation options giving ball strike issues – a new site provision has recently been refused planning permission but funding has been secured for a pavilion and the developers are to come back with a revised housing layout (18/612N).			M	S	L
10	Audlem Playing Fields	CW3 0AH	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity and ensure no additional usage beforehand to avoid overplay.	FA	Local site	L	S	L
						Explore options to improve changing.			L	M	L
12	Barony Sports Complex	CW5 5QY	Football	Council	Three adult pitches assessed as poor quality and two youth 9v9 pitches assessed as standard. Adult pitches have actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues, whilst the youth 9v9 pitches have actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Identified in the LFFP as being a key site for grass pitch improvement investment.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity on adult pitches and to attract increased usage.	FA	Hub site	H	S	M
						Consider pitch re-configuration to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand given local shortfalls.			M	S	L
			3G	A smaller sized 3G pitch that is floodlit, measuring 40 x 33 metres.	Retain pitch for continued community use.	FA	M	L	L		
22	Brine Leas School	CW5 7DY	Football	School	Three youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used, but actual spare capacity is discounted due to security of tenure issues.	Pursue security of tenure for club users via community use agreement.	FA School	Key centre	L	L	L
			Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L	L
			Rugby union		Two senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Available for community use but unused.	Protect and sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L	L
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	CW6 9NR	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets. Spare capacity of 20 match equivalent sessions but used to capacity at peak time for seniors. Only seven years remain on the Club's lease agreement.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Extend lease agreement.			M	S	L

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

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ²²
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	SY14 8AH	Cricket	Club	good quality square with 12 grass wickets. Spare capacity of 20 match equivalent sessions but used to capacity at peak time for seniors.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	CW5 7EP	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 16 senior and two junior wickets and an NTP. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 20 match equivalent sessions exists, however, not at peak time for seniors.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Key centre	M	L	L
			Rugby union		Three senior pitches and three mini pitches. One senior pitch is floodlit and two have a drainage system installed (D2). All other pitches have natural, adequate drainage (D1) and all pitches receive good maintenance (M2). Used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC. Floodlit senior pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions when it is used for training, whilst all remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Additional changing facilities are required.	Improve quality through the installation of a drainage system on a greater number of pitches to increase capacity and reduce overplay.	RFU Club		M	S	M
						Ensure continued access to Reaseheath College for training purposes to ensure overplay does not worsen.			M	S	L
						Support Crewe & Nantwich RUFC in its aspiration to provide additional changing facilities and consider installation of additional floodlighting due to overplay issues and security of tenure issues at Reaseheath College.			M	S	M
			Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Crewe Vagrants HC. Assessed as good quality having been re-surfaced in 2013. Considered to be operating at capacity for match play purposes on a Saturday.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface and encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.	EH Club		H	L	L
					Ensure Crewe Vagrants HC can grow as planned, possibly via access to a secondary venue.			M	M	L	
48	Goodwill Hall Playing Fields, Faddiley	CW5 8JY	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Explore options to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.			L	L	L
						Explore options to improve changing facilities.			L	S	M
						Provide a resolution to the tree that overhangs the pitch.			L	S	L
50	Audlem Cricket Club	CW3 0HS	Cricket	Private	A standard quality square with ten grass wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 16 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. No security of tenure is provided. No practice nets. Used by Audlem CC via a rental agreement only.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Pursue greater security of tenure.			M	S	L
						Explore options to improve training provision available to the Club.			M	S	L
62	Bunbury Playing Field	CW6 9QP	Football	Parish	One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ²²
					The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, whilst the youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches have actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions each. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Explore options to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand. Explore options to improve changing facilities.			L	L	L
									L	S	M
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	CW5 5HD	Football	School	Three standard quality adult pitches. Available to the community but currently unused, despite recent access from Nantwich Town FC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	L	L	L
						Further explore lack of current community access.			M	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for future users via community use agreements.			M	S	L
			Cricket	A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School	L		L	L	
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Bunbury Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.		L		S	L	
			Rugby union	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Available for community use but unused. Dual use football pitch.	Protect and sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School	L		L	L	
			Sand AGP	A full size, sand-based AGP that is without floodlighting. Unused for hockey purposes. Assessed as poor quality having last been resurfaced in 2001. Considered unsuitable for 3G conversion given close proximity of Nantwich Town Football Club.	Retain pitch for curricular and extra-curricular activity and provide refurbishment to improve quality.	EH School	L		S	M	
					Explore floodlighting potential as there is no nearby housing and then explore community usage potential.		M		S	M	
					Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.		L		L	L	
			89	Nantwich Cricket Club	CW5 6HH	Cricket	Club		Two squares; one with 11 senior and five junior wickets as well as an NTP and one with a standalone NTP. Both assessed as good quality. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 10 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. Serviced by unsuitable practice nets.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club
Improve practice nets.	M	S						L			
90	Nantwich Primary Academy	CW5 5LX	Sand AGP	School	A smaller sized, sand-based AGP measuring 70 x 40 metres. Neither floodlit nor available to the community.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School	Local site	L	L	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	CW5 5BS	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is suitable for Step 5 football.	Retain spare capacity to protect quality.	FA Club	Key centre	L	L	L
						Ensure the Club can progress through the football pyramid.			M	L	L
			3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. No longer FA approved but still being used for matches. Installed in 2007 and assessed as standard quality.	Provide imminent resurfacing to prevent further deterioration.	FA Club		H	M	M
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			H	L	L
		Pursue immediate FA testing so that the pitch can continue to legally host competitive matches.		H	S	L					
105	Reaseheath College	CW5 6DF	Football	College	A good quality adult pitch that is available to the community and used. Overplayed by one match equivalent session.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA College	Key centre	M	L	L
						Alleviate overplay through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			M	S	L
			3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. The pitch is World Rugby compliant and accommodates training demand from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC. Not FA approved. Installed in 2016 and assessed as good quality.	Pursue security of tenure for clubs via a community use agreement.	RFU FA College		M	S	L
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			H	L	L
		Ensure World Rugby testing every two years to sustain competitive rugby suitability and ensure continued access from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC.		H	S	L					
147	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	CW5 8EW	Football	Leisure Trust	An adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities. Previously hosted two pitches.	Improve quality and consider re-establishment of second pitch if demand is high enough.	FA	Local site	L	S	L
						Explore options to improve changing facilities.			L	S	M
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	CW5 6DF	Football	Club	Multiple football pitches that are reserved for use by Crewe Alexandra FC.	No action required.	Club	Local site	-	-	-
			3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is not available to the community as all use is reserved for Crewe Alexandra FC. Not FA approved. Installed in 2013 and assessed as good quality.	No action required.	Club		-	-	-
164	Acton Primary School	CW5 8LG	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
170	Audlem St James CE Primary School	CW3 0HH	Football	School	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
171	Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School	SY14 8AP	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches that are available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
175	Bridgemere Primary School	CW5 7PX	Football	School	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
177	Bunbury Aldersey Primary School	CW6 9NR	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
189	Highfields Community Primary School	CW5 6HA	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
200	Millfields Primary School	CW5 5HP	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
204	Pear Tree Primary School	CW5 7GZ	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
213	Sound and District Primary School	CW5 8AE	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
215	St Anne's Catholic Primary School	CW5 7DA	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
224	St Odwald's Worleston Primary School	CW5 6DP	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
226	Stapeley Broad Lane Primary School	CW3 7QL	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
233	Warmingham Primary School	CW11 3QN	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
234	Weaver Primary School	CW5 7AL	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
241	Wrenbury Primary School	CW5 8EN	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
242	Wybunbury Delves Primary School	CW5 7NE	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

POYNTON ANALYSIS AREA - SUMMARY

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ²³	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	0.5	2.5	-	2	-	-	2
Youth pitches 11v11	-	2.5	-	2.5	-	-	2.5
Youth pitches 9v9	0.5	1	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-	0	-	-	0

- There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- There is a current shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- There is a current shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- Both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types are played to capacity currently and when taking into account future demand.
- Overplay is evident at Deva Close, Barnaby Road Playing Fields, Vernon Primary School, Mount Vernon and Poynton Sports Club.
- There are eight youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Poynton Sports Club is in negotiations to re-locate all of its on-site provision (including football pitches), subject to securing planning permission.
- Changing facilities servicing Deva Close, Poynton Sports Club and Newtown Playing Fields are considered to be poor quality.
- There are three providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- There is current training demand for one full size 3G pitch despite none being provided.

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity, especially at key sites such as Deva Close and Poynton High School.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Support Poynton Sports Club in its aspirations to relocate and ensure any re-location provides the Club with improved changing facilities.
- Explore options to improve changing facilities at Newtown Playing Fields and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.
- Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.

²³ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Implement community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Identify potential sites to provide a full size 3G pitch, with Poynton High School currently the preferred location due to its sustainability and proposed operation (with ESAR managing both school and community use).
- ◀ If a 3G pitch is provided, ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability and administer FA testing so that it can host competitive matches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are three grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and one standalone non-turf wicket square (Poynton High School).
- ◀ Prestbury CC is without security of tenure as it currently rents its square on a rolling annual basis from a local landowner
- ◀ The clubhouse at Poynton Cricket Club is reported to be poor quality due to its age.
- ◀ Disley CC reports a need for its existing practice nets to be improved.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at Prestbury Cricket Club and Disley Amalgamated Sports Club (Disley Cricket Club); however, not for an increase in senior cricket at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club (Poynton Cricket Club) is overplayed by 60 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 40 match equivalent sessions currently and 52 match equivalent sessions in the future.
- ◀ For junior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 32 match equivalent sessions currently and 46 match equivalent sessions in the future.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain quality of grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Provide Prestbury CC with greater security of tenure.
- ◀ Support Poynton CC in relation to clubhouse improvements, potentially as part of Poynton Sports Club's relocation.
- ◀ Support Disley CC in its need for its existing training provision to be improved.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Poynton Cricket Club through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ◀ Ensure Disley CC can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are no pitches provided and no current or future demand identified.

Recommendations

- ◀ Support school rugby and further explore if any demand exists for formal pitches to be marked out i.e. at Poynton High School.
- ◀ Ensure any localised club demand is being serviced by other clubs in neighbouring towns i.e. Macclesfield RUFC.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are currently no full size hockey suitable AGPs within the Analysis Area and no clubs express a demand for one to be provided.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure any localised Poynton demand can be serviced by clubs in other analysis areas given that there are no suitable pitches within the Poynton Analysis Area (e.g. by Macclesfield HC).
- ◀ Ensure school hockey demand is being serviced.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There are two pitches located at Poynton Sports Club and one pitch located at Mount Vernon.
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club is rated as standard quality; Mount Vernon is rated as poor quality.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club accesses both sites but requires access to additional provision given the high levels of latent and future demand it expresses.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect pitches for continued lacrosse use.
- ◀ Improve quality at Mount Vernon and, as a minimum, sustain quality at Poynton Sports Club.
- ◀ Consider options to provide Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to additional provision, possibly via a 3G pitch, or via Langley Cricket Club which has aspiration to develop provision.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

POYNTON ANALYSIS AREA – ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ²⁴
41	Deva Close	SK12 1HH	Football	Council	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity; the youth pitches are overplayed. Site is identified in the LFFP as a site for grass pitch investment. Changing facilities are also considered to be poor.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay as well as addressing changing facility issues.	FA	Local site	H	S	M
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	SK12 2JR	Football	Club	Two adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch assessed as standard. The adult and youth 9v9 pitches have actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions; the mini 7v7 pitch is played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Transfer play from overplayed to site to utilise actual spare capacity.	FA Club	Key centre	L	L	L
						M			S	L	
			Cricket		A good quality square with 11 grass wickets and an NTP. There are 13 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity although it is at capacity at peak time for seniors. Serviced by poor quality practice nets.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Improve practice nets.	ECB Club		L	L	L
						M			S	L	
	Sand AGP	A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 45 x 35 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore club needs to determine surface requirements.	EH FA Club	L	L	L				
73	Lower Park Primary School	SK12 1HE	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches that are available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
85	Barnaby Road Playing Fields	SK12 1LR	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match sessions.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	FA	Local site	L	S	L
93	Newtown Playing Field	SK12 2RH	Football	Town Council	An adult pitch with spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities, with a planning application being prepared by the Town Council for a new facility to be created.	Improve pitch quality and support planning application for new changing facilities.	FA Town Council	Local site	L	S	L
102	Poynton High School (Leisure Centre)	SK12 1PU	Football	School	One adult, two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as poor. Unavailable to the community due to the quality issues. Identified in the LFFP as a site for grass pitch improvements and a 3G pitch.	Improve quality to enable community use. Develop a full size 3G pitch on site to alleviate 3G shortfall in the Analysis Area.	FA School	Key centre	M	S	L
						H			S	L	
			Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use. Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Poynton Sports Club to alleviate overplay.	ECB School		L	L	L
						L			S	L	

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

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ²⁴					
103	Poynton Sports Club	SK12 1AG	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent session. Suitable for Step 7 football. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities. The Club has plans to relocate, which is dependent on securing planning permission and the sale of its current site. Both this site and proposed site for relocation are allocated within the draft SADPD.	Support the Club in its aspirations to relocate.	FA Club	Key centre	M	S	H					
						If the above does not happen, alleviate overplay through improving pitch quality or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			M	S	L					
						Ensure the Club can progress through the football pyramid.			M	L	L					
						Improve changing facilities, potentially as part of the relocation.			M	S	M					
			Cricket		A good quality square with four senior and two junior grass wickets. Grass wickets are substantially overplayed by 60 match equivalent sessions. The Club has plans to relocate, which is dependent on securing planning permission and the sale of its current site.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		M	L	L					
						If the relocation takes place, ensure enough grass wickets and an NTP are provided to alleviate overplay.			M	S	L					
						If the relocation does not take place, consider NTP installation and transfer remaining overplay off site.			M	S	L					
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 60 x 30 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore club requirements to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required or if relocation takes place.	EH FA Club		L	L	L					
			Lacrosse		Two lacrosse pitches assessed as standard quality. Currently played to capacity.	Protect pitches for continued lacrosse use and, as a minimum, sustain current quality.	English Lacrosse Club		H	L	L					
						Explore options to provide the Club with increased provision, potentially via an existing 3G pitch, a new 3G pitch in the local area, or via potential new provision at Langley Cricket Club.						H	M	L		
			159		Prestbury Cricket Club	SK10 4DG	Cricket		Private	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. No security of tenure is provided to the Club. Poor quality clubhouse.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
											Provide the Club with greater security of tenure or explore options for it to transfer demand.			M	S	L
Improve clubhouse.	M	M		M												
165	Adlington Primary School	SK10 4JX	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L					
182	Disley Primary School	SK12 2DY	Football	School	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L					
195	Lostock Hall Primary School	SK12 1XG	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L					
						Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			L	L	L					

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ²⁴
225	St Paul's Catholic Primary School	SK12 1LY	Football	School	One youth 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and played to capacity	Ensure any additional usage is met by quality improvements to avoid overuse.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			L	S	L
231	Vernon Primary School	SK12 1NW	Football	School	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch that are all assessed as standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch and the youth 9v9 are used by the community, with the latter played to capacity at peak time and the former overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. The mini 7v7 pitch is available to the community but unused. The site is split into two across the current school and the closed school; the former is allocated in the draft SADPD.	Alleviate overplay through improved pitch quality or through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			L	S	L
						Ensure appropriate mitigation should pitches at the closed school site be permanently lost.			M	M	M
240	Worth Primary School	SK12 1QA	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches that are available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
249	Mount Vernon	SK12 1TG	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	L	S	L
			Lacrose		A lacrosse pitch accessed by Poynton Lacrosse Club and assessed as poor quality. Operating at capacity.	Protect as a lacrosse pitch and provide quality improvements to better cater for demand.	English Lacrosse		M	L	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

WILMSLOW ANALYSIS AREA – SUMMARY

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ²⁵	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	1.5	2.5	-	1	-	-	1
Youth pitches 11v11	-	-	-	0	-	1	1
Youth pitches 9v9	1	3	-	2	-	-	2
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-	0	-	1	1
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-	0	-	1	1

- ◀ There is a current shortfall of one match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- ◀ Youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity currently but when taking into account future demand there is a shortfall of one match equivalent session.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- ◀ Mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity currently but when taking into account future demand there is a shortfall of one match equivalent session.
- ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity currently but when taking into account future demand there is a shortfall of one match equivalent session.
- ◀ Overplay is evident at Jim Evison Playing Fields.
- ◀ There are 14 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ Changing facilities servicing Upcast Lane (used by Wilmslow Community Sports FC) and Jim Evison Playing Fields are considered to be poor quality.
- ◀ There are four providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their football pitches.
- ◀ There is current training demand for two full size 3G pitches despite none currently being provided.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity, especially at key sites such as Wilmslow High School and Jim Evison Playing Field.
- ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Upcast Lane and Jim Evison Playing Fields and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.
- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ◀ Pursue community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.

²⁵ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Identify potential sites to provide full size 3G pitches (e.g. Wilmslow High School and Jim Evison Playing Fields).
- ◀ If 3G pitches are provided, ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability and administer FA testing so that competitive matches can be hosted.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are five grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and two standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ All grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Wilmslow CC is currently without practice nets.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at three sites; however, only Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club (Wilmslow Wayfarers Cricket Club) has spare capacity for an increase in play at peak time for senior cricket (Saturday).
- ◀ Alderley Edge Cricket Club, Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club) and Lindow Cricket Club are overplayed by eight, five and 45 match equivalent sessions, respectively.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is current spare capacity amounting to four match equivalent sessions; however, future demand results in a shortfall of eight match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to five match equivalent sessions currently and 13 match equivalent sessions in the future.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain quality of grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Lindow CC to find a resolution to car parking issues.
- ◀ Support Wilmslow CC in its need for training provision to be provided.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Alderley Edge Cricket Club, Styal Playing Fields (Styal Cricket Club) and Lindow Cricket Club through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ◀ Ensure Lindow CC and Styal CC can fulfil future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are four senior and one junior rugby union pitch available for community use across two sites (Jim Evison Playing Fields and Memorial Ground).
- ◀ Jim Evison Playing Fields contains pitches assessed as poor quality and Wilmslow RUFC reports that the changing facilities servicing the site require modernisation.
- ◀ Both pitches at Jim Evison Playing Fields have actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions each.
- ◀ All pitches at Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) are played to capacity.
- ◀ Overall, spare capacity currently exists amounting to one match equivalent sessions; however, future demand results in a shortfall of 0.25 match equivalent sessions.

Recommendations

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Improve quality to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance at Jim Evison Playing Fields and Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club).
- ◀ Consider installation of additional floodlighting at Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) to ensure no future capacity issues, or explore options to provide the Club with access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Jim Evison Playing Fields.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unavailable pitches at Wilmslow High School for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs.
- ◀ The Edge Hockey Centre and Wilmslow High School are in use by Alderley Edge HC; Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is in use by Wilmslow HC.
- ◀ The Edge Hockey Centre is assessed as good quality, Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club as standard quality (despite it exceeding its life expectancy) and Wilmslow High School as poor quality.
- ◀ Neither Alderley Edge HC nor Wilmslow HC can accommodate all of their future demand on pitches currently used.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect all AGPs for continued hockey use.
- ◀ Resurface Wilmslow High School and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club in the near future to improve quality and to sustain usage.
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for Wilmslow HC at Wilmslow High School through a community use agreement.
- ◀ Ensure both Alderley Edge HC and Wilmslow HC can grow as planned, first and foremost via access to additional secondary pitches in the locality (see Macclesfield Analysis Area).

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There are four pitches located at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club.
- ◀ The pitches are used by Wilmslow Lacrosse Club and are rated as standard quality.
- ◀ It is considered the Club has enough provision to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect pitches at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club for continued lacrosse use and, as a minimum, sustain quality.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

WILMSLOW ANALYSIS AREA – ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ²⁶
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	SK9 7HN	Cricket	Club	A good square with 13 senior and six junior grass wickets. The senior wickets are overplayed by six match equivalent sessions whilst the junior wickets are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. Poor quality clubhouse.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP and the transfer of demand from the grass wickets.			M	S	L
						Support club to improve clubhouse.			M	M	M
27	Carnival Field	SK9 5NG	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand.			L	L	L
30	Chorley Hall	SK9 7TG	Football	Council	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is currently unused by the community and unavailable for lettings due to waterlogging issues. Demand exists for access so the Council are exploring options. Serviced by a basic pavilion and a small car park.	Support the Council in its aspirations to bring the site back into use and seek to utilise spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.	FA	Local site	L	S	L
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	SK9 4LY	Football	Council	Three adult, two youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches all assessed as poor. Adult pitches and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed, whilst the mini 7v7 pitches have actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues. The site is identified as a priority site for grass pitch, changing room and 3G investment in the LFFP.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and transfer some demand to sites with actual spare capacity to fully alleviate it.	FA RFU	Hub site	H	S	M
						Improve changing facilities.			H	S	M
						Install a full size 3G pitch to reduce 3G pitch shortfalls in the locality.			H	M	H
									H	S	L
			Rugby union		Two senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0). Used by Wilmslow RUFC. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match sessions exists on both pitches.	Improve quality through improved drainage to better cater for community demand and to increase capacity.	RFU		H	S	L
						Improve changing facilities to make them more appropriate for rugby use should Wilmslow RUFC prefer access.			H	S	M
						Explore floodlighting suitability.			M	S	L
						Alternatively, if a full size 3G pitch is supplied on site for football, look into a partnership agreement to also make it accessible for rugby union purposes. ²⁷			H	M	H

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

²⁷ A 3G pitch cannot accommodate full contact rugby activity unless it is built to RFU specifications (including installation of a shockpad) and is certified by World Rugby.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ²⁶
69	Lacey Green Pavilion	SK9 4BU	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches played to capacity. Well used by youth 11v11 teams.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity and ensure no further usage until this takes place to avoid overplay.	FA	Local site	L	S	L
						Consider converting one of the pitches to a youth 11v11 pitch to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand.			M	S	L
70	Lacey Green Primary Academy	SK9 4DP	Football	School	Two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch that are available to the community and used to capacity at peak time.	Pursue security of tenure for users through community use agreements.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
72	Lindow Community Primary School	SK9 6EH	Football	School	A youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users through community use agreements.			L	S	L
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	SK9 5PZ	Rugby union	Club	Two senior pitches and one junior pitch. Both senior pitches are floodlit and receive good maintenance (M2); junior pitch receives standard maintenance (M1). All pitches have natural, adequate drainage (D1). All pitches are played to capacity.	Improve quality to enable further usage should the Club have demand in the future.	RFU Club	Local site	M	S	M
						To allow for increased usage, consider providing floodlighting provision elsewhere, such as at Jim Evison Playing Fields given the Club also uses that site.			M	S	M
						Alternatively, provide the Club with access to a World Rugby 3G pitch (potentially at Jim Evison Playing Fields).			M	M	H
						Improve changing facilities.			M	M	M
95	Oakwood Farm	SK9 4HP	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
101	Pownhall School	SK9 5DW	Cricket	School	A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality that is unavailable.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School	Local site	L	L	L
120	Styal Playing Fields	SK9 4JE	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch that is currently unused.	Consider re-designation of space given lack of demand e.g. supply a youth pitch instead.	FA	Local site	L	S	L
			Cricket		A good quality square with nine senior and one junior grass wicket. The senior wickets have spare capacity but not at peak time for senior play; the junior wickets are overplayed by five match equivalent sessions. Poor quality clubhouse. Used by Styal CC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and seek to alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP.	ECB Club		L	L	L
						Improve clubhouse.			M	M	M
						Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand plans either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.			M	L	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost ²⁶
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	SK9 7QN	Football	Club/School	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch that are unavailable for community use. Assessed as standard quality.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls, particularly in relation to the youth 9v9 pitch.	FA School	Key centre	H	L	L
			Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Alderley Edge HC. Assessed as good quality having been re-surfaced in 2011. Considered to be operating at capacity for match play purposes on a Saturday. The Club has latent demand.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface and encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.	EH Club		H	L	L
						Ensure Alderley Edge HC can grow as planned, possibly via providing a new sand based pitch in the locality given lack of alternative options.			M	S	L
131	The Rectory Field (Wilmslow Cricket Club)	SK9 1BU	Cricket	ESAR	A good quality square with nine senior and one junior grass wicket and an NTP. Grass wickets have 13 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity but are used to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality practice nets.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB ESAR	Local site	L	L	L
						Explore options to improve training provision available to the Club.			L	S	L
133	Upcast Lane	SK9 6EH	Football	Club	One youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity; the mini 7v7 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Explore options to improve changing facilities.			L	S	M
140	Wilmslow Grange Primary and Nursery School	SK9 3NG	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
141	Wilmslow High School	SK9 1LZ	Football	School	Two adult, two youth 11v11 and two 9v9 pitches assessed as standard quality. One youth 9v9 pitch over marks one of the adult pitches and the other over marks one of the youth 11v11 pitches. Unavailable for community use due to drainage issues. Identified in the LFFP as a key site for grass pitch investment and also for the creation of a full size 3G pitch.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and to enable community use.	FA School	Key centre	M	L	L
						Install a full size 3G pitch on site, exclusive of the sand-based pitch, to reduce local 3G shortfalls.			H	S	H
			Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L	L
			Rugby union		Three senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1). One senior pitch with natural, inadequate drainage (D0) and two with natural, adequate drainage (D1). Unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular and extra-curricular use and improve drainage on the pitch with inadequate drainage to better cater for this.	RFU School		L	S	L
						Once improvements are made, explore community use aspects and a potential partnership with Wilmslow RUFC.			M	M	L
			Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is assessed as poor quality. Last resurfaced in 2007 and therefore at the end of its lifespan. Used by Alderley Edge HC.	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School		H	S	M
						Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			H	L	L
						Ensure security of tenure through a community use agreement.			M	S	L
142	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	SK9 1BU	Sand AGP	ESAR	A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 25 x 20 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA ESAR	Local site	L	L	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	SK9 4HP	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with eight grass wickets. Currently unused after the Wilmslow Wayfares CC folded.	Seek to transfer usage to the sites from other overused or well used sites in the locality	ECB Club	Key centre	M	L	L
					Ensure clubhouse is improved to a good quality.	M			S	M	
			Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is assessed as standard quality. Last resurfaced in 2007 and therefore nearing the end of its lifespan. Used by Wilmslow HC, which expresses latent demand and exported demand. In addition, the Club has to travel to Macclesfield for many home matches which is not ideal.	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH Club		H	M	M
					Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.	H			L	L	
					Seek to provide the Club with additional provision or greater access to existing provision so that it can field demand within closer proximity to its home base; if this is not possible, ensure access to the new pitches at the King's School.	H			S	L	
			Lacrosse		Four lacrosse pitches assessed as standard quality. Accessed by Wilmslow Lacrosse Club.	Retain and protect pitches for continued lacrosse use and, as a minimum, sustain current quality.	English Lacrosse Club		H	L	L
154	Lindow Cricket Club	SK9 6EH	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with six senior and nine junior grass wickets. Senior wickets are overplayed by 30 match equivalent sessions; junior wickets are overplayed by 15 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by limited car parking.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP and/or through the transfer of demand.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Explore options to improve car parking.			L	S	L
						Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand plans either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play (ideally to Alderley Park).			M	L	L
166	Alderley Edge Community Primary School	SK9 7UZ	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
168	Ashdene Primary School	SK9 6LJ	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
181	Dean Oaks Primary School	SK9 2LX	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost
216	St Anne's Fulshaw Primary School	SK9 5JQ	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch that are assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L
217	St Benedict's Catholic Primary School	SK9 3AE	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
227	Styal Primary School	SK9 4JE	Football	School	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L

DISUSED/LAPSED PROVISION

Please note that the table below indicates the position as of the original PPS (completed in January 2017). Site by site updates should be sought as and when required and is it clear that some of the recommended actions for some of the sites are no longer deliverable.

Site	Analysis area	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
Bisto Football Club	Congleton	Football	Club	A lapsed site that fell out of use in 2010. Formerly provided an adult pitch.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Brooke Dean Community College	Wilmslow	Football	School	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch that fell out of use when the School closed (2014).	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Brooke House Playing Field	Crewe	Football	Council	A disused site that fell out of use in 2014. Formerly provided an adult pitch. A MUGA on site remains in use.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Cedar Avenue	Congleton	Football	Council	A disused site that fell out of use in 2015. Formerly provided a youth pitch.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Goddard Street	Crewe	Football	Council	A lapsed site that fell out of use in 2005. Formerly provided an adult pitch that is being considered for a housing development.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Hazelbadge Road Playing Field	Poynton	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch. Fell out of use in 2014.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA

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Site	Analysis area	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
Peover Playing Fields	Knutsford	Football	Parish Council	A disused site that formerly provided a youth pitch. Fell out of use in 2014.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Portland Drive	Congleton	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch. Fell out of use in 2016.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
St John's Road	Congleton	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult and a youth pitch. Fell out of use in 2016.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Wybunbury Recreation Ground	Nantwich	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch. Fell out of use in 2016.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Wheelock Playing Field	Congleton	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch. One goalpost remains in place. Fell out of use in 2016. Identified in the LFFP as a site for small-sided, recreational football.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site in line with LFFP. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2030 (in with the Local Plan). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Playing Pitch Demand Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved by taking the current team generation rates and population in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

There is an expectation from Sport England that the calculator should be used as a guide by local authorities with a robust PPS in place.

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 the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. The estimate for hockey is calculated using Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator because this includes Artificial Grass Pitches. The unit of demand for hockey is given in number of pitches because the Sports Facility Calculator converts the population into visits per week per person which in turn generates that demand into additional pitch space required.

The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 1.61 per dwelling. This is taken from the fact that the Local Plan Housing Development Study²⁸ projects population growth of 58,100 and identifies a need for 36,000 dwellings (implying an average increase of 58,100/36,000, or 1.61 people per dwelling).

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

Scenario 1: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from outstanding housing growth requirement over the Local Plan period (2030)

With 9,556 housing completions (to March 2018), the remaining housing growth required in Cheshire East during its Local Plan period is for 26,444 new dwellings. This equates to a population growth of 42,575.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from outstanding housing growth (2030)

Pitch Sport ²⁹	Estimated demand by sport (2030)
Adult football	7.98 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	16.76 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	11.24 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	35.76 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby league	0.00 match equivalent sessions per week
Hockey	4.94 match equivalent sessions per week
Cricket	286.28 match equivalent sessions per season

²⁸ Cheshire East Housing Development Study, ORS, June 2015. Local Plan Examination Library Reference PS E033: <http://cheshireeast-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/library>

²⁹ Note that the calculator does not include lacrosse.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £10,131,925³⁰ and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £1,894,989.³¹

Scenario 2: Likely demand generated for one development

It is advisable to use the Playing Pitch Demand calculator for each specific development to determine the pitch requirements linked to that development and/or the off-site contributions required. The scenario below therefore looks at a development consisting of 500 dwellings. This equates to a population growth of 805 people.

Table 7.2: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from a 500 dwelling development

Pitch Sport	Estimated demand by sport (2030)
Adult football	0.15 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	0.32 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	0.21 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	0.68 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby league	0.00 match equivalent sessions per week
Hockey	0.09 match equivalent sessions per week
Cricket	5.41 match equivalent sessions per season

As the increased demand does not result in the need for a whole pitch for any of the pitch sports, contributions should instead be sought for off-site improvements. The capital cost linked to the development is estimated at £191,573³² and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £35,830.³³

Conclusions

The tables above show that up to 2030, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. This position is indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to.

Experience and the 500 dwelling scenario show that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand in their own right; however, the cumulative impact of housing across the local authority will result in substantial demand generated across the local authority and in each analysis area. The Council could consider using CIL to obtain contributions to priority sites, or pooling S106 contributions from major housing schemes to invest in priority sites. In either case, the preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs should inform the playing fields that most require investment.

³⁰ Capital cost is based on 2018 second quarter calculations.

³¹ Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

³² Capital cost is based on 2018 second quarter calculations.

³³ Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Delivery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY


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

The steering group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

Checklist

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

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

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

APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

National Planning Policy Framework (2018)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-2028)

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

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

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

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The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ◀ ***More Play*** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - *Clubs and leagues*
 - *Kids*
 - *Communities*
 - *Casual*
- ◀ ***Great Teams*** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - *Pathway*
 - *Support*
 - *Elite Teams*
 - *England Teams*
- ◀ ***Inspired Fans*** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - *Fan focus*
 - *New audiences*
 - *Global stage*
 - *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ ***Good Governance and Social Responsibility*** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - *Integrity*
 - *Community programmes*
 - *Our environments*

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- *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - *People*
 - *Revenue and reach*
 - *Insight*
 - *Operations*

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

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

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

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

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

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)³⁴

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

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

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

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

³⁴ Although now outdated, this strategy has not been updated since the period 2013-2017

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The core objectives are as follows:

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

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP), that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium-term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities.

‘The right pitches in the right places’³⁵

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90’s. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately placed to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment.
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

England Hockey Strategy

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

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

³⁵

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities³⁶

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

Awarding body	Description
<p>Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/</p>	<p>The Big Lottery Fund distributes over £500m a year to communities across the UK, raised by players of The National Lottery.</p> <p>Awards for All – this fund offers National Lottery grants between £300 and £10,000. Applications can be made by: voluntary or community organisations, registered charities, constituted groups or clubs, not-for-profit companies or community interest companies, social enterprises, schools and statutory bodies (including town, parish and community councils). To receive funding, the applicant must meet at least one of the funding priorities listed for these grants. The funding priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities. ◆ Improving the places and spaces that matter to communities. ◆ Enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage. <p>Empowering Young People – this grants programme is designed to support projects in Northern Ireland that give young people aged 8 to 25 the ability to overcome the challenges they face. Funding between £30,000 and £500,000 is available and is available to projects which meet one or more of the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Equip young people with the skills they need for the future. ◆ Improve young people’s relationships with their support networks and communities. ◆ Improve the health and well-being of young people. <p>Reaching Communities England – this programme provides flexible funding over £10,000 for up to five years to organisations in England who want to act on the issues that matter to people and communities. Grants will be awarded to voluntary and community organisations or social enterprises to fund project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs. Ideas must meet one or more of the following funding priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities. ◆ Improving the places and spaces that matter to communities. ◆ Enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.

³⁶ Up to date as of April 2018.

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Awarding body	Description
<p>Sport England The current funding streams may change throughout 2017/18 so refer to the website for the latest information: https://www.sportengland.org/funding/</p>	<p>Sport England's vision is that everyone in England feels able to take part in sport or activity, regardless of age, background or ability.</p> <p>Small Grants – this programme offers funding to projects involving adults and young people aged 14 or over which meet one or more of the aims of their 'Towards an Active Nation' strategy. These aims are: get inactive people more active, develop lasting sporting habits, engender more positive attitudes among young people, develop more diverse volunteers and to improve progression and inclusion among the most talented. Projects with mixed age groups may still be considered if there is a focus on people aged 14 and over.</p> <p>Community Asset Fund – this programme is dedicated to enhancing the spaces in your local community that give people the opportunity to be active.</p> <p>Major Events Engagement Fund – Sport England's 'Towards an Active Nation' strategy commits them to invest £2m in helping national governing bodies (NGBs) to host major events which evolve their existing business model and derive a greater financial return from their existing customers (players, volunteers or spectators). This funding can also be used to develop programmes that engage with individuals local to the major event, who are currently less likely to take part regularly in sport or physical activity.</p>
<p>Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</p>	<p>This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.</p> <p>Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund – this fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations that improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities, sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age or ability and to help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport. Grants are available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Grass pitch drainage/improvements, ◀ Pavilions, clubhouses and changing rooms, ◀ 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTPs) and multi-use games areas, ◀ Fixed floodlights for artificial pitches. <p>Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund Small Grants Scheme – this scheme awards grants of up to £10,000 for the provision of capital items, or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. This scheme aims to support the growth of football clubs and activity, prevent a decline in football participation and make improvements to facilities to address any health and safety issues. Grants, which cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost, are awarded to support the costs of the following list of projects and items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Replacement of unsafe goalposts, ◀ Portable floodlights, ◀ Storage containers, ◀ Changing pavilion/clubhouse refurbishment and external works (not including routine maintenance works), ◀ Grounds maintenance equipment,

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Awarding body	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Pitch improvement works (not including routine maintenance works), ◀ Fencing. <p>The scheme is available to local authorities, educational establishments, grassroots football clubs and professional and semi-professional football clubs and their associated community organisations, to support their community outreach programmes.</p> <p>Premier League Primary Stars Kit and Equipment Scheme - this scheme, run in partnership with Nike and delivered by the Football Foundation, gives teachers the opportunity to get their hands on free resources to aid their pupils' learning. Primary school teachers registered at plprimarystars.com can access either a free Nike football strip, or a free equipment pack which can be used across the curriculum.</p>
<p>Rugby Football Foundation (RFF)</p> <p>http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=113</p>	<p>The Grant Match Scheme in particular provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project.</p> <p>Projects eligible for funding include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers). <p>'Helping Hand Grants' can award funding from £500 to £1,500. The Groundmatch Grant Scheme provides funding from £1,501 to £5,000. RFU Accredited clubs at level 5 and below are eligible to apply.</p> <p>The RFF also offer loan schemes for RFU Accredited clubs at level 3 and below. The first scheme is the Interest Free Loan scheme which can provide up to £100,000 as an interest free loan for capital works. Green Deal Loans up to the value of £20,000 are available to clubs to support them in the installation of facility solutions that reduce utility costs. Repayments are structured to be the equivalent of the projected savings over the agreed 'payback' period.</p>
<p>The England and Wales Cricket Trust</p> <p>https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding</p>	<p>The Interest Free Loan Scheme provides finance to clubs for various capital projects such as buildings, equipment purchase, fine turf, land purchase and non-turf. All ECB affiliated cricket clubs are eligible to apply, as well as other organisations that can evidence achievement/delivery of the EWCT's charitable aims. Clubs with a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £50,000 whereas clubs without a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £20,000. A minimum of 10% partnership funding is required from the applicant.</p> <p>The Small Grant Scheme aims to support the ECB's national programmes – Get the Game On, All Stars Cricket, Women's Cricket and U19 Club T20. Clubs can apply for funding towards the purchase of relevant products or materials, and associated professional labour costs.</p>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
	<p>Project themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Covers – supporting Get the Game On, ◀ Family Friendly Facilities – supporting All Stars Cricket, ◀ Improved Changing Facilities for Females – supporting Women’s Cricket, ◀ Great Events – supporting U19 Club T20.
<p>EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</p>	<p>LIFE is the EU’s financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. LIFE also finances some grants for non-governmental organisations active in the field of the environment because they are key players in the development and implementation of environmental policy.</p>
<p>National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</p>	<p>The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: young people and hockey, young people and sport in Milton Keynes, enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level and smaller charities. There is no limit on the amount of funding that an organisation can request. However, the Foundation does not generally award grants for less than £10,000 or more than £75,000.</p>
<p>Rugby Football League https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities</p>	<p>Rugby League World Cup 2021 Capital Facilities Legacy funding. Small Grants Scheme awards grants of up to £15,000 for the provision of capital items, kit and equipment or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. Large capital grants programme of £15,000 plus focused on supporting the development of new or refurbished local rugby league facilities. The programme is split into four themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcoming environments 2. More players 3. Community engagement 4. Innovation fund

Funder’s requirements

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

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

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Indicative costs

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

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

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

APPENDIX THREE: GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Overplay is when a pitch is used over the amount that the carrying capacity will allow, (i.e. more than the site can accommodate). Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected.

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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