



LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

JULY 2020

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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



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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BARLA	British Amateur Rugby League Association
BC	Bowls Club
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
CFA	County Football Association
CUA	Community use agreement
EA	England Athletics
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FE	Further Education
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LMS	Last Man Stands
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MSJFL	Mid Staffordshire Junior Football League
MUGA	Multi use games area
NGB	National Governing Body
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby union football club
S106	Section 106
SASSOT	Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent
SCCB	Staffordshire County Cricket Board
SE	Sport England
SFA	Staffordshire Football Association
TBTT	Transforming British Tennis Together
TC	Tennis Club

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Lichfield. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2040 (in line with the emerging Local Plan).
- 1.2 The Strategy has been developed to provide:
- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches.
 - ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
 - ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock.
 - ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
 - ◀ A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.
- 1.3 A PPS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future outdoor sport requirements. Its robust evidence base should inform and be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively.
- 1.4 The Strategy is capable of:
- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch providers, including the public, private and third sectors.
 - ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, picking up on particular local demand issues.
 - ◀ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas.
 - ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision.
 - ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision.
 - ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.
 - ◀ Supporting funding applications.
 - ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.
- 1.5 The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Lichfield which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.
- 1.6 Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), sports organisations, education establishments and parish/town councils. In many instances, the Council will not be the agency which delivers these actions or recommendations; the PPS is not just for the Council to act upon, it applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

Scope

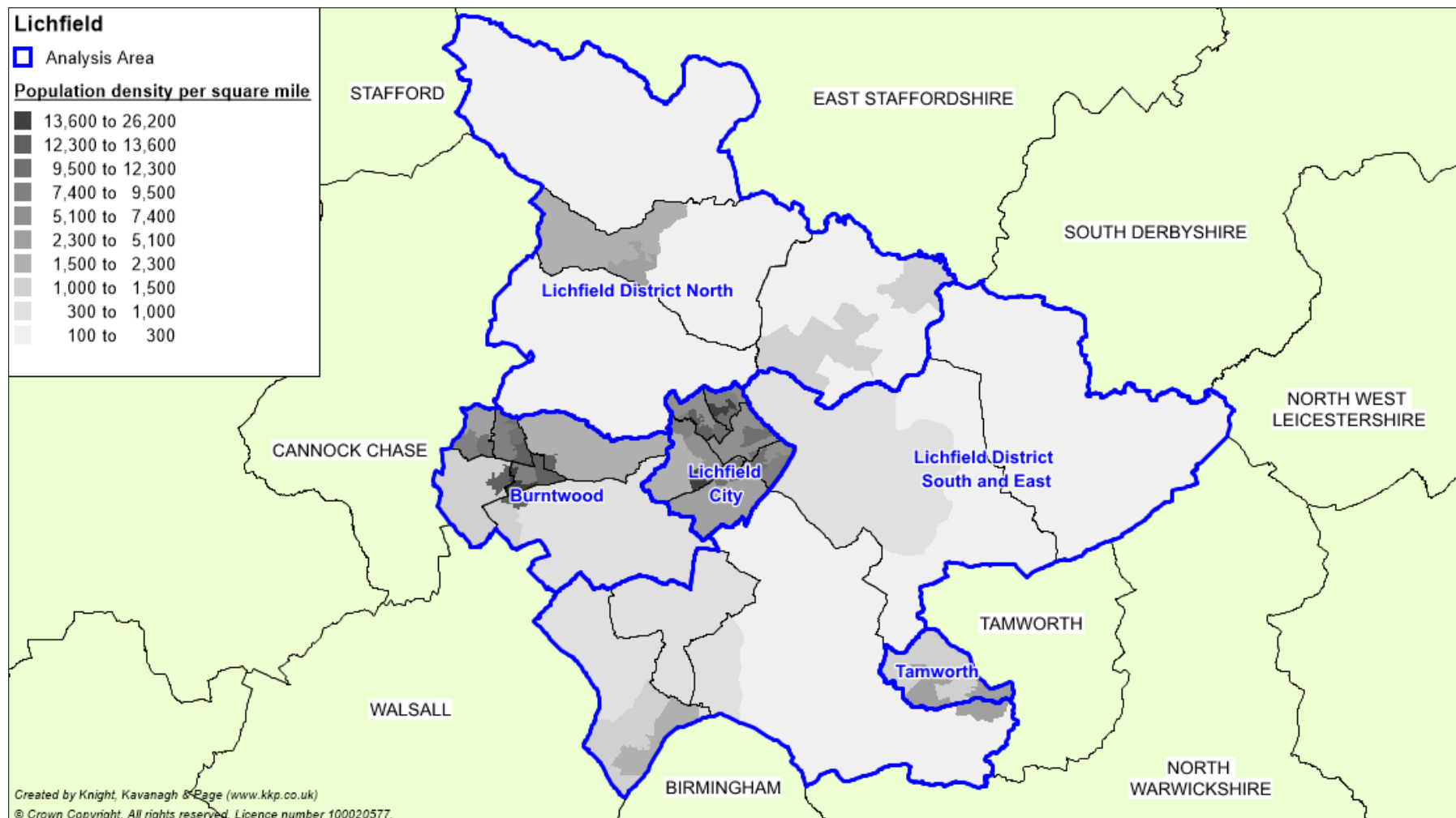
- 1.7 The following types of outdoor sports facilities were agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the PPS:
- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
 - ◀ Cricket pitches
 - ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
 - ◀ American football pitches
 - ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
 - ◀ Tennis courts
 - ◀ Bowling greens
 - ◀ Netball courts
- 1.8 Please note that, although included in the scope, no rugby league provision is presently identified in Lichfield. Therefore, it has not been included within this report.

Study area

- 1.9 The study area is the whole of the District Council's administrative area. In addition, cross-boundary issues will also be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand from neighbouring authorities such as East Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, Walsall and Tamworth.
- 1.10 Analysis areas (or sub areas) have been used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Lichfield as a whole. Five analysis areas were agreed upon: Lichfield City, Burntwood, Lichfield District North, Lichfield District South and East and Tamworth. These analysis areas are illustrated overleaf in Figure 1.1.

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Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



1.1: Context

- 1.11 The rationale for undertaking this study is to identify current levels of provision within Lichfield 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 pitch facilities meets the local needs of existing and future residents.
- 1.12 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.
- 1.13 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).
- 1.14 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 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.
- 1.15 Paragraphs 97 discusses 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.
- 1.16 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.
- 1.17 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 outdoor sport provision; the PPS will act as a tool for the Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for outdoor 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.

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Planning:

- ◀ The PPS provides important evidence to support the Local Plan process and implementation.
- ◀ It supports strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being.
- ◀ Evidence for developer contributions.

Operational:

- ◀ Helps improve management of assets, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ◀ The Action Plan identifies sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.
- ◀ An assessment of all pitches helps understand how facilities 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.

Lichfield Local Plan

- 1.18 The purpose of the Local Plan is to set District objectives to guide growth and policies to make sure that new development meets local needs in line with national policy. The Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy 2008 - 2029 (adopted; February 2015) and Local Plan Allocations 2008 - 2029 (adopted; July 2019) are supported by a range of other planning documents, such as supplementary planning documents, neighbourhood plans and a wide range of evidence. The current Local Plan document states that 10,030 homes must be delivered by 2029 in order to meet the housing requirement set in the Local Plan Strategy.
- 1.19 As referenced previously, the Local Plan is currently under review by the Council with the aim to create a new plan that will provide direction on the future growth of the area. Once adopted, it will replace the current Local Plan Strategy and the Local Plan Allocations document. The Council recently consulted on a Preferred Options document as part of the progression of its Local Plan Review. This set out to deliver 11,800 homes within the District between 2018-2040.
- 1.20 In the nine years to April 2017, the Council delivered 2,203 net new homes within the District at an average of 244 dwellings per year. The Local Plan Strategy identifies six Strategic Development Allocations and a Broad Development Location which have been allocated to deliver approximately 5,850 of the District's dwelling requirement. The Local Plan Allocations document identifies further residential allocations to meet the overall housing requirement for the District.

Health & Wellbeing Strategy

- 1.21 The vision of Lichfield District Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy is inspired by the healthy and safe communities' theme of its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan¹: 'We want local people to live healthy fulfilled lives, have access to opportunities to be active and experience improved health and wellbeing'.

¹ NB: The District Council has since published its new Strategic Plan 2020-2024

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1.22 The Strategy supports delivery of the overall vision of the strategic plan and will aid delivery of several outcomes, in particular:

- ◀ More people will be active and healthy
- ◀ More people will be involved in volunteering and community activity
- ◀ More people will be living independently at home
- ◀ There will be more affordable homes in the district
- ◀ Our heritage and open spaces will be well maintained or enhanced
- ◀ More people will use parks and open spaces

Physical Activity and Sport Strategy

1.23 Lichfield District Council's Physical Activity and Sport Strategy describes how it intends to nurture and promote a District wide approach to sport and physical activity so that more residents, but particularly those that would most benefit, are more active more often.

1.24 The vision of this Strategy is to 'encourage people in Lichfield District to lead more active lives' and achieving this will mean that there will be a positive contribution in terms of wider quality of life outcomes.

Success in achieving this vision would mean the following six outcomes:

- ◀ Young People - young people across the District are having positive experiences of sport and physical activity, building habits for life, and achieving more
- ◀ Reduced Inequalities - engaging those that would benefit the most in being more active to reduce inequalities in participation between different social groups
- ◀ Economic Benefit - demonstrable and recognised value of sport and physical activity towards the economy and improved health and wellbeing
- ◀ Dynamic Partners - an engaged and empowered network of people and organisations working towards this common goal
- ◀ Reduced Inactivity and a Healthier Population - a reduction in inactivity levels in turn contributing towards health improvement of the population
- ◀ More coherent and successful communities – communities that play together and are more active together are more likely to be more tolerant.

Rugeley Power Station

1.25 Rugeley Power Station closed operations in June 2016. It was the last functioning power station in the West Midlands, with Cannock Chase and Lichfield district councils being the joint planning authorities for the land as it straddles both areas. The associated sports and social club subsequently closed down and has been vacant from summer 2017 onwards. A planning application for the redevelopment of the power station site has been submitted to Lichfield District Council but at the time of writing has yet to be determined.

1.26 Regarding sport and leisure provision, the land within the Power Station contained:

- ◀ One adult football pitch
- ◀ One cricket pitch (nine grass wickets)
- ◀ Two tennis courts
- ◀ One bowling green
- ◀ An 18 hole golf course

- 1.27 Rugeley Power Station Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document (adopted February 2018) was jointly produced by Cannock Chase and Lichfield district councils to guide future redevelopment of the site. The overall aim is to create a well-designed mixed-use development which incorporates market housing, affordable housing, self-build housing, employment provision, education provision and open space, sport and recreational facilities.
- 1.28 It is envisaged that the new development will become a popular residential neighbourhood and place of work, creating a network of pedestrian and cycle routes and open spaces which connect the site with the surrounding area.
- 1.29 The site comprises of 139 hectares of land, (55 hectares in Cannock Chase District and 84 hectares in Lichfield District) and is broadly rectangular in shape. The report by the two authorities proposes developing the land for a minimum of 800 homes, employment uses and power/storage production, with the supporting infrastructure including a school, open space, play facilities and public art.
- 1.30 The loss of the sports provision would need to be re-provided, in line with both Sport England and the NPPF. Rugeley Power Station was considered in the Cannock Chase PPS as the site was only accessed by Cannock Chase based clubs, predominantly servicing the town of Rugeley. No Lichfield based clubs were known to access the sports provision on site.

Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (SASSOT)

- 1.31 SASSOT is the Active Partnership (AP) for the area including Lichfield. It is a network of local agencies committed to working together to increase the number of people taking part in physical activity and sport, and is part of an England wide network of 43 APs. Its team provides services to partners involved with the delivery of sport, physical education and active recreation.

The following is a brief overview of SASSOT's stated services and programmes:

Strategic Networking	Information Advice & Guidance	Programme Delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Developing relationships •Influencing local agendas •Levering investment •Facilitating meeting infrastructures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Investment •Facilities •Behaviour Change •Workforce Development •Marketing & Communications •Insight •Inclusion •Monitoring & Evaluation •Open Data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Satellite Clubs •School Games •Primary School Sport Premium •DfE Volunteering •CYP Active Lives Survey •Ironman Staffordshire 70.3

Everyone More Active More Often (2018-2021)

- 1.32 SASSOT's current strategy, Everyone More Active More Often, identifies four key strategic priorities under four key themes:
- ◀ People – residents, from all socio-economic backgrounds, enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of an active lifestyle.
 - ◀ Place – our communities are places where being physically active is an easy choice.
 - ◀ Economy – our sporting economy is thriving, providing employment and training to an active workforce.

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- System – strong strategic leadership ensures that physical activity and sport become a core feature in local policy and practice, creating communities which are inherently active.

Staffordshire Observatory Lichfield Health Profile

1.33 The Staffordshire Observatory Lichfield Health Profile (2018) reflects the increasing health conditions across the District with key findings summarised below:

- Healthy life expectancy in Lichfield is 65 years for men and 67 years for women which is longer than average.
- Women in Lichfield spend more of their lives in poor health than men (16 years compared to 14).
- Around 24% of children aged four to five in Lichfield have excess weight (overweight or obese) with rates being similar to average.
- Around 34% of children aged 10-11 have excess weight.
- More than six out of ten adults have excess weight (either obese or overweight) which is similar than the national average.
- The proportion of people who are obese in Lichfield is also similar to the England average.
- Around two out of ten Lichfield adults are physically inactive, similar to the England average (equating to around 18,200 people).
- Four out of ten Lichfield adults aren't eating the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables per day.
- There is a higher proportion of residents in Lichfield with a limiting long-term illness compared to the national average.

1.2: Headline findings

1.34 The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings for the playing pitch sports in Lichfield 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 demand (2019)		Future demand (2040)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity total (match equivalent sessions)
Football (grass pitches)	Burntwood	Adult	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 2
	Lichfield City	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 1.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1.5	Shortfall of 0.5
	Lichfield District North	Adult	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity

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Sport	Analysis area	Current demand (2019)		Future demand (2040)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity total (match equivalent sessions)
	Lichfield District South and East	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
	Tamworth	Adult	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Football (3G pitches) ²	Lichfield District	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of one full size 3G pitch for team training	Shortfall of one full size 3G pitch for team training
Cricket	Burntwood	Senior	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 7
	Lichfield City	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Lichfield District North	Senior	Spare capacity of 18	Spare capacity of 9
	Lichfield District South and East	Senior	Spare capacity of 20	Shortfall of 6
	Tamworth	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
Rugby union	Burntwood	Senior	Shortfall of 2.75	Shortfall of 3.75
	Lichfield City	Senior	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
	Lichfield District North	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Lichfield District South and East	Senior	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 4
	Tamworth	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Lichfield District	Full size, floodlit	Adequate provision for community hockey	Adequate provision for community hockey
Tennis	Lichfield District	Courts	Shortfall of floodlighting	Shortfall of floodlighting
Bowls	Lichfield District	Greens	Adequate provision However, shortfall in the Lichfield City Analysis Area	Adequate provision However, increased shortfalls in the Lichfield City Analysis Area

² Based on accommodating 38 teams on one full size pitch

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Sport	Analysis area	Current demand (2019)		Future demand (2040)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity total (match equivalent sessions)
Netball	Lichfield District	Courts	Adequate provision	Adequate provision

Conclusions

- 1.35 From a quantitative perspective, the existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the creation of shortfalls for some pitch types and in some areas where demand is currently being met and the exacerbation of existing shortfalls. There are current and future shortfalls of football pitches, 3G pitches and rugby union pitches and future shortfalls of cricket squares.
- 1.36 Where demand is being met, this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to overcoming current or future demand shortfalls. There is a resultant need to protect all existing outdoor sport provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exceptions.
- 1.37 For the most part, it must be noted that the shortfalls evidenced are relatively minimal when compared to other local authorities nationally. As such, it is considered that existing demand can, for the most part, be catered for through the better utilisation of existing provision. Examples include via pitch re-configuration, improving quality and encouraging or enabling access to unused/unavailable provision. For cricket, shortfalls could be alleviated through the creation of additional NTPs, whilst security of tenure issues need to be resolved for hockey.
- 1.38 Notwithstanding the above, a shortfall of 3G pitches can only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, thus reducing overplay, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements. This relates to both football and rugby union.

PART 2: VISION

Vision

- 2.1 A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Lichfield PPS. It seeks to:

‘Provide a robust and up-to-date assessment to enable policy provision which protects, enhances and delivers, where required, an accessible network of high-quality sustainable open spaces which provide the opportunity for sport and physical activity to promote health and wellbeing within our communities, and to provide evidence to support mechanisms that will enable and maintain high levels of participation that make a sustained difference for local people.’

To achieve this Vision, the strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives:

- ◀ Working collectively with partners to create opportunity for everyone to participate.
- ◀ 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 enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand.
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer term aspirations.

PART 3: AIMS

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

AIM 1

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

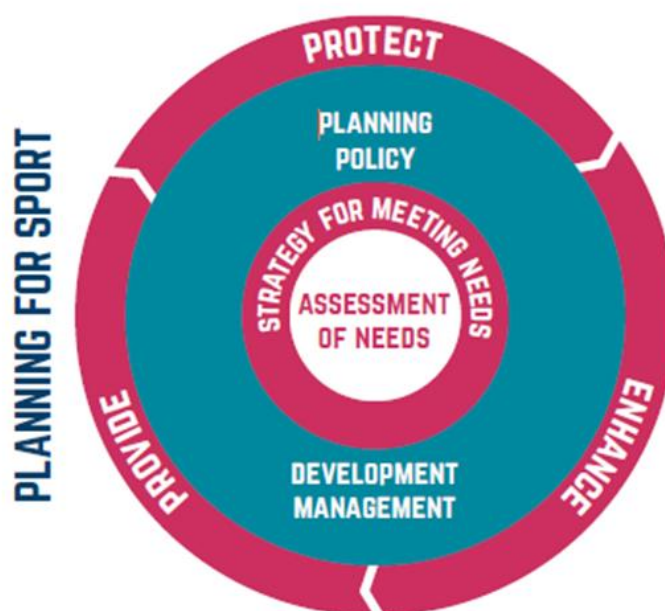
AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 3.1: Sport England themes



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

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 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

- ◀ **Based on current demand, there is a shortfall of youth 9v9 pitches but spare capacity on the remaining pitch types.**
- ◀ **When accounting for future demand, a shortfall is also created in relation to mini 5v5 pitches.**
- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 115 grass football pitches within Lichfield across 47 sites, with 100 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 41 sites.
- ◀ Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions to provide an additional grass pitch provision on a second field which is adjacent to Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- ◀ Discussions have taken place between Lichfield City FC and Staffordshire FA with regards to the potential for three additional youth 9v9 pitches to be provided.
- ◀ The closure of Rugeley Power Station resulted in the loss of an adult football pitch (disused).
- ◀ In total, 11 pitches are assessed as good quality, 59 as standard quality and 30 as poor quality.
- ◀ DMS Whittington, Elford Playing Field, St Matthew's Sports and Social Club and Stychbrook Park all have poor quality ancillary facilities on site, whilst a further six sites are identified as having no clubhouse/changing provision on site.
- ◀ Chasetown Youth FC, Lichfield City FC and Burntwood Dragons and Phoenix FC as well as Lichfield Sports Club all have aspirations relating to the improvement and/or extension of existing ancillary provision.
- ◀ Chasetown Youth FC has aspirations to extend its current five-year lease agreement for use of Burntwood Memorial Park and making this a home venue for the Club's youth section.
- ◀ Three clubs play within the adult men's football pyramid in Lichfield, whilst one club plays within the women's pyramid.
- ◀ Through the audit and assessment, 187 teams from within 32 clubs are identified as playing within Lichfield; this consists of 31 adult men's, one adult women's, 94 youth boys', 15 youth girls' and 46 mini teams.
- ◀ Whittington FC and Lichfield City FC export a total of 11 teams outside of Lichfield to compete in the Burton Junior Football League; the League operates on a central venue basis up to the U11 age group.
- ◀ Of the clubs that responded to consultation, six indicate aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of nine teams.
- ◀ Population growth predicts that no additional teams will be generated in Lichfield.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity totals 21.5 match equivalent sessions across 35 pitches.
- ◀ Four pitches across four sites are overplayed by a combined total of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.

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Scenarios

Alleviating shortfalls

- 4.2 In the District, there is capacity to accommodate current levels of demand across all pitch types with the exception of youth 9v9 pitches. Shortfalls are identified equating to 0.5 match equivalent sessions in each the Burntwood and Lichfield District South and East analysis areas. When accounting for future demand, a shortfall of mini 5v5 pitches also becomes evident.
- 4.3 Alleviating this level of shortfall can be achieved through a variety of methods including securing tenure at sites, improving poor quality pitches or through the creation of new pitches. The extent to which each of these has on addressing the shortfalls is explored below in greater detail.

New pitches

- 4.4 To address overplay in its entirety, there would be a need to create a minimum of one youth 11v11 and two mini 5v5 pitches across Lichfield. This is based on each pitch accommodating one match equivalent session of peak time capacity with one team representing 0.5 match equivalent sessions (playing on a traditional home and away basis). This also assumes that pitches are at least standard quality.
- 4.5 Discussions have taken place between Lichfield City FC and Staffordshire FA regarding the creation of three new youth 9v9 pitches as part of one of the proposed new housing developments in District, with Streethay being discussed as a potential location. The table below shows that providing this provision will alleviate youth 9v9 shortfalls and create actual spare capacity on the pitch type.

Table 4.1: Summary of football supply and demand with new pitches

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Current total	Future demand	Total	Future capacity to be created	New total
Adult	10	0.5	9.5	-	9.5
Youth 11v11	2.5	-	2.5	-	2.5
Youth 9v9	0.5	-	0.5	3	2.5
Mini 7v7	4.5	-	4.5	-	4.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	4	1.5	-	1.5

- 4.6 In addition to the table above, Lichfield Sports Club has access to a second field adjacent to Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club which it aspires to develop into additional playing field land. Whilst current plans for pitch configuration are unknown, it is considered that the site is large enough to accommodate at least two mini 5v5 pitches. This would alleviate the identified mini 5v5 pitch shortfalls, if this configuration is deemed to be appropriate.

Securing access to education sites

- 4.7 Education sites generally accommodate large areas of playing field land and playing pitches. However, as tenure on these sites is generally considered to be unsecure (unless a Community Use Agreement is in place), potential spare capacity has been discounted from the supply and demand analysis within the Assessment Report. Securing access to these sites could provide an opportunity to help address future shortfalls across Lichfield.

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- 4.8 A summary of education sites/pitches which are available for community use but have unsecured access can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.2: Summary of discounted peak time spare capacity at educational sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Number of pitches	Amount of peak time spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure ³
15	Chase Terrace Technology College	Burntwood	Adult	1	0.5
15	Chase Terrace Technology College	Burntwood	(7v7)	2	1.5
20	Erasmus Darwin Academy	Burntwood	Adult	2	1.5
20	Erasmus Darwin Academy	Burntwood	(9v9)	2	0.5
25	Highfields Academy	Burntwood	(5v5)	1	0.5
29	Holly Grove Primary School	Burntwood	(7v7)	2	2
31	King Edward VI School	Lichfield City	(11v11)	1	1
43	Nether Stowe High School	Lichfield City	(11v11)	3	1
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	Lichfield District South and East	Adult	2	0.5
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	Lichfield District South and East	(11v11)	1	1
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	Lichfield District South and East	(7v7)	1	1
57	St Chads CE Primary School	Lichfield City	(7v7)	1	1
86	Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Fields	Lichfield District North	(9v9)	2	1
90	Boney Hay Primary Academy	Burntwood	(7v7)	1	1

- 4.9 As seen, there are several education sites in the District which contain football pitches that have the potential to help address shortfalls by securing access. In total, 14 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity could potentially be generated if tenure to the abovementioned school sites could be secured.

Table 4.3: Summary of potential peak time spare capacity at educational sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Summary of potential spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Burntwood	2	-	0.5	4.5	0.5	7.5
Lichfield City	-	2	-	1	-	3
Lichfield District North	-	-	1	-	-	1
Lichfield District South and East	0.5	1	-	1	-	2.5
Tamworth	-	-	-	-	-	0
Total	2.5	3	1.5	6.5	0.5	14

³ Match equivalent sessions

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- 4.10 If peak time spare capacity on education sites could be secured through community use agreements or via long-term leases, shortfalls of youth 9v9 pitches would be relieved whilst the future shortfall of mini 5v5 pitches would be reduced to one match equivalent sessions per week.
- 4.11 Although these schools are identified as being available to the community, it does not necessarily mean they are open to offering secure usage for a set period of time. Schools often want the flexibility to prioritise and protect the quality of their pitches for curricular and extracurricular usage, such as during periods of extended bad weather.
- 4.12 In addition to having unsecure tenure, it should also be noted that five of the education sites also accommodate one or more poor quality pitches. There would be a need to secure tenure and improve pitch quality at these sites, identified in the following table.

Table 4.4: Summary of community available poor quality pitches at education sites with unsecure tenure

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Pitch type
15	Chase Terrace Technology College	Burntwood	1	Adult
15	Chase Terrace Technology College	Burntwood	1	Youth 11v11
15	Chase Terrace Technology College	Burntwood	1	Youth 9v9
15	Chase Terrace Technology College	Burntwood	2	Mini 7v7
15	Chase Terrace Technology College	Burntwood	2	Mini 5v5
29	Holly Grove Primary School	Burntwood	2	Mini 7v7
43	Nether Stowe High School	Lichfield City	3	Youth 11v11
86	Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Fields	Lichfield District North	2	Youth 9v9
90	Boney Hay Primary Academy	Burntwood	1	Mini 7v7

- 4.13 Where there is external investment in sites e.g. by an NGB or Sport England, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. Funding grass pitch improvements or, for example, the creation of a 3G pitch could therefore provide scope to secure access for clubs. 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 to secure community access.

Improving quality

- 4.14 There are a further six (non-education) sites containing poor quality pitches, these are:

- ◀ DMS Whittington (Lichfield District South and East)
- ◀ Elford Playing Field (Lichfield District South and East)
- ◀ Harlaston Bridge (Lichfield District South and East)
- ◀ Rectory Close Playing Field (Lichfield District South and East)
- ◀ Stonnall Playing Fields (Lichfield District South and East)
- ◀ Whittington Cricket Club (Lichfield District South and East)

- 4.15 Of these sites, five have secure tenure, with DMS Whittington considered to be unsecure due to its private nature. If the secure pitches were improved to a minimum of standard quality, the actual spare capacity generated would benefit adult and mini 7v7 football in the Lichfield District South and East Analysis Area, where actual spare capacity already exists. This is broken down in the table below.

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Table 4.5: Summary of supply and demand after improving poor pitches to standard quality

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Current total	Future demand	Total	Future capacity to be created	New total
Adult	10	0.5	9.5	3	12.5
Youth 11v11	2.5	-	2.5	-	2.5
Youth 9v9	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
Mini 7v7	4.5	-	4.5	1	5.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	4	1.5	-	1.5

- 4.16 Whilst this will not immediately help reduce shortfalls (unless the pitches can be reconfigured), it will increase and help build future capacity on the pitch types.

Local Football Facility Plan

- 4.17 As improving the quality of all poor quality or overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving strategic sites (containing three pitch equivalents or more). The Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for Lichfield (December 2018) identifies two strategic sites for grass pitch improvements, with the PPS also identifying these as key sites.
- 4.18 The table below evidences what the impact would be on the supply and demand balance of pitches in the District if quality was improved at these sites by one increment (i.e. standard to good or poor to standard).

Table 4.6: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Improved capacity rating
30	Hospital Road	Burntwood	Adult	1	Standard		1
			Youth 11v11	1	Standard		1
			Youth 9v9	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
			Mini 7v7	2	Standard	4	8
			Mini 5v5	1	Standard	2.5	4.5
67	The Friary School	Lichfield City	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	1	3
			Youth 9v9	1	Standard		1

- 4.19 Improving quality as set out in the table above would create an additional 11.5 match equivalent sessions of capacity and overplay would be alleviated on the youth 9v9 pitch at Hospital Road. Although most of the capacity created would not be considered actual spare capacity at peak time (as most of the pitches are already used to peak time capacity), the increase would be sufficient to eradicate overall shortfalls on youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 4.7: Overall impact of LFFP quality improvements

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
	Current total	Improved capacity total	Future total	Future improved capacity total
Adult	10	10	9.5	9.5
Youth 11v11	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

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Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
	Current total	Improved capacity total	Future total	Future improved capacity total
Youth 9v9	0.5	0.5	0.5	0
Mini 7v7	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.5

Creation of a central venue for youth 9v9

- 4.20 Feasibility work and consideration should be given for the creation of a central venue for youth 9v9 football in Lichfield, working with the Staffordshire FA. This is because there are currently 33 youth 9v9 teams which play home fixtures in the District and due to there being a general lack of youth 9v9 pitches.
- 4.21 A programme of play has been created to determine how many youth 9v9 grass pitches would be required to accommodate a central venue format. As seen below, if staggered kick off times are utilised, a total of three matches can be scheduled between 09:00 and 13:30, meaning six teams can be accommodated per pitch on each matchday (providing quality is sufficient).

Table 4.8: Potential schedule for a youth 9v9 central venue site (per pitch)

Day	Time	Total games	Total teams
Sunday	09.00 – 10.30	1	2
	10.30 – 12.00	1	2
	12.00 – 13.30	1	2
Total		3	6

- 4.22 Using this programme of usage, there would be a requirement for six youth 9v9 grass pitches (rounded up from 5.5) to accommodate the 33 teams, although each pitch would need to be good quality in order to accommodate the demand without causing overplay. An alternative option of accommodating this demand on 3G pitches is explored in the 3G part of this section.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches until all demand is being met (unless replacement provision meets Sport England requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Where appropriate, transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity, sites which are not currently available for community use, or to 3G provision.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand as well as expressed exported, unmet and latent demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites not currently available for community use that could be moving forward.
- ◀ Secure tenure for clubs using unsecure school sites through community use agreements.
- ◀ For unsecure, non-education sites, seek to gain access and ensure appropriate mitigation should the provision fall out of permanent use.
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand, where possible.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.

- ◀ Assess the need for new pitch provision derived from large housing developments through master planning on an individual basis and provide provision when and where it is required.
- ◀ 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, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality, using the PPS as a guide to inform suitable sites.
- ◀ In line with the Cannock Chase PPS, re-provide the football pitch that was lost following the closure of Rugeley Power Station. Any new pitch should be of adult size to address current and future shortfalls and should be linked to Key site developments in the District.

3G pitches

Summary

- ◀ **There is an insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future training demand for football based on the FA training model in Lichfield.**
- ◀ **For rugby union, evidence suggests there is a need for a 3G pitch to service rugby union demand.**
- ◀ There are three full size 3G pitches in Lichfield located at Brownsfield Park, Burntwood Leisure Centre and Rawlett Leisure Centre. All three pitches are floodlit and available for community use.
- ◀ In addition, there is one small size 3G pitch located at HMP Swinfen Hall although this pitch is unavailable for community use.
- ◀ Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions of installing a 3G pitch on site at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, whilst Burntwood Dragons and Phoenix FC has aspiration to install a full size 3G pitch at Hospital Road.
- ◀ The RFU states that discussions have been held regarding the conversion of the AGP at DMS Whittington into a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ The full size 3G pitches at Brownsfield Park and Burntwood Leisure Centre are FIFA certified and can therefore host competitive matches up to Step 2 on the non-league pyramid. However, FA accreditation at Burntwood Leisure Centre has expired and therefore requires re-testing before any competitive matches can be hosted on site. The pitch at Rawlett Leisure Centre is not registered.
- ◀ The pitches at Brownsfield Park and Burntwood Leisure are both of good quality whereas the pitch at Rawlett Leisure Centre is of standard quality.
- ◀ The changing facilities at Brownsfield Park are deemed to be of poor quality and with just two rooms, there is also insufficient changing facilities on site.
- ◀ Of football clubs responding to consultation, 60% report that they require additional training facilities, with all of these specifically mentioning demand for 3G pitches.
- ◀ With 187 teams currently affiliated to Lichfield, there is a need for five full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of two full size 3G pitch equivalents.
- ◀ When studied on an analysis area basis, there is a shortfall large enough to warrant a new full size 3G pitch in the Burntwood Analysis Area and potentially the Lichfield City Analysis Area; an additional smaller size 3G pitch could be provided to support the residual training demand located in the Lichfield District South and East Analysis Area.
- ◀ There are 11 teams currently playing matches on 3G provision in Lichfield, all of which use the pitch at Brownsfield Park.
- ◀ There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches within Lichfield; however, Tamworth RUFC is accessing the AGP at DMS Whittington for non-contact rugby training demand.

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Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

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

To alleviate the shortfalls, the proposed full size 3G pitch development at Hospital Road should be supported given that it is located in the Burntwood Analysis Area. If this is provided, the additional 3G requirement would be best located to service Chasetown FC and Chasetown Youth FC at the Scholars Ground.

Moving match play to 3G pitches

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

Table 4.9: Number of teams currently using council pitches (peak time)

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	7
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	9
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	6
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	5
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	3
Total			30

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

Table 4.10: 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	7	3.5	32	112	1.75
11v11	9	4.5	32	144	2.25
9v9	6	3	10	30	0.47
7v7	5	2.5	8	20	0.31
5v5	3	1.5	4	6	0.09

- 4.26 Given that peak time is the same for each pitch type, the number of 3G pitches required needs totalling together. This equates to the demand for five 3G pitches (rounded up from 4.87). As this figure equates to the number of pitches required to accommodate future training demand, it is considered feasible to deliver.

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- 4.27 An alternative is to consider the number of 3G pitches required to accommodate a specific format of play. The table below therefore tests a scenario to enable all mini 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 4.11: 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

- 4.28 Based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for two full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 11 teams playing 5v5 football requiring two pitches (rounded up from 1.38) and 17 teams playing 7v7 football also requiring two pitches (rounded up from 1.42). As such, it is considered that the current supply in 3G pitches in Lichfield is sufficient to accommodate all mini football if programmed as set about above.
- 4.29 An additional or alternative approach is to transfer all youth 9v9 football in Lichfield to 3G, via the creation of a central venue system, working with Staffordshire FA.
- 4.30 There are currently 33 youth 9v9 teams which play home fixtures in the District. This demand could be located across multiple 3G pitches, based off the FA suggested approach for estimating the number of full size, floodlit 3G pitches required to accommodate youth 9v9 demand.

Table 4.12: Full size 3G pitches required for the creation of a youth 9v9 central venue

Format	No. of teams at peak time (x)	No. of 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
9v9	33	16.5	10	165	2.58

- 4.31 The number of full size 3G pitches required to accommodate 33 youth 9v9 teams is three (rounded up from 2.58). This also allows space for future growth. With three 3G pitches already provided, the demand could theoretically be accommodated on existing stock, although this may displace what match play currently takes place on the provision.

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

- 4.32 World Rugby has produced a 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22'. This contains the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems appropriate for rugby union.
- 4.33 There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Lichfield and no Lichfield clubs' access 3G pitches. However, given the grass pitch shortfalls identified, evidence exists for the creation of suitable provision. Discussions have previously taken place and will be ongoing regarding the conversion of the AGP at DMS Whittington to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch although the current status of this is unknown. This could be warranted due to overplay taking place at Lichfield Rugby Union Football Club in the same analysis area, and given that football demand alone quantifies the potential need for a smaller sized 3G pitch within it.

- 4.34 Notwithstanding the above, the conversion of the sand-based pitch at DMS Whittington is not currently supported as the provision is required to accommodate hockey demand (seven teams at peak time). However, this could alter in the future if demand can be transferred (and access secured) to other sand-based pitches in the District. This is specifically in relation to the pitch at King Edward VI Sports Centre as the AGP on site is available for community use despite being unused currently.
- 4.35 If hockey demand cannot be securely accommodated elsewhere, alternative options should be considered, such as establishing a pitch at Lichfield Rugby Union Football Club itself.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches and encourage providers to have a sinking fund in place to ensure long-term sustainability (and that pitches remain on the FA Register).
- ◀ Increase the number of 3G pitches in Lichfield and fully determine that the proposed locations for new 3G pitches are feasible (Hospital Road and Scholars Ground) and update the LFFP accordingly.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have secure community use agreements in place.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches through a phased approach starting with transferring mini demand. Ensure local football leagues and clubs are involved with and support this process.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are priced competitively against the cost of hiring a grass pitches and are aimed at local grassroots clubs.
- ◀ Explore options to provide a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in the Lichfield District South and East Analysis Area to address shortfalls on football and rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Carry out consultation with EH when determining the location of new 3G pitches to ensure the sustainability of hockey demand and existing sand-based AGPs.

Rugby union - grass pitches

Summary

- ◀ **Overall, there is a current shortfall of 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week on rugby union pitches to meet current demand.**
- ◀ **Shortfalls are further exacerbated when considering future demand, equating to 8.75 match equivalent sessions.**
- ◀ Within Lichfield there are 14 senior pitches, four junior pitches and two mini pitches; all pitches available for community use.
- ◀ Discussions have been held regarding the conversion of the AGP at DMS Whittington into a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, however, there is not reported to have been any progress on these talks in recent months.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches in Lichfield, eight are assessed as standard quality and 12 as poor quality (no pitches are assessed as good quality).
- ◀ Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions to extend and improve the clubhouse and parking facilities on site at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- ◀ Lichfield RUFC has ambitions to extend the social space at Lichfield Rugby Union Football Club onto the existing patio and install a balcony overlooking the pitches.
- ◀ There are three community rugby union clubs based in Lichfield, providing a total of 28 teams; this is divided into seven senior men's, two senior women's, eight junior boys', two junior girls' and nine mini teams.
- ◀ Lichfield and Burntwood rugby clubs train on grass pitches, whilst Whittington RUFC trains on a sand-based AGP (non-contact).

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- ◀ Clubs across Lichfield have aspirations to increase by a total of six teams, equating to two senior, two junior and two mini teams.
- ◀ Team generation rates do not predict any additional rugby union teams to be generated in Lichfield based on population growth.
- ◀ There are eight sites which display potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play in Lichfield totalling nine match equivalent sessions; however, in practice, none have actual spare capacity for an increase in senior demand.
- ◀ Four pitches across two sites in Lichfield are overplayed by a total of 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality at secure sites

- 4.36 Installing drainage systems at sites would improve pitch quality and therefore increase the carrying capacity of pitches. This could be particularly productive on pitches assessed as poor quality and pitches that are overplayed. Improving drainage at all sites available to the community with secure tenure to D3 (pipe and slit drained) would result in a further six match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity on senior pitches and an additional two match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity on both junior and mini pitches. Through drainage improvements alone, overplay at Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association and Lichfield Rugby Union Football Club would fall to 0.75 and two match equivalent sessions respectively.

Table 4.13: Supply and demand analysis with drainage improvements

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
	Current total	Potential current total	Future total	Potential future total
Senior	2.75	5.25	4.75	3.25
Junior	4	2	4	2
Mini	0	2	1	1

- 4.37 Improving maintenance at secure sites available to the community to M2 (good) would result in a further five match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity on senior pitches and an additional two match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity on both junior and mini pitches. Similarly to drainage improvements, with maintenance improvements, overplay at Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association and Lichfield Rugby Union Football Club would fall to 0.75 and two match equivalent sessions respectively.

Table 4.14: Supply and demand analysis with maintenance improvements

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
	Current total	Potential current total	Future total	Potential future total
Senior	2.75	4.25	4.75	2.25
Junior	4	2	4	2
Mini	0	2	1	1

Increasing floodlighting

- 4.38 Installing floodlighting or providing additional floodlighting at sites would enable clubs to spread out their training demand across more pitches (or on separate land). If complete in conjunction with quality improvements, or if new off-pitch floodlit areas were established, this would create additional pitch capacity and alleviate overplay on pitches that are currently used for training. This is primarily required at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club as Whittington RUFC currently utilises the hockey suitable AGP on site for training demand (one match equivalent session per week). As this surface is not suitable for contact rugby, training sessions are not as comprehensive as they could be. Installing floodlights to service the rugby union pitch or a small training area would allow the Club to operate regular training sessions.
- 4.39 Whilst Burntwood RUFC already has two floodlit senior pitches, the third pitch could be floodlit to accommodate training demand and reduce overplay of the two primary pitches on site.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Improve quality of pitches, prioritising club sites with identified overplay.
- ◀ Explore the installation of additional floodlighting of pitches, or suitable off-pitch training areas, to better accommodate training demand.
- ◀ Consider the establishment of a full size, World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in the District to allow clubs to move training demand off grass pitches and alleviate overplay.
- ◀ Extend and/or improve quality of ancillary provision where it is required.
- ◀ Retain supply of rugby pitches at all school sites for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and encourage secure community availability should community demand exist in the future.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis; developer contributions may be best served being channelled toward existing club sites given nature of the sport in the District.

Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Summary

- ◀ **Based on current levels of demand, there is a need for three full-size hockey suitable AGPs in Lichfield, meaning three of the four existing pitches should be protected.**
- ◀ **As two of the three hockey clubs playing in Lichfield are imported, with both harbouring aspirations to return to South Staffordshire, this analysis could be re-visited if the return of demand is enabled.**
- ◀ There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs in Lichfield, all of which are floodlit and available for community use; DMS Whittington, Erasmus Darwin Academy, King Edward VI Sports Centre and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- ◀ In addition, there are two smaller sized sand-based AGPs, located at Rawlett Leisure Centre and the Friary School.
- ◀ Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions of installing a second hockey suitable AGP on site at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- ◀ Tenure at Erasmus Darwin Academy, King Edward VI Sports Centre and DMS Whittington is considered to be unsecure as no known long-term usage agreements are in place.
- ◀ The hockey suitable AGPs at King Edward VI Sports Centre and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club are available for full 34 hours of peak period, whereas, the pitches at DMS Whittington and Erasmus Darwin Academy are available for 30 hours.

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- ◀ Despite reportedly being available, King Edward VI Sports Centre is currently unused for club hockey; further investigation may be required to fully determine why this is the case.
- ◀ Three of the four full-size AGPs in Lichfield are standard quality whilst the AGP at King Edward VI Sports Centre is good quality.
- ◀ Lichfield HC has plans to resurface the pitch at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club in the next 18-24 months whilst Erasmus Darwin Academy has a sinking fund in place for the refurbishment of the AGP on site.
- ◀ Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions to extend and improve the clubhouse and parking facilities at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- ◀ Three hockey clubs are identified to be playing in Lichfield; Lichfield HC, Cannock HC and Phoenix Blues Ladies HC.
- ◀ Both Cannock HC and Phoenix Blues Ladies HC are based outside of Lichfield but currently play home fixtures within the District (from South Staffordshire).
- ◀ Participation across the clubs has declined over recent years, particularly in regard to Cannock HC following the loss of its home site (Chase Park).

Scenarios

Number of hockey suitable AGPs required across Lichfield

- 4.40 The PPS Guidance considers a floodlit pitch as able to accommodate a maximum of four match equivalent sessions at peak time (on a Saturday) with teams playing on a home and away basis. As such, this equates to one full size AGP being able to cater for eight “home” teams.
- 4.41 In Lichfield, there is a total of 23 senior teams playing at peak time (Saturday); 15 from Lichfield HC, seven from Cannock HC and one from Phoenix Blues Ladies HC.

Table 4.15: Supply and demand analysis of hockey across Lichfield

Site name	Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week		
		Capacity	Current demand	Capacity balance
Erasmus Darwin Academy	Burntwood	4	4	
Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Lichfield City	4	4	
King Edward VI Sports Centre	Lichfield City	4	-	4
DMS Whittington	Lichfield District South and East	4	3.5	0.5
Total		16	11.5	4.5

- 4.42 As seen in the table above, there is spare capacity of 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week on hockey suitable AGPs in Lichfield. This translates to a need for three full size hockey suitable AGPs within the District, based on current demand. However, it is considered imperative that all four existing pitches are retained in the short-term for hockey usage. This is because only the AGP at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club is considered to have secure tenure and so access to any of the other hockey-suitable pitches could be lost at any time.
- 4.43 It should also be noted that both Cannock HC and Phoenix Blues Ladies HC import demand into Lichfield from the neighbouring authority of South Staffordshire. As there are no community available full-size AGPs in South Staffordshire, it is likely this demand will remain in Lichfield for the foreseeable future. However, if this demand was to return to South Staffordshire (eight teams at peak time), only two full size hockey suitable AGPs would be required in Lichfield.

3G pitch conversion

- 4.44 DMS Whittington has previously been discussed for conversion to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. Whilst the supply and demand analysis above reveals that there is a need for just three full-size hockey suitable AGPs in the District, tenure at DMS Whittington, Erasmus Darwin Academy and King Edward VI Sports Centre is unsecure. In addition, the AGP at King Edward VI Sports Centre is currently unused by clubs, despite the pitch reportedly being available for community use.
- 4.45 If long-term access could be secured through putting community use agreements in place for hockey clubs at Erasmus Darwin Academy and King Edward VI Sports Centre (in addition to already being secured at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club), and fixtures at these sites were scheduled effectively, DMS Whittington could then be considered to be suitable for conversion to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. In the meantime, it should be protected.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the following AGPs for hockey use: Erasmus Darwin Academy, King Edward VI Sports Centre and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- ◀ Protect DMS Whittington for hockey use until such time as demand is suitably transferred to another secure AGP.
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place at all sites for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Look to secure long-term usage agreements at Erasmus Darwin Academy, DMS Whittington and King Edward VI Sports Centre.
- ◀ If access is secured at King Edward VI Sports Centre and long-term usage agreements are arranged at Erasmus Darwin Academy, consider DMS Whittington for conversion to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

Cricket pitches

Summary

- ◀ **In summary, there is sufficient supply of cricket provision to cater for current demand of both senior and junior cricket across Lichfield.**
- ◀ **However, when considering future demand and exported demand for senior cricket, the Lichfield District South and East Analysis Area is likely to become overplayed by six match equivalent sessions.**
- ◀ There are 15 grass wicket squares in Lichfield located across 13 sites with all squares available for community use.
- ◀ In Lichfield, there are five NTPs that accompany grass wicket squares in addition to five standalone NTPs.
- ◀ Tamworth CC are currently looking for a venue to lay a second square in close vicinity to Tamworth Cricket, Hockey and Squash Club.
- ◀ Wall CC is the only responsive Club to report an unsecure tenure at their home site; the Club currently rents a square from The Friary School.
- ◀ The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares found six to be good quality and nine standard quality - no poor quality grass squares are identified.
- ◀ Wall CC reports that the grass square at The Friary School has an undersized outfield and suffers from poor drainage, whilst Whittington CC reports that the square at Whittington Cricket Club is also undersized.
- ◀ St Matthew's Sports and Social Club is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities, whilst Burntwood St Matthews CC submitted a planning application in February 2017 to improve the ancillary facilities on site.
- ◀ Streetly CC also reports that there is only one toilet and one room for changing located at Mill Green Sports Ground.

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- ◀ Ancillary provision at Armitage Cricket Club is also considered to be poor quality as the pavilion on site is basic and outdated.
- ◀ Tamworth CC has ambitions to provide additional changing rooms on site at Tamworth Cricket, Hockey and Squash Club.
- ◀ Only one site used by affiliated cricket clubs is not serviced by practice nets, this being Hammerwich Cricket Club. Five clubs have aspirations to improve practice facilities.
- ◀ There are 14 clubs competing in Lichfield generating 74 teams, equating to 33 senior men's, 38 junior boys' and three junior girls teams.
- ◀ Tamworth CC exports demand out of the District, with the Club's third and fourth teams playing home fixtures at Newton Regis (Tamworth).
- ◀ Streetly CC currently imports its third Saturday team and U12 team into Lichfield from neighbouring Walsall.
- ◀ Club aspirational future demand amounts to two senior men's teams, seven senior women's teams and six junior teams.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity for senior cricket equates to 3.5 squares, meaning an additional seven senior teams could be accommodated at peak time.
- ◀ There is a total of nine squares in Lichfield that can accommodate at least one additional junior team during the week - in total, there is capacity for an additional 18 junior teams across the District.
- ◀ Two sites in Lichfield are considered to be overplayed by a total of nine match equivalent sessions per season.

Scenarios

Loss of unsecured sites

- 4.46 Across the District there is one cricket club (Wall CC) which has unsecure tenure at its home site (The Friary School). If access is lost, there will be a need to accommodate 12 match equivalent sessions per season elsewhere in Lichfield and specifically, the Lichfield City Analysis Area.

Table 4.16: Summary of unsecure cricket demand across Lichfield

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club name	Amount of unsecure demand ⁴
67	The Friary School	Lichfield City	Wall CC	12

- 4.47 The Lichfield City Analysis Area is currently played to capacity and so there is no capacity to accommodate Wall CC's demand elsewhere. Therefore, there would be a need to create new provision in the Lichfield City Analysis Area.
- 4.48 Alternatively, an option would be to secure tenure for the Club at The Friary School through a Community Use Agreement or long-term lease/licence agreement with the owners. The Council reports that its Leisure Services department are considering options to secure this in the short term.

Alleviating overplay

- 4.49 As seen in the table below, there are two sites that are overplayed by a total of nine match equivalent sessions per season and have no capacity to accommodate additional.

⁴ Match equivalent sessions

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Table 4.17: Summary of overplay on grass cricket squares across Lichfield

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality rating	Number of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
24	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Burntwood	Standard	1	2
70	Whittington Cricket Club	Lichfield District South and East	Good	1	7
Total				2	9

- 4.50 As a guide, sites which display overplay of less than 10 matches per season are generally able to sustain this level with appropriate and rigorous maintenance. However, maintenance improvements could be sought at Hammerwich Cricket Club to enhance square quality to good and remove overplay. At Whittington Cricket Club additional wickets could be mown (if space allows) to alleviate this overplay in the long-term.
- 4.51 Alternatively, Hammerwich CC could further utilise its NTP to address the current level of overplay, whilst an NTP could be installed to service Whittington CC, with some demand then transferring off the grass wickets.
- 4.52 Please note that whilst the inclusion of an NTP for the management of fixtures would alleviate overplay issues, this would be subject to league rules and minimum pitch specifications. Where possible, the addition of an NTP could be considered for junior cricket (up to U15s) and potentially lower league cricket which will take the burden off remaining wickets due to intensification of use.

Female cricket - future demand

- 4.53 Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to grow demand in every local authority. Staffordshire Cricket identifies that women's cricket could grow considerably in Lichfield over the next few years with an additional six women's teams likely to be generated across the following clubs:
- ◀ Elford CC
 - ◀ Hammerwich CC
 - ◀ Lichfield CC
 - ◀ Streetly CC
 - ◀ Tamworth CC
 - ◀ Whittington CC
- 4.54 Based on the average number of senior and junior matches played by cricket teams in Lichfield, it is assumed that each senior women's team will play eight matches per season. Therefore, future demand for six additional senior women's teams will equate to 48 match equivalent sessions per season.
- 4.55 As seen in the table below, if the six expected women's teams are generated, overplay is likely to occur on the main square at Hammerwich Cricket Club and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club. Whittington Cricket Club is already overplayed and so any additional demand on the square would exacerbate current shortfalls.
- 4.56 The exacerbation of shortfalls could be limited if the NTPs at Hammerwich Cricket Club and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club were utilised and if an NTP was installed at Whittington Cricket Club.

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Table 4.18: Supply and demand analysis of affected sites across the authority when considering anticipated women's future demand

Site ID	Site name	Match equivalent sessions per season				
		Capacity	Actual play	Capacity balance	Future demand	Total
19	Elford Playing Field	40	10	30	8	22
24	Hammerwich Cricket Club	55	49	6	8	2
		16	18	2	-	2
35	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	45	42	3	8	5
		36	33	3	-	3
41	Mill Green Sports Ground	28	13	15	8	7
64	Tamworth Cricket, Hockey and Squash Club ⁵	70	31	39	8	31
70	Whittington Cricket Club	40	47	7	8	15

Increasing stock of NTPs

- 4.57 The ECB has created a local authority NTP scheme aiming to create a substantial number of new cricket pitches at local authority sites in areas of need and to facilitate a partnership approach between local authorities and county cricket boards. It is expected that the primary source of identified strategic need will be an up-to-date PPS, with the scheme able to offer capital grants towards the cost of construction of NTPs, periodic maintenance for a period of five years and equipment to engage new participants.
- 4.58 Beacon Park, Open House and Stychbrook Park could potentially accommodate NTPs on site.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect all cricket squares in current use.
- ✦ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on squares to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ✦ Look to sustain minimal levels of overplay at Hammerwich Cricket Club and Whittington Cricket Club through dedicated levels of enhanced maintenance and monitor future levels of demand.
- ✦ Work to eradicate overplay via the transfer of demand to the existing NTP at Hammerwich Cricket Club and through the establishment of a new NTPs at Whittington Cricket Club.
- ✦ Ensure growth in women's cricket can be accommodated.
- ✦ Ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining.
- ✦ Pursue security of tenure for Wall CC at the Friary School.
- ✦ Support pavilion developments where improvement/extension is required.
- ✦ Support the growth of cricket through programmes such as All Stars and Dynamos as well as via women's and girls' softball cricket.
- ✦ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ✦ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.

⁵ The second square at Tamworth Cricket, Hockey and Squash Club has not been considered as it is only suitable for junior cricket.

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- ◀ 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.

Bowls

Summary

- ◀ **Analysis suggests that there is enough capacity at present to cater for current and future demand in the District, although overlap is identified at three sites.**
- ◀ **A shortfall is evident in Lichfield City Analysis Area, with this likely to worsen if future demand aspirations are realised.**
- ◀ There are 15 bowling greens in Lichfield located across 14 sites; all of the bowling greens are crown greens and are considered to be available for community use.
- ◀ In addition to the aforementioned greens, there is also an indoor bowling green located at Tamworth Indoor Bowls Club (however, this does not fall under the scope of this report).
- ◀ The Council currently owns and manages four bowling greens across three sites in the District whilst Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council manages the green at Bit End Field. A further six greens privately owned and the remaining greens are either owned by the respective sports club or by a community group.
- ◀ Museum BC and Lichfield Crown Green BC are currently in negotiations with Lichfield District Council regarding taking over management the greens located at Beacon Park. The clubs are looking to form a company together which will then have a 25-year lease agreement for the two greens.
- ◀ Duke of York BC reports that its green is due to be taken back by the landowner, with a view to selling the site on for development. The Club has been provided assurances it can remain on site until October 2020 and has registered the green on the list of Assets of Community Value with Lichfield District Council.
- ◀ Following a non-technical assessment of greens in Lichfield and consultation with clubs, ten greens are assessed as good, four as standard quality and one as poor quality.
- ◀ No issues with ancillary facilities are mentioned by responding clubs, however, Duke of York BC has aspirations to install toilet facilities at the Duke of York Public House whilst Hammerwich BC would like to install a team shelter at Hammerwich Cricket Club.
- ◀ Total membership in Lichfield equates to 703 people, totalling 507 senior male members, 195 senior female members and one junior member.
- ◀ Where quantified through consultation, clubs report ambitions for an additional 20 senior members and ten junior members across Lichfield.
- ◀ Lichfield BC is the only bowling club in Lichfield to express latent demand with a waiting list of five members.

Scenarios

Duke of York Public House

- 4.59 Duke of York BC reports that the green located at Duke of York Public House is due to be taken back by the landowner, with a view to selling the site for development. The Club has been provided assurances that it can remain on site until October 2020 but may have to relocate after this date. The Club has recently registered the green on the list of Assets of Community Value with Lichfield District Council, which will protect the green under The Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012.
- 4.60 The Club hopes that this will be sufficient to prevent the development, however, the following scenario presents the picture of bowls provision in Lichfield without the green.

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Table 4.19: Supply and demand analysis of bowling greens in Lichfield without Duke of York Public House

Analysis area	Current demand	Current capacity	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Burntwood	146	240	94	11	83
Lichfield City	254	180	74	15	89
Lichfield District North	147	240	93	-	93
Lichfield District South and East	161	180	19	4	15
Tamworth	-	-	-	-	-
Total	708	840	132	30	102

- 4.61 Assuming Duke of York BC would remain in the Lichfield City Analysis Area, current overplay would increase to 74 members and future overplay to 89 members. This will be the case if the Club relocates to Beacon Park, which it indicates is an option following consultation.
- 4.62 An alternative option is for the Club to relocate to Handsacre Bowling Club. This is in the Lichfield District North Analysis Area; the green would become overplayed by 11 members, rising to 16 members after considering future demand. The overall picture is presented below.

Table 4.20: Supply and demand analysis of bowling greens in Lichfield with Duke of York BC relocating to the Lichfield District North Analysis Area

Analysis area	Current demand	Current capacity	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Burntwood	146	240	94	11	83
Lichfield City	219	180	39	10	49
Lichfield District North	182	240	58	5	53
Lichfield District South and East	161	180	19	4	15
Tamworth	-	-	-	-	-
Total	708	840	132	30	102

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of greens.
- ◀ Improve quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Support Lichfield Winter Bowls League and Hammerwich BC to improve ancillary provision at their respective sites.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◀ Explore methods to accommodate the five members on the waiting list at Lichfield BC.
- ◀ Look to secure tenure for Duke of York BC at Duke of York Public House; if this is unattainable ensure the Club can continue to be serviced.
- ◀ In line with the Cannock Chase PPS, there does not appear to be a local need to re-provide the bowling green that was previously lost following the closure of Rugeley Power Station; investment would be better served improving the quality and sustainability of provision locally. However, the picture could change if the green at Duke of York Public House is lost.

Tennis

Summary

- ◀ **There is a sufficient supply of courts to accommodate known club-based demand.**
- ◀ **There is also spare capacity existing on non-club courts, meaning the focus should be on improving quality and encouraging further usage.**
- ◀ There are 51 tennis courts identified in Lichfield across 18 sites, with 25 courts available for community use.
- ◀ The LTA is working directly with the Council to identify the best site for an indoor facility that could be multi-use with a tennis focus; previously, Lichfield Cathedral Junior School was in discussions with the LTA regarding provision.
- ◀ The only clubs not serviced by floodlit provision are Shenstone TC and Little Aston TC, with Little Aston TC having aspiration to provide floodlights at Little Aston Village Hall.
- ◀ Most community available courts in Lichfield have a macadam surface (64%), whilst the remaining courts have either an artificial turf surface or are clay based.
- ◀ Of the community available courts, 15 are assessed as good quality, five as standard quality and five as poor quality.
- ◀ Four of the five poor quality courts in Lichfield are located at Beacon Park; Beacon Park Tennis CIO has made a planning application to resurface and re-orientate the four courts at Beacon Park in addition to replacing the fencing and floodlights – this is going to take place by Summer 2020.
- ◀ The remaining poor-quality court is located at Rectory Close Playing Field. Drayton Bassett Parish Council reports plans to refurbish the court through the HS2 Community and Environment Fund.
- ◀ Erasmus Darwin Academy has ambitions of resurfacing the eight tennis courts on site and is due to submit a funding bid to Sport England for this work, although the courts are slightly smaller than specification and therefore may need enlarging.
- ◀ Erasmus Darwin Academy also has ambitions of floodlighting at least half of the eight courts on site in order to facilitate community usage.
- ◀ Both Little Aston TC and Lichfield Friary LTC are serviced by standard quality ancillary provision; Lichfield Friary LTC has plans to upgrade the clubhouse on site which it aims to get grant funding or a loan toward the cost of the development.
- ◀ For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic - only Burntwood Leisure Centre offers changing facilities whilst other sites either do not provide changing facilities or provide them too far away from courts to be realistically used.
- ◀ Combined tennis membership from the responding clubs in Lichfield equates to 279 members, which is derived from 189 senior members and 90 junior members.
- ◀ Lichfield Friary LTC reports that both senior and junior membership at the Club has declined over the previous five years. Conversely, Little Aston TC reports an increase of five members over the same time period.
- ◀ Of the two clubs which responded to consultation, both indicate plans to increase membership; however, only Lichfield Friary LTC quantified this ambition, equating to an additional 30 senior and 20 junior members.
- ◀ The LTA is working with all clubs to develop action plans to grow capacity through membership trials, free tennis and low-cost community activity.
- ◀ The Lichfield & Burntwood Tennis League is a parks tennis league operating out of two venues in Lichfield; Beacon Park and Burntwood Leisure Centre.
- ◀ There are currently multiple Tennis for Kids programmes operating in Lichfield, based at Lichfield Friary LTC, Alrewas TC and Little Aston TC.
- ◀ There is currently one Tennis for Free session operating in Lichfield. Sessions take place on a weekly basis at Beacon Park on Sundays at 2pm.
- ◀ Lichfield LTC, Alrewas TC and Little Aston TC all took part in the most recent Big Tennis Weekend on the 28th & 29th September 2019.

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- ◀ No clubs in Lichfield actively offer pay and play at their venues, whereas it is not recorded at non-club sites.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain and sustain quality of club courts for competitive play through implementation of appropriate maintenance regimes.
- ◀ Support clubs with aspirations to install floodlighting and/or to increase their number of floodlit courts.
- ◀ Support clubs with aspirations to develop their clubhouse facilities.
- ◀ Improve quality of local authority courts and accompanying ancillary provision, first and foremost focusing on Beacon Park due to the significant informal demand already on site.
- ◀ Support Erasmus Darwin Academy with its ambition to resurface four of the eight courts on site and installing floodlights to provide another hub for informal and recreational tennis in Lichfield.
- ◀ Work with the LTA to implement a District-wide use of its Clubspark system to book courts and RALLY to promote easy access.
- ◀ Work with the LTA to develop more Tennis for Free sites in park and education venues.
- ◀ In line with the Cannock Chase PPS, re-provision of the two tennis courts that were lost following the closure of Rugeley Power Station, would not appear to best serve the District. Investment should be made to improve the quality of courts in the Analysis Area; whilst also encouraging participation in tennis with the development of LTA programmes such as Tennis for Free.

Netball

Summary

- ◀ **In summary, there is enough outdoor netball provision in Lichfield to meet current and future club/league demand.**
- ◀ **Priority should be placed on maintaining existing levels of provision and improving court quality, particularly at Beacon Park given current usage levels**
- ◀ In total, there are 20 outdoor netball courts located across nine sites in Lichfield. Of these, only six courts (30%) are available for community use.
- ◀ Following a non-technical assessment, seven courts are rated as standard quality, seven as poor quality and six of good quality.
- ◀ Of the community available courts, five (83%) are assessed as good quality whilst one court (17%) is assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Despite being assessed as good quality, the courts at Burntwood Leisure Centre are reported to get dangerously slippery during the winter.
- ◀ Lichfield Cathedral Junior School is currently in discussions with the LTA with regards to the provision of an indoor tennis centre to be located on site. One netball court is likely to be marked here.
- ◀ Beacon Park Tennis CIO has recently made a planning application to resurface and re-orientate the four tennis courts at Beacon Park in addition to replacing the fencing and floodlights; as the netball court is over marked on these, this will have an impact on it.
- ◀ Erasmus Darwin Academy has ambitions of resurfacing the four netball courts on site and is due to submit a funding bid to Sport England for this work. The Academy also has ambitions of floodlighting at least half of the four courts on site in order to facilitate community usage.

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- There are two formal clubs in the District: Chasetown Ladies Netball Club and Lichfield Spires Netball Team.

Scenario

Improving court quality at education sites

- 4.63 England Netball aspires to form closer links with education sites across Staffordshire to ensure that netball remains on the School curriculum. In order to facilitate this, it hopes to improve all netball courts at education sites to at least standard quality.

Table 4.21: Netball courts at Education sites in Lichfield

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of courts	Court quality
15	Chase Terrace Technology College	Burntwood	No	3	Standard
20	Erasmus Darwin Academy	Burntwood	No	4	Poor
31	King Edward VI School	Lichfield City	No	3	Standard
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	Lichfield District South and East	Yes	3	Good
85	Lichfield Cathedral Junior School	Lichfield District North	No	2	Poor
87	Willows Primary School	Lichfield City	No	1	Good
89	Rugeley School	Lichfield District North	No	1	Standard

- 4.64 The table above reveals the court quality at education sites across Lichfield. In order to meet England Netball's aspiration, the courts at Erasmus Darwin Academy and Lichfield Cathedral Junior School would require improvements.
- 4.65 Erasmus Darwin Academy is known to have aspirations to resurface four of the eight tennis courts on site and installing floodlights to facilitate community usage. The LTA is supportive of this development and the Academy is due to submit a funding bid to Sport England for this work. It should be ensured that Netball is considered as part of any development work.
- 4.66 It should also be noted that Beacon Park Tennis CIO is currently in the process of resurfacing and re-orientating the four courts at Beacon Park in addition to replacing the fencing and floodlights. This work is expected to be completed in April/May 2020. As part of this work, an additional netball court will be marked on site and 100 hours are reserved for dedicated netball use.

Recommendations

- Protect quantity of courts.
- Seek to improve poor quality courts quality through resurfacing or improved maintenance.
- Ensure any future development of tennis courts takes into consideration demand for outdoor netball (including Erasmus Darwin Academy and Beacon Park).
- Look to continue and expand the use of courts for England Netball initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball.
- Facilitate improved engagement between England Netball and schools.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 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 sport facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

AIM 1

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

Recommendations:

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

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

- 5.2 The PPS shows that all existing outdoor sport sites require protection or replacement and therefore no provision can be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Reflecting the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should echo this situation.
- 5.3 When shortfalls are evident, an outdoor sport facility can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders.
- 5.4 NPPF paragraph 96 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.
- 5.5 The PPS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field land used within the last five years and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

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Policy Exception E1:

- 5.6 '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'.
- 5.7 Where the PPS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

Policy Exception E2

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

Policy Exception E3

- 5.9 The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:
- ◀ Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
 - ◀ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
 - ◀ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
 - ◀ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
 - ◀ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'.

Policy Exception E4:

- 5.10 'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:
- ◀ of equivalent or better quality and
 - ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity;
 - ◀ in a suitable location and;
 - ◀ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

Policy Exception E5

- 5.11 'The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field'.
- 5.12 Lapsed and disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. A disused site is a playing field which is not currently being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'. Any disused/lapsed playing fields are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss of a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

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- 5.13 As mentioned previously, Rugeley Power Station is classed as disused following the closure of the site in August 2017.
- 5.14 It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

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

- 5.15 A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in Lichfield for competitive play, predominantly for football and hockey. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, this is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should, thus, seek to establish appropriate community use agreements. This includes access to changing provision where required.
- 5.16 NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as the Football Foundation can 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, or are going to receive, funding from these bodies, as community access can be a condition of the agreement.
- 5.17 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.
- 5.18 The Council should also further explore opportunities in respect of security of tenure so as to enable clubs to pursue external funding. This is particularly the case at lower quality sites (plus those with inadequate ancillary facilities) to enable quality to improve and the sites to be developed. Clubs interested in leasing sites should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. Additional criteria should be considered taking account of club quality, its long-term development objectives and its sustainability, as illustrated below.

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

Clubs	Site
<p>Clubs should have NGB accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management sites identified as 'Key' or 'Local' within the action plan hierarchy may be appropriate to consider.</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>

- 5.19 Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)⁶. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.
- 5.20 The Council could establish core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate are assigned sites. Outcomes may, for example, include:
- ◀ Increasing participation.
 - ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
 - ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
 - ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or at minimum retaining existing standards.
- 5.21 In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site, to some degree, remains available for other purposes or for other users.
- 5.22 For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain (unless recently signed) to improve security of tenure and aid the attraction of funding; clubs with fewer than 25 years remaining on a lease agreement are generally unlikely to be eligible for external funding.

Community asset transfer

- 5.23 Another way of ensuring long term tenure for clubs playing on Council facilities is through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This may be something for the Council to consider as a way of also maximising community benefits.
- 5.24 Community Asset Transfer (CAT) is the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (usually a local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Development Trust, a Community Interest Company or a social enterprise) for less than market value – to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.
- 5.25 Community based organisations are often much more effective at engaging people than other types of organisation because they are close to and directly accountable to their community.
- 5.26 Communities that come together to plan and deliver services can make them more inclusive and responsive than state run services. Communities can mobilise a lot of volunteer time and energy. Asset transfer can, for example:
- ◀ Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability
 - ◀ Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces
 - ◀ Involve people in designing and running the services from which, they benefit
 - ◀ Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers
 - ◀ Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets

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

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- 5.27 The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process should this be an option for the Council to consider. It can be accessed here:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/asset-transfer/>

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

- 5.28 To maximise community use, development of 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.
- 5.29 A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs. It is, however, common for school stock not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.
- 5.30 In some instances, outdoors sports facilities are unavailable for community use at schools 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.
- 5.31 Other reasons for community use not being offered include staffing issues, health and safety issues, finance issues and even, on occasion, a lack of perceived demand. In contrast, many clubs state that they are unaware that certain schools provide community use facilities when they are available, suggesting that awareness and advertising could be more of an issue.
- 5.32 The following table identifies schools in Lichfield which indicate through consultations that some or all of their provision is unavailable for community use.

Table 5.2: Unavailable provision at educational sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Provision unavailable for community use
1	All Saints C of E (C) Primary School	Lichfield District North	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch
12	Chadsmead Primary Academy	Lichfield City	Two mini 5v5 and one youth 9v9 pitch
13	Charnwood School	Lichfield City	Two mini 5v5 and two mini 7v7 pitches
16	Chasetown Community School	Burntwood	One youth 9v9 pitch
23	Fulfen Primary School	Burntwood	Three mini 7v7 pitches
40	Maple Hayes Hall School for Dyslexics	Burntwood	One NTP
51	Ridgeway Primary School	Burntwood	One NTP
59	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Lichfield City	Two mini 5v5 pitches

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- 5.33 Although there is a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control over, 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.
- 5.34 It should also be noted that despite being reportedly available for community use, the AGP at King Edward VI Sports Centre is unused by sports clubs in the District. The only known external usage of the pitch is from Leisure Leagues, with a six-a-side league in operation on Mondays evenings from 19:00-21:00. Further investigation is required to determine why the AGP is not being utilised.
- 5.35 In addition to King Edward VI Sports Centre, there are numerous other schools that offer community use but do so on an unsecure basis (e.g. the Friary School). Whilst these offer potential provision to clubs, they do not guarantee long-term access and therefore capacity cannot be considered towards the supply and demand balance. As such, securing usage will increase capacity across Lichfield and ensure there are no future shortfalls.
- 5.36 As detailed earlier, NGBs and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence. As stated earlier, this is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

AIM 2

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

- 5.37 There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving/increasing maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face budget reductions, 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 site and/or sites that are overplayed.
- 5.38 With such pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into pitch quality is challenging and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

Addressing quality issues

- 5.39 Quality across Lichfield is variable but generally most pitches are assessed as standard quality. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance at good quality sites is also essential.
- 5.40 It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer facilities tend to become, especially if no drainage systems are in place or if existing drainage systems are inadequate. This also means that quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.
- 5.41 Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The strategic approach to outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

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- 5.43 For the purposes of quality assessments, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities are separately reported as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. Some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).
- 5.44 Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from litter. For rugby, a good quality pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking.
- 5.45 Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts 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.
- 5.46 Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate changing rooms with no showers, no running water and/or 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.
- 5.47 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.
- 5.48 In order to prioritise investment into key sites, it is recommended that the Steering Group works up a list of criteria, relevant to the authority, to provide a steer on future investment. This can be reviewed and amended as part of the ongoing PPS monitoring process.

Addressing overplay

- 5.49 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).
- 5.50 The FA, the RFU, the ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

Capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week

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Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
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	Full size AGP	4 per day	4 per day	-

- 5.51 For all non-pitch sports (i.e. bowls, tennis and netball) there are no capacity recommendations set out by the NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.
- 5.52 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.
- 5.53 A cost-effective way to reduce unofficial use (and therefore overplay), particularly for football, could be to remove goalposts in between match days, principally at open access, high traffic sites that are managed by clubs. This will, however, require adequate, secured storage to be provided.
- 5.54 For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares.
- 5.55 For rugby union, additional floodlighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative, as is the installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

Increasing maintenance

- 5.56 Standard or poor grass pitch quality may not just be a result of poor drainage. In some instances, ensuring there is an 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.
- 5.57 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.
- 5.58 The Grass Pitch Revenue Fund is now available for clubs and leagues that utilise pitches that have been assessed as poor or basic through a PIP report. For local authority sites to be eligible, the Council must have a club or league partner to be eligible for funding. The Football Foundation will award a 67% tapered grant towards the works over a six-year period on a sliding scale. They will accept applications for club and league led schemes to engage professional contractors over six years to increase the levels of enhanced maintenance works carried out on their grass pitches, with an aim of improving the quality of the facilities to the IOG 'good' standard or above.

- 5.59 The type of maintenance works that funding can support include over seeding, scarification and aeration. Routine maintenance works such as grass-cutting and line-marking is not eligible.
- 5.60 For cricket and the ECB, the equivalent is the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme, 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.
- 5.61 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 Institute of Groundsmanship (IoG).

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

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

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

- 5.63 Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities.
- 5.64 To address community need, target priority areas and reduce provision duplication, a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPS Steering Group.
- 5.65 Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.
- 5.66 One of sport's key contributions is its positive impact on public health. 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.
- 5.67 Please refer to Appendix One for further funding information which includes detail in respect of current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs.

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

- 5.68 This strategy should inform policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development, which is especially pertinent to Lichfield given the level of identified housing growth within the District.

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- 5.69 A development located within an accessible distance from a high-quality outdoor sport facility does not necessarily negate need for further provision or improvement to existing provision in the locality to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. The PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand, the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity or new provision is required.
- 5.70 For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (see Part 7) as a tool to determine developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. This uses team generation rates from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams will be generated from an increase in population, as per that derived from housing growth. This is then converted into pitch requirements for each sport alongside the associated costs.
- 5.71 The guidance should be the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision within the development and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance on existing sites within the locality. Section 106 contributions can also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of pitches which, in turn, will increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.
- 5.72 A number of planning policy objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:
- ◀ Most new developments which create net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more or create a new dwelling.
 - ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106/CIL Agreement or equivalent must be completed that specifies, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service⁷ from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
 - ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
 - ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate outdoor sport facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
 - ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
 - ◀ All new or improved outdoor sport facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

⁷ <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

AIM 3

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

Recommendations:

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

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

5.73 The Council and partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls through better utilisation of the existing stock of facilities. For most sports, current and future demand for provision identified in Lichfield can be overcome via maximising use of existing stock through a combination of:

- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to those with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation/re-configuration of playing pitches.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at unsecure sites including those currently unavailable to the community.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.
- ◀ Increasing usage of AGPs or other floodlit facilities.

5.74 As noted, to enable the above, it is important that current levels of provision are protected and maintained to secure provision now and in the future.

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

5.75 Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently minimally used 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 (for cricket) where there is a discrete need, or where significant housing growth requires additional provision to be established.

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PART 6: ACTION PLAN

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor facility sites and associated provision.
- 6.3 The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a District-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 District. 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).

- 6.4 **Hub sites** are of strategic District-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.
- 6.5 It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of some existing playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger, better quality sites in order to develop the hierarchy of sites. Identification of these potential sites should be carried out in partnership with the Steering Group and, in particular, the NGB for that particular sport.
- 6.6 **Key centres** although these sites are more community focused, some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. There may be more of a focus on a specific sport.
- 6.7 Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both hub sites and key centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.
- 6.8 **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.
- 6.9 For local authority sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.
- 6.10 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.
- 6.11 Some local sites are suitable for rationalisation providing that capital receipts are allocated to replace the lost provision at larger, multi-pitch sites within the locality.

Management and development

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

Partners

- 6.13 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.
- 6.14 The Council is considered to a partner within each action so is therefore not referenced; however, it must be noted that **the Action Plan is not solely for delivery by Lichfield District Council but is designed to be pursued and adhered to by all relevant stakeholders and partners.**

Priority

- 6.15 Although hub sites are mostly likely to have **high** priority level recommendations as they have wide importance, such recommendations have been identified on the basis of the impact that it will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having high priority level recommendations, whilst some hub sites may have lower priority recommendations. It is the high priority recommendations which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).
- 6.16 The majority of key centres have **medium** priority recommendations, 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.
- 6.17 The **low** priority recommendations tend to relate to single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may still contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users.

Costs

- 6.18 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.
- 6.19 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

- 6.20 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).

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Aim

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

BURNTWOOD ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
8	Burntwood Leisure Centre	Football	Council	Three adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of standard quality. The adult pitches have actual spare capacity equating to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
		Football (3G)		One full-size 3G pitch of good quality which is floodlit and available for community use. Whilst the pitch is FIFA accredited, FA certification for the pitch has now expired.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Ensure pitch is re-tested by the FA so competitive games can be played on site and seek to maximise usage for this purpose. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary.			H	L	H	
		Tennis		Two good quality floodlit macadam tennis courts which are available for community use. The venue is utilised for the Lichfield & Burntwood Tennis League.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Two good quality netball courts which are floodlit. Despite being assessed as good quality, the courts are reported to get dangerously slippery during the winter.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Explore the possibility of improving the grip on court.	England Netball		L	L	L	
9	Burntwood Memorial Park	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch of standard quality which has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Chasetown Youth FC aspires to extend its current five-year lease agreement for the site and provide external changing rooms and toilets to service the pitch.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand. Support Chasetown Youth FC with aspirations to increase its lease agreement and provide ancillary provision on site.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	L	L	H	Protect Provide
10	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	Football	Sports Club	One youth 11v11 pitch of standard quality which is played to capacity at peak times.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	Sports Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		Three senior rugby union pitches, two of standard quality (M1/D1) and one poor quality (M0/D0). The two standard quality pitches are both floodlit whilst the poor quality pitch is without floodlights. The poor quality pitch is unused but spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality. The standard quality pitches are overplayed by a total of 2.75 match equivalent sessions per week due to accommodating both match and training demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime and the installation of drainage.	Sports Club RFU		H	L	M	

⁸ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
15	Chase Terrace Technology College	Football	Education	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of poor quality. The adult and mini 7v7 pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity whilst the mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity at peak times. The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to provide users with community use agreements to provide security of tenure.	Education FA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		One senior rugby union pitch of poor (M0/D1) quality. The pitch is currently unused although spare capacity has been discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to provide users with community use agreements to provide security of tenure.	Education RFU		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Four tennis courts that are without floodlighting and unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use and explore floodlighting potential if community demand is perceived to exist.	Education LTA		L	L	L	
16	Chasetown Community School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 pitch of standard quality that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	Education FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
20	Erasmus Darwin Academy	Football	Education	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches, all of standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity whilst the youth 9v9 and adult pitches have spare capacity. Chasetown Youth FC have a 10-year lease agreement for the use of the pitches on site.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Ensure that Chasetown Youth FC continue to have secure tenure on site. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Education Sports Club FA	Hub	M	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby union		One senior rugby union pitch of poor (M0/D1) quality. The pitch is currently unused although spare capacity has been discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of providing potential users with security of tenure.	Education RFU		M	L	L	
		Hockey		One full-size hockey suitable AGP which was installed in 2010. The pitch is rated as standard quality and is played to capacity at peak times by Cannock HC and Phoenix Blues Ladies HC.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of providing potential users with security of tenure. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment and seek to resurface in the near future given age.	Education EH		H	S	H	
		Cricket		One standalone NTP of good quality. The wicket is available for community use but is currently unused.	Sustain quality through current maintenance regime.	Education ECB		M	L	L	

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
		Tennis		Eight tennis courts without floodlights; unavailable for community use. The School has ambitions of resurfacing and floodlighting four of the eight courts on site to facilitate community usage. The LTA are supportive of this project and hope to implement LTA products on site such as Clubspark, Rally and Gate Access.	Support Erasmus Darwin Academy and the LTA to provide a venue for informal and recreational tennis in the District.	Education LTA		H	M	M	
		Netball		Four poor quality netball courts that are unavailable for community use and without floodlighting. The School hopes to resurface these courts and install floodlights on site to facilitate community usage.	Support the School in its ambitions to improve the provision for netball in conjunction with the development of the tennis courts.	Education EN		H	M	M	
23	Fulfen Primary School	Football	Education	Three mini 7v7 pitches of poor quality that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime for curricular use.	Education FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
24	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	Two grass cricket squares, one of good quality and one of standard quality. The good quality square has 11 wickets whilst the standard square has four wickets as well as an NTP. The Club currently has no practice nets on site with the installation of non-turf practice nets listed as an ambition. The good quality square has capacity for one additional junior team although the standard quality square is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per season.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Support the Club to install practice facilities on site.	Sports Club ECB	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		Bowls		One good quality crown bowling green used by Hammerwich BC. The Club has ambitions to install a team shelter for the green. After accounting for future demand, the green is likely to be overplayed by 21 members.	Ensure dedicated maintenance regime is in place so that green quality does not deteriorate despite overplay.	Sports Club BCGBA		H	L	L	
26	Highfields Academy	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of standard quality. The mini 7v7 pitch is played to capacity at peak time whilst the mini 5v5 pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure. Chasetown Youth FC reports that the pitches on site are prone to flooding at the bottom end of the site.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime and seek resolution to drainage issues. Look to formalise community use agreements to provide users with security of tenure.	Education FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
29	Holly Grove Primary School	Football	Education	Two mini 7v7 pitches, both of poor quality. The pitch surface on site is reported to be damaged and undulated. The pitches have actual spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreements to provide users with security of tenure.	Education FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
30	Hospital Road	Football	Sports Club	<p>One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of standard quality. The pitches are prone to flooding in some areas and unofficial use and dog walking is an issue on site.</p> <p>The adult and youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The mini 7v7 pitches have actual spare capacity equating to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week whilst the mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity at peak time.</p> <p>Burntwood Dragons and Phoenix FC has aspirations to install a full-size 3G pitch on site.</p>	<p>Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.</p> <p>Support creation of a 3G pitch on site.</p> <p>Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.</p>	Sports Club FA FF	Local	M	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
40	Maple Hayes Hall School for Dyslexics	Cricket	Education	One poor quality NTP which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain wicket quality for curricular demand.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		Four macadam tennis courts without floodlights and unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular demand.	Education LTA					
45	Open House	Football	Council	<p>One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of standard quality.</p> <p>The site is subject to vandalism and unofficial use.</p> <p>The adult and mini 7v7 pitches are both played to capacity at peak times whilst the youth 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week.</p>	<p>Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime.</p> <p>Explore options to limit vandalism and unofficial use.</p> <p>Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.</p>	FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
50	Redwood Park	Football	Council	One adult pitch of standard quality which is currently unused.	<p>Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime.</p> <p>Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.</p>	FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
51	Ridgeway Primary School	Cricket	Education	One poor quality NTP which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain wicket quality for curricular demand.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
56	Springhill Academy	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch of standard quality which is played to capacity at peak times.	<p>Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of offering community use agreements to provide users with security of tenure.</p>	Education FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
60	St Matthew's Sports and Social Club	Football	Sports Club	<p>One standard quality adult football pitch which has actual spare capacity equating to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.</p> <p>The pitch is reported to suffer from poor drainage and is facilitated by poor quality ancillary provision.</p>	<p>Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime.</p> <p>Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.</p>	Sports Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
		Cricket		One grass cricket square of standard quality with eight wickets and an NTP. The square has capacity for an additional senior team at peak time. Ancillary provision on site is reported to be in poor condition, with no available changing for umpires. Parking facilities on site are also deemed to be inadequate. A planning application to improve ancillary provision on site and extend parking on site was submitted in February 2017 which is awaiting an outcome.	Sustain square quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Support the Club's ambition to improve and extend ancillary and parking facilities on site.	Sports Club ECB		M	M	H	
68	The Scholars Ground	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult football pitch serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The pitch has one match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand. Consider conversion to 3G given local shortfalls.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
79	Ashmole Social Club	Bowls	Community	One good quality crown bowling green used by Ashmole BC. The Club has capacity for three additional members.	Sustain green quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	Community BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
80	Chasetown Memorial Park	Bowls	Council	One good quality crown bowling green used by Uxbridge Arms BC. The Club has capacity for 41 additional members.	Sustain green quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
81	Chase Terrace Park	Bowls	Council	One standard quality crown bowling green which is currently unused.	Sustain green quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Look to utilise the green as a secondary venue for bowling clubs that currently overplay their home green.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
90	Boney Hay Primary Academy	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use but currently unused. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to better accommodate curricular demand and potential community use.	Education FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

LICHFIELD CITY ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
5	Beacon Park	Football	Council	Three youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of standard quality. The pitches are reported to suffer from poor drainage. The youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches have actual spare capacity equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week whilst the youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches have 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime and seek resolution to drainage issues. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Bowls		Two good quality crown bowling greens. Museum and Lichfield Crown Green bowling clubs are currently in discussions with Lichfield District Council regarding taking over the management of the greens located on site. There is capacity for an additional 12 members on site, with this expected to fall to two members after accounting for future demand.	Sustain green quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Support Museum and Lichfield Crown Green bowling clubs to manage the greens on site.	BCGBA		L	L	L	
		Tennis	Community	Four tennis courts available for community use of which three are floodlit. All four courts are of poor quality. Beacon Park Tennis CIO is currently in the process of resurfacing and re-orientating the courts, as well as replacing the fencing and floodlights. This work is due to be completed in April 2020. The LTA and Beacon Park Tennis CIO have ambitions of running schemes to increase informal and recreational tennis on site once development work is complete.	Support Beacon Park Tennis CIO and the LTA to improve the facilities on site and to increase informal and recreational demand for the sport in Lichfield.	Community LTA		M	S	M	
		Netball	Council	One poor quality, floodlit netball court. Beacon Park Tennis CIO is currently in the process of resurfacing and re-orientating the courts on site, as well as replacing the fencing and floodlights. An additional netball court will also be marked on site. This work is due to be completed in April 2020.	Improve existing netball court in line with tennis court improvements and support creation of additional court.	England Netball		M	S	M	

¹⁰ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
7	Brownsfield Park	Football (3G)	Sports Club	One full-size, floodlit, 3G pitch of good quality which is both FIFA and FA certified. Whilst the site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities, changing rooms are deemed to be in poor condition. There are also only two rooms which is insufficient for the level of demand on site. Lichfield City FC aspires to extend the clubhouse to add another pair of changing rooms as well as upgrading the existing facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary. Ensure regular FA testing to ensure pitch remains suitable for competitive matches. Support Lichfield City FC with aspirations to improve ancillary provision on site.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
12	Chadsmead Primary Academy	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of standard quality and unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	Education FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
13	Charnwood School	Football	Education	Two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of standard quality and unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	Education FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
31	King Edward VI School	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 pitch of good quality. The pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of providing a community use agreement to provide users with security of tenure.	Education FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		Two senior pitches of poor (M0/D1) quality. The pitches have actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions per week although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of offering community use agreements to provide users with security of tenure.	Education RFU		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Four tennis courts that are without floodlighting and unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Three netball courts that are without floodlighting and unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education England Netball		L	L	L	
32	King Edward VI Sports Centre	Hockey	Education	One full-size hockey suitable AGP of good quality which is floodlit. The pitch is available for community use but currently unused for club hockey activity.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime and protect it as hockey suitable. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary. Explore why the pitch is not accessed by community hockey clubs and pursue future usage given the uncertainty of other venues. Provide future users with security of tenure via community use agreement.	Education EH	Local	M	L	H	Protect

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
35	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	Football	Sports Club	<p>One adult, one youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of good quality. However, Lichfield Sports Club reports it has access to a second field which is located behind the current site. The Club hopes to convert this additional pitch space.</p> <p>The adult pitch is played to capacity at peak time whereas the youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 have actual spare capacity equating to one match equivalent session per week. The mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity equating to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.</p> <p>Changing and parking facilities are deemed to be inadequate. Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions to extend and improve the clubhouse and parking facilities if adjacent land can be secured to develop into additional pitch space.</p>	<p>Sustain quality pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime.</p> <p>Support Lichfield Sports Club's aspirations to provide additional playing field land and improve ancillary provision on site.</p> <p>Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.</p>	Sports Club FA FF	Hub	M	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby union	Sports Club	<p>One poor (M0/D1) quality senior pitch. The pitch has actual spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality.</p> <p>Changing and parking facilities are deemed to be inadequate. Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions to extend and improve the clubhouse and parking facilities if adjacent land can be secured to develop into additional pitch space.</p>	<p>Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.</p> <p>Support Lichfield Sports Club's aspirations to provide additional playing field land and improve ancillary provision on site.</p>	Sports Club RFU		M	M	H	
		Cricket	Sports Club	<p>Two grass cricket squares, both with nine wickets although one is also supported by an NTP. One square is of good quality and the other of standard quality. Both squares are played to capacity.</p> <p>Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions to extend and improve the clubhouse and parking facilities if adjacent land can be secured to develop into additional pitch space.</p>	<p>Sustain square quality through appropriate maintenance regime.</p> <p>Support Lichfield Sports Club's aspirations to provide additional playing field land and improve ancillary provision on site.</p>	Sports Club ECB		M	M	H	
		Hockey	Sports Club	<p>One full-size hockey suitable AGP which is floodlit and of standard quality. The pitch is currently played to capacity. Lichfield Sports Club aspires to install a second hockey-suitable AGP on site.</p> <p>The Club has plans to resurface the existing AGP in 18-24 months.</p> <p>Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions to extend and improve the clubhouse and parking facilities if adjacent land can be secured to develop into additional pitch space.</p>	<p>Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime and protect for hockey use.</p> <p>Ensure pitch is resurfaced before quality deteriorates significantly.</p> <p>Support Lichfield Sports Club's aspirations to provide additional playing field land and improve ancillary provision on site.</p>	Sports Club EH		M	M	H	

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
43	Nether Stowe High School	Football	Education	Three youth 11v11 pitches of poor quality. The pitches have actual spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to provide actual spare capacity. Look to formalise community use agreements to provide users with security of tenure.	Education FA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
55	Shortbutts Lane	Football	Council	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of standard quality. Both pitches are played to capacity at peak time. There are no changing or ancillary facilities on site.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Consider providing ancillary provision to service the pitches.	FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
57	St Chads CE Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch of standard quality. The pitch is currently unused and so has actual spare capacity although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreements to provide users with security of tenure.	Education FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
59	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	Two mini 5v5 pitches of standard quality which are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	Education FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
63	Stychbrook Park	Football	Council	Two adult football pitches of standard quality. The pitches have 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. The site is also serviced by poor ancillary provision and inadequate parking facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime. Consider the feasibility of improving ancillary and parking facilities on site. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
65	The Bypass	Football	Council	Two adult pitches of standard quality although they are reported to suffer from poor drainage and damage by moles. The pitches have 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. There are no changing facilities on site.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Consider the feasibility of providing changing facilities on site. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
67	The Friary School	Cricket	Education	One grass cricket square and a standalone NTP, both of standard quality. The grass square on site is reported to be undersized and suffers from poor drainage. The grass square has actual spare capacity although it has been discounted due to unsecure tenure. Ancillary facilities on site are of standard quality although there are no umpires changing facilities.	Sustain square quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Look to formalise a community use agreement with Wall CC to provide the Club with security of tenure. Consider the feasibility of providing changing for umpires on site.	Education ECB	Key	L	S	L	Protect Provide
		Football		Two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity at peak time whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity. Tenure is deemed to be unsecure on site. The pitches are serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Look to formalise a long-term community use agreement with Mercia Juniors to provide the Club with security of tenure.	Education FA		L	S	L	

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
		Rugby union		Two senior rugby union pitches of poor (M0/D1) quality. The pitches are currently unused and so have actual spare capacity although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to better accommodate curricular and potential community demand. Look to formalise community use agreements to provide potential users with security of tenure.	Education RFU		L	L	L	
		Hockey		One half-size, floodlit, sand filled AGP of poor quality. The pitch is unused by the community.	Look to resurface the pitch as soon as possible to better facilitate curricular and community use. Consider 3G potential.			M	S	H	
74	Duke of York	Bowls	Private	One good quality crown bowling green used by Duke of York BC. The Club reports the green is due to be taken back by the landowner, with a view to selling the site for development. Duke of York BC would like to install toilet facilities for the green. The Club has capacity for an additional 20 members.	Sustain green quality through current maintenance regime. Retain green for bowls use or ensure club can be provided elsewhere if it is lost (through mitigation or amalgamation). Support Duke of York BC in its aspiration to add toilets on site if the green is to be retained.	BCGBA	Local	H	S	L	Protect Provide
75	The Bowling Green (Friary Road)	Bowls	Private	One good quality crown bowling green used by Lichfield BC. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The green is currently overplayed by 51 members.	Ensure dedicated maintenance regime is in place to preserve green quality despite significant overplay.	BCGBA	Local	H	L	L	Protect
87	Willows Primary School	Netball	Education	One good quality netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular demand.	Education England Netball	Local	L	L	L	Protect

LICHFIELD DISTRICT NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
1	All Saints C of E (C) Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of standard quality and unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	Education FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
2	Armitage Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One grass cricket square of standard quality which has eight wickets. The square has capacity to host one additional team at peak time. Armitage CC have plans to install an NTP on site. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Sustain square quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Support Armitage CC to provide an NTP on site. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
33	Kings Bromley Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One grass cricket square of standard quality which has eight wickets. The square is played to capacity. A Cricket Boundary Assessment revealed netting on site is insufficient and needs to be higher to prevent ball strike issues. If this is not rectified, the square could become unusable. Kings Bromley CC aspire to install an NTP on site. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain square quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Support Kings Bromley CC to provide an NTP on site. Ensure ball strike issues are rectified to secure the long-term use of the square.	Sports Club ECB	Local	H	L	M	Protect Provide
34	Kings Bromley Showground	Football	Community	One youth 11v11 pitch of standard quality which is currently unused. It has one match sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Look to find a user for the pitch on site.	Community FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
52	Rugeley Power Station (Disused)	Bowls	Private	A disused crown green, which was previously home to Rugeley Power Station Sports & Social Club. The green became disused in August 2017 following closure of the site. Supporting ancillary facilities on site were also available.	There does not appear to be a local need to re-provide the bowling green and on this basis, investment would be better served improving the quality and sustainability of provision locally. The Cannock Chase PPS should be considered before decisions are made regarding the future of the sporting provisions.	Private BCGBA	Local	H	S	H	Provide Enhance
		Cricket		A natural grass square, consisting of nine wickets. The square was previously used as part of Rugeley Power Station Sports & Social Club but became disused in August 2017 following closure of the site. Supporting ancillary facilities on site were also available.	There does not appear to be a local need to re-provide the cricket square and on this basis, investment would be better served improving the quality and sustainability of provision locally. However, from a Playing Field Policy point of view, there is a need to replace the playing field land to meet shortfalls identified for other pitch sports i.e. rugby and football. In order to fully establish how mitigation should be provided further discussions are required with the NBGs and should be linked to the football pitch provision identified below.			Private ECB			

¹² (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
		Football		One adult pitch which was available as part of Rugeley Power Station Sports & Social Club. The pitch became disused following closure of the site. Supporting ancillary facilities on site were also available.	Ensure that the pitch is re-provided as part of any site development, supported by appropriate ancillary facilities. Any new pitch should address shortfalls in the Lichfield and/or Cannock Chase districts.	Private FA FF		H	S	H	
		Tennis		Two macadam tennis courts which were available for community use but were not floodlit. The courts were available at part of Rugeley Power Station Sports and Social Club but became disused following closure of the site. Supporting ancillary facilities on site were also available.	Given that there are no capacity issues in the Lichfield District North Analysis Area; re-provision of the two tennis courts that were lost following the closure of Rugeley Power Station, would not appear to best serve the District. Investment should be made to improve the quality of courts in the Analysis Area; whilst also encouraging participation in tennis with the development of LTA programmes such as Tennis for Free.	Private LTA		H	S	H	
69	Walk Field	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass cricket square with 12 wickets. The square has capacity to host two additional junior teams. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain square quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
		Football		One standard quality adult pitch was is played to capacity at peak time. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	Sports Club FA		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Two standard quality macadam tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	Sports Club LTA		L	L	L	
73	Alrewas RBL	Bowls	Private	One poor quality crown bowling green used by Alrewas RBL BC. The Club has capacity for an additional 29 members.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
82	Ye Olde Windmill	Bowls	Private	One good quality crown bowling green used by Windmill BC. The Club has capacity for an additional 22 members.	Sustain green quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
85	Lichfield Cathedral Junior School	Tennis	Education	One poor quality macadam tennis court that is without floodlighting and unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use and pursue improvement.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
		Netball		Two poor quality macadam netball courts that are without floodlighting and unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use and pursue improvement.	Education England Netball		L	L	L	
86	Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Fields	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP of good quality. It is available for community use but currently unused.	Sustain wicket quality for curricular use and potential future community use.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
		Football		Two youth 9v9 pitches of poor quality that are available for community use but unused. The pitches have actual spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and potential community use.	Education FA		L	L	L	
		Rugby union		One junior rugby union pitch of poor (M0/D0) quality. The pitch is played to capacity through curricular use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and potential community use.	Education RFU		L	L	L	
88	Options Trent Acres	Tennis	Education	One good quality tennis court that is without floodlights and unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
89	Rugeley School	Netball	Education	One standard quality netball court which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
91	Armitage with Handsacre Bowling Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality crown bowling green used by Armitage with Handsacre BC. The Club has capacity for an additional 24 members.	Sustain green quality through current maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
94	School Lane	Football	Council	One adult football pitch of standard quality. The pitch has 0.5 match sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
95	Ridware Bowls Club	Bowls	Private	One standard quality crown bowling green used by Ridware BC. The Club has capacity for 18 additional members.	Sustain green quality through current maintenance regime.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
96	Longdon Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with eight grass wickets. Spare capacity exists for an increase in both senior and junior demand.	Sustain quality for continued use by Longdon Cricket Club and explore additional use by other clubs if required to alleviate overplay and/or future capacity issues.	ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect

LICHFIELD DISTRICT SOUTH AND EAST ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵	Aim
3	Baxters Field	Football	MOD	Three youth 9v9 pitches, all of standard quality. The pitches are currently unused although actual spare capacity on site has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreements to provide potential users with security of tenure.	MOD FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
6	Bit End Field	Football	Parish Council	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of standard quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity whilst the mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session at peak time. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish Council FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		One grass cricket square of standard quality with eight wickets. The square has capacity for an additional senior team. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain square quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	Parish Council ECB		L	L	L	
		Bowls		One good quality crown bowling green used by Whittington BC. The green has minimal spare capacity.	Sustain green quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Monitor Club growth to ensure overplay does not occur.	Parish Council BCGBA		L	L	L	
18	DMS Whittington	Football	MOD	Three adult pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of poor quality. The pitches are known to suffer from poor drainage. The adult pitches have actual spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure. The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Ancillary provision on site is of poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Look to formalise a long-term community use agreement with Whittington FC. Pursue ancillary facility improvements if the site is going to be accessible in the long-term.	MOD FA FF	Hub	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Hockey		One full-size, hockey suitable AGP of standard quality. The pitch is played to capacity at peak time by Lichfield HC. The pitch has previously been considered for potential conversion to a World Rugby 3G due to training demand from Tamworth RUFC, Lichfield RUFC and England Women's U18 Rugby as well as Whittington FC. Ancillary provision on site is of poor quality.	Protect as hockey suitable unless club users can find alternative provision (e.g. King Edward IV Sports Centre). Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary.	MOD EH RFU		M	M	H	
		Rugby union		One senior rugby union pitch of poor (M0/D0) quality. The pitch is played to capacity through MOD demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to better accommodate MOD and potential community demand.	MOD RFU		L	L	L	

¹⁴ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵	Aim
19	Elford Playing Field	Football	Sports Club	One adult football pitch of poor quality. The pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club FA	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		One good quality grass cricket square with eight wickets, supported by an NTP. The square has capacity for an additional senior team. Elford CC aspires to refurbish its mobile cage and install non-turf practice nets on site. Ancillary facilities on site are reported to be in standard condition.	Sustain square quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Support Elford CC's aspiration to improve training facilities on site.	Sports Club ECB		M	M	M	
25	Harlaston Bridge	Football	Sports Club	One adult football pitch of poor quality. The pitch is currently unused although actual spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site is without changing facilities.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
28	HMP Swinfen Hall	Football (3G)	Government	One floodlit, half-size 3G pitch of poor quality which is unavailable for community use.	Retain pitch for internal usage.	Government FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
36	Lichfield Rugby Union Football Club	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Two senior, two junior and two mini pitches all of standard (M1/D1) quality. The senior and junior pitches are floodlit whilst the mini pitches are not. The senior pitches are played to capacity at peak time whilst the mini pitches are played to capacity. The junior pitches are overplayed by four match equivalent sessions due to accommodating the club's training demand as well as junior match demand. Ancillary facilities on site are in good condition, with standard quality changing rooms. The Club has <u>aspires to ambitions of extend and refurbishing</u> the social space on site onto the existing patio and installing a balcony overlooking the pitches.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime and improved drainage to reduce overplay. Consider the dispersal of training demand to alleviate overplay from the junior pitches or explore options to train off-site. Alternatively, consider as potential venue for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. Support Lichfield RUFC with its plans to develop ancillary provision.	Sports Club RFU	Local	H	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Bowls		One good quality, floodlit, crown bowling green used by Lichfield RUFC BC. The green has capacity for 29 additional members.	Sustain green quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA		L	L	L	
41	Mill Green Sports Ground	Football	Sports Club	One adult, one youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of standard quality. The adult and youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity at peak times whilst the mini pitches have actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Sports Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵	Aim
		Cricket		One grass cricket square of standard quality with seven wickets and supported by an NTP. The square has capacity for an additional senior team at peak time. Streetly CC reports that there is only one toilet and one room for changing on site. Therefore, facilities are insufficient.	Sustain square quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of providing additional ancillary provision on site.	Sports Club ECB		M	M	M	
44	New Mill Lane	Football	Sports Club	Two adult and two mini 7v7 pitches, all of good quality. The mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity at peak time whilst the adult pitches have one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision although car parking is reported to be limited at peak times.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Explore options to extend parking facilities. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Sports Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	Football	Education	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of standard quality. All three pitch types have actual spare capacity although this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreements to provide users with security of tenure.	Education FA	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Football (3G)		One full-size, standard quality 3G which is floodlit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary.			L	S	H	
		Rugby union		Two junior rugby union pitches of poor (M0/D1) quality. Actual spare capacity has been discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to better accommodate curricular and potential community demand.	Education RFU		L	L	L	
		Hockey		One small-size, hockey-suitable AGP of standard quality which is floodlit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime for curricular demand.	Education EH		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Four good quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use but are without floodlighting.	Sustain court quality for curricular demand.	Education LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Three good quality netball courts that are available for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular demand.	Education EN		L	L	L	
49	Rectory Close Playing Field	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is unused although spare capacity has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site is supported by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to provide actual spare capacity.	Parish Council FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		One poor quality macadam tennis court which is available for community use but without floodlighting.	Improve court quality to attract additional recreational and informal tennis demand.			Parish Council LTA	L	L	

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵	Aim
62	Stonnall Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of poor quality. The adult pitch is currently played to capacity whilst the mini 7v7 pitch is unused although spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to provide actual spare capacity.	Parish Council FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
64	Tamworth Cricket, Hockey & Squash Club	Football	Sports Club	Two standard quality adult pitches that have actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is supported by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Sports Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		One good quality grass cricket square with 14 senior wickets and six junior wickets. The square has capacity for two additional junior teams. Tamworth CC have plans to resurface the existing practice nets on site. The site is supported by good quality ancillary facilities although there are only two changing rooms on site which is deemed to be insufficient when mixed age/gender teams are playing on site. Therefore, the Club aspires to provide dedicated women and junior changing rooms.	Sustain square quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Support Tamworth CC's aspirations to improve training and changing facilities on site.	Sports Club ECB		L	M	H	
70	Whittington Cricket Club	Football	Sports Club	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which is played to capacity. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One good quality grass cricket square with eight wickets. The square is currently overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions per season. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain square quality through appropriate maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of installing an NTP on site to alleviate overplay of the grass wickets on site.	Sports Club ECB		H	S	M	Protect Provide
76	Shenstone Playing Field	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch which has one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.	FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		Two good quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use but without floodlighting.	Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime.	LTA		L	L	L	
77	David Lloyd (Lichfield)	Tennis	Private	Three polymeric and one artificial court that are all floodlit and of good quality but are unavailable for wider community use. There is a pending planning application for the site which would see the loss of the single artificial court on site.	Sustain court quality for private members and ensure provision remains sufficient following the loss of a court.	Private LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵	Aim
78	Lichfield Friary Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Six good quality artificial tennis courts that are floodlit and available for community use. The Club has capacity for an additional 76 members.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance regime.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
83	Little Aston Village Hall	Bowls	Private	One standard quality crown bowling green used by Little Aston BC. The green is currently overplayed by 15 members.	Ensure dedicated maintenance regime is in place so that green quality does not deteriorate due to potential overuse.	Private BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
		Tennis	Parish Council	Three standard quality clay courts that are without floodlighting but available for community use. Little Aston TC aspires to install floodlights on site. The Club has capacity for an additional 75 members.	Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime. Support Little Aston TC's aspiration to install floodlights on site.	Parish Council LTA		L		M	Protect Provide
93	Swan Park	Football	Parish Council	One informal adult pitch.	Retain pitch as strategic reserve.	Parish Council FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		One good quality macadam tennis court that is available for community use but without floodlighting.	Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime.	Parish Council LTA					

TAMWORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁶	Cost ¹⁷	Aim
21	Fazeley Mile Oak Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One standard quality adult football pitch that is currently unused. The pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime and explore lack of community use.	FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

¹⁶ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

- 7.1 The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2040 (in line with the emerging Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England New Development Playing Pitch Calculator (NDC) 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 via team generation rates 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.
- 7.2 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. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches.
- 7.3 The indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.4 per dwelling, as agreed upon by the Council. The indicative figures will be applied to two exclusive scenarios as follows:
- ◀ **Scenario One** - additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from an additional 11,800 dwellings.
 - ◀ **Scenario Two** - additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from an additional 1,000 dwellings.
- 7.4 Scenario one is in relation to the total housing growth proposed in Lichfield over the Local Plan period, whereas scenario two provides an example of how the calculator could work for an individual development of such a size.
- 7.5 Please note that each scenario takes into consideration training demand for the individual sports which will give an exact requirement for provision required by housing growth.
- Scenario One**
- 7.6 The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 11,800 dwellings is assumed to be 28,320 people. This population increase equates to 28.49 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 5.06 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 177.24 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.
- 7.7 Training demand equates to 51.15 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 12.91 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 3.21 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 11,800 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 11,800 dwellings	
	Match demand per week ¹⁸	Training demand ¹⁹
Adult football	4.38	51.15 hours
Youth football	14.91	
Mini soccer	6.29	
Rugby union	2.91	3.21 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	3.56	10.67 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	1.50	2.24 hours
Cricket	177.24	-

- 7.8 The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs. However, please note that when the Calculator is ran for an individual development (or a group of development), new provision may not be required. Instead, contributions will go towards improving existing sites (or a mix).

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches		
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²⁰	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²¹
Adult football	4 (4.38)	£406,990	£85,875
Youth football	15 (14.91)	£1,039,732	£218,344
Mini soccer	6 (6.29)	£146,262	£30,715
Rugby union	3 (2.91)	£378,374	£80,972
Cricket	4 (3.79)	£1,039,823	£210,044
Sand based AGPs	1 (0.89)	£677,893	£21,015
3G	1 (1.35)	£1,239,245	£49,303

- 7.9 Further to the above, the calculator also estimates that there will be a need to provide 47.95 changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £7,580,721.

Scenario Two

- 7.10 The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 1,000 dwellings is assumed to be 2,400 people. This population increase equates to 2.41 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.43 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 15.02 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.
- 7.11 Training demand equates to 4.33 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 1.19 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.27 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

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

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

²⁰ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

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

LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 1,000 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 1,000 dwellings	
	Match demand per week ²²	Training demand ²³
Adult football	0.37	4.33 hours
Youth football	1.26	
Mini soccer	0.53	
Rugby union	0.25	0.27 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.30	0.90 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.13	0.19 hours
Cricket	15.02	-

- 7.12 The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs. However, please note that in most instances for a development of this or a similar size, new provision will not be required. Instead, contributions will go towards improving existing sites.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches		
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²⁴	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²⁵
Adult football	0 (0.37)	£34,491	£7,278
Youth football	1 (1.26)	£88,113	£18,504
Mini soccer	1 (0.53)	£12,395	£2,603
Rugby union	0 (0.25)	£32,066	£6,862
Cricket	0 (0.32)	£88,121	£17,800
Sand based AGPs	0 (0.08)	£57,449	£1,781
3G	0 (0.11)	£105,021	£4,178

- 7.13 Further to the above, the calculator also estimates that there will be a need to provide 4.06 changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £642,434.

Conclusions

- 7.14 The tables above show that through housing growth, demand will be generated for each pitch sport (with the exception of rugby league) to a lesser or greater extent. That being said, it must be noted that not all developments will require new on-site provision, with the capacity of existing sites in the locality needing to be assessed to understand if they can accommodate increased usage. The PPS should be used as a guide to inform this.

²² As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

²³ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

²⁴ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

²⁵ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- 7.15 Experience shows 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 District and in each analysis area. For developments not requiring on site provision, contributions should be focused on improving existing sites. The preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs should inform the playing fields that most require investment.
- 7.16 A separate developer contributions toolkit will be provided to the Council inform the process in more detail.

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

Delivery

- 8.1 The PPS provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Lichfield. By addressing issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the District can be met. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.
- 8.2 Production of this Strategy is the start of the planning process. Successful implementation and the benefits to be gained depend upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a mutually bought into strategic approach. It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, supports engagement with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed. This is to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.
- 8.3 Each member of the Steering Group should take the lead to ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the Steering Group should not end with the completion of the PPS document.
- 8.4 To help ensure that 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 to which people and agencies regularly turn to for information in respect of how current demand should be met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. To ensure that this is achieved the Steering Group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.
- 8.5 The process of PPS development has already led to a number of benefits that assist its application and delivery. These include enhanced partnership work across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthened relationships and understanding between stakeholders, 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 its influence should be applied and strategy delivered enhanced.

Monitoring and updating

- 8.6 It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should be a key component of monitoring its delivery and be an on-going role of the steering group.
- 8.7 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, Sport England and the NGBs will consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.
- 8.8 The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for outdoor sports facilities will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

- 8.9 The PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. A review will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up during its development and, taking into account the time to develop the PPS, will ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.
- 8.10 A review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:
- ◀ How delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase or reduce following the delivery of others).
 - ◀ How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
 - ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
 - ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
 - ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Once the PPS is complete the role of the Steering Group should evolve so that it:

- ◀ Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPS and outdoor sports provision in the area.
 - ◀ Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan.
 - ◀ Shares lessons learnt from how the PPS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances.
 - ◀ Ensures that the PPS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives.
 - ◀ Maintains links between relevant parties with an interest in local outdoor sports provision;
 - ◀ Reviews the need to update the PPS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
 - ◀ Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
 - ◀ Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
 - ◀ Lead a full review and update of the PPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).
- 8.11 Alongside regular Steering Group meetings a good way to keep the PPS up to date and maintain relationships is to hold annual sport specific meetings with pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These could be part of a process of updating key supply and demand information plus, if necessary, amending assessment work, tracking progress in respect of implementing action plan recommendations and highlighting new issues and opportunities.
- 8.12 Meetings could be timed to coincide with annual NGB affiliation processes. This would help to signal changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites should also feed into these meetings.
- 8.13 NGBs will also be able to confirm any further performance quality assessments undertaken within the study area. Discussions with league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings may be useful to attend to pick up on specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

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- 8.14 The Steering Group should regularly review and refresh the Action Plan, taking account of any changes in pitch quality (and hence changes in pitch capacity) and demand as well as new provision that has been created or any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.
- 8.15 It is important that the Council maintains the data contained within the accompanying PPS database. This will enable it to refresh and update the work on a regular basis. The accompanying database is intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental work encompassing, for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

Checklists

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

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

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

8.17 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:

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?		

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5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

For more information, see:

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

APPENDIX ONE: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

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

Awarding body	Description
<p>The National Lottery Community Fund http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/</p>	<p>The National Lottery Community Fund distributes over £600m 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.

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Awarding body	Description
<p>Sport England The current funding streams may change throughout 2019/20 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.

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Awarding body	Description
<p>Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</p>	<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, ◀ 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) 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>

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Awarding body	Description
<p>The England and Wales Cricket Trust 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> <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>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.</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, Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.</p>
<p>LTA Transforming British Tennis Together https://www.lta.org.uk/workforce-venues/tennis-venue-support/tennis-facility-funding-and-advice/transforming-british-tennis-together/</p>	<p>Transforming British Tennis Together (TBTT) is the largest capital investment programme the LTA has undertaken. It aims to invest £125 million over the next ten years in tennis facilities which it hopes can be match funded by partners to bring £250 million into the sport.</p>
<p>BCGBA grants https://www.bcgba.org.uk/grants/</p>	<p>Provided a club is subscribed to the BCGBA it can apply for a grant a range of ancillary issues, providing it has not already received one in the previous five years.</p>

Protecting Playing Fields

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

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

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

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

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

Sport England's Community Asset Fund²⁶ programme will be delivered via funding rounds and replaced its previous Inspired Facilities Fund. The Community Asset Fund opened in late January 2017 with an annual budget of £15 million, anticipating funding applications to range anywhere from £1000 to £150,000.

A key difference of the new programme is that it not only aims to support improvement of facilities within traditional sports clubs and recreational or sporting environments, but seeks explore new ways to invest in communities where improvement of facilities can offer wider benefit for not just sporting groups but other physical activities and local organisations which use or could use the site. The change in approach reflects the Towards an Active Nation Strategy and a contribution to delivering the five outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.

The four main aims of the Community Asset Fund programme are:

- ◀ Improve and protect existing sports facilities that support the needs of local communities
- ◀ Invest in new and different places that meet the needs of local communities, which include our target audiences
- ◀ Ensure our capital investment reaches organisations who have not accessed our funding before
- ◀ Create a more resilient, sustainable, less grant dependent sport sector

²⁶ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/11425/community-asset-fund-guide-january-2017.pdf>

Strategic Facilities Fund

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

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

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

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

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

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

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

Projects will need to demonstrate how the grant will deliver against Sport England's strategic priorities. The funding available is for the development of the capital infrastructure, which can

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contribute to the costs of new build, modernisation or refurbishment and purchasing of major fixed equipment as part of the facility development.

Funder's requirements

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

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

Indicative costs

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

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

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

APPENDIX TWO: GLOSSARY

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**.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX THREE: 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

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 (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period. The Strategy is presently in draft and is due for publication in 2018.

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"*

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£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.

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) Inspiring Generations (2019-2024)

"Inspiring Generations" is the new ECB participation strategy which was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women's and girls' cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

- ◀ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◀ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◀ Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- ◀ Investing in girls' county age group cricket.
- ◀ Delivering a girls' secondary school programme.

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 Strategy

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

Vision: For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission: More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)

- The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

Club participation

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

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey.

Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

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Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age.

The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

British Tennis Strategy 2019

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

Vision: tennis opened up

Mission: to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

Objectives

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
 - ◀ The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

1. Visibility - Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

British Crown Green Bowling Association

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Please note there is no current facility guidance provided by British Crown Green Bowling Association responsible for crown green bowls in England.

<http://bcgba.org.uk/index.html>

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business. To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.