



WANDSWORTH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

MAY 2013

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Draft Playing Pitch Strategy for Wandsworth. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitches and ancillary facilities between 2013 and 2026. This Strategy, covering the sports of football, rugby union, cricket, hockey, tennis, bowls and netball will be capable of:

- ◀ Providing a clear framework for outdoor sports facility providers, including the public, private and third sectors;
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of the identified sports within the local area, picking up particular local demand issues;
- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth, and or major growth/regeneration areas up to 2026;
- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision;
- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision.

1.1: Structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within Wandsworth and provides:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of outdoor sports facilities (including ancillary facilities) in Wandsworth.
- ◀ A series of generic management objectives which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of stock.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport objectives which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan (where action is deemed necessary to maintain or improve quality).

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Wandsworth, which should be implemented from 2013 to 2026. It also takes account of other facility providers (i.e., private clubs and independent schools). It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, partners and possible sources of external funding have been identified.

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships with NGBs, schools, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of developer contributions). This document will provide clarity about the way forward, and allow the Council to focus on key issues that it can directly influence and achieve.

The site-by-site Action Plan provides recommended actions for each site, based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

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1.2: Vision

The vision for this strategy reflects the national, regional, county and local policies. In particular, it is consistent with aspirations to improve health and well-being by increasing the number of people who are physically active and will help to transform sport. In keeping with the key themes of the Wandsworth Sustainable Community Strategy (Our Wandsworth 2018), the vision for Wandsworth is:

To develop sustainable partnerships which seek to deliver high quality and appropriate sporting facilities to meet both current and future growth needs

Furthermore, it is consistent with and helps to meet Active Wandsworth Strategy's three strategic objectives and overall vision (i.e., a place where everybody can enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle) as well as the National Planning Policy Framework Core Planning Principle 12.

This strategy will help in identification, and prioritisation, of outdoor sports facilities that are of local and Borough-wide significance and guide Wandsworth Borough Council and its partners to work collaboratively (i.e., reduce duplication and competition), identify and use limited resources to optimum effect.

1.3: 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.

The following section summarises the key strategic documents relevant to this Strategy and link, where appropriate, to the aims and objectives set out later.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the reformed 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 establishes 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.

Under the promoting healthy communities theme, it is set out 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 and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

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

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be 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.

Sport England

A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England

It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application, which will result in the loss of a playing field, unless it meets one of five exceptions as defined in A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England. Protection of playing fields was further enhanced in 1998 with Circular 9/98 (replaced in 2009 by Circular 02/09) which stipulates that where a local authority is minded to grant planning permission against Sport England's advice on land owned by a local authority or used for educational purposes, then the application should be referred to the relevant Government Office for possible 'call in'.

As a statutory consultee for the loss of playing fields, Sport England is a key partner. Regional planning officers should be kept informed of developing projects/schemes and can provide essential guidance and advice throughout the process, not just at planning application stage.

Sport England Strategy (2011/12 – 2014/15)

The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- ◀ Maximise value from current NGB investment
- ◀ Places, People, Play
- ◀ Strategic direction and market intelligence
- ◀ Set criteria & support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- ◀ Market development

Sport England Youth and Community Strategy 2012 – 2017

Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics.

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The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habitat for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes to achieve:

- ◀ Every (4,000) secondary school in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in its area.
- ◀ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ◀ All secondary schools, who wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ◀ At least 150 further education colleges will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.
- ◀ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
- ◀ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ◀ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ◀ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ◀ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

National governing bodies of sport

Consideration has been given throughout the Assessment Report and the Strategy to national governing body facility strategies. A summary of each is summarised below.

The Football Association (FA)

The FA's National Game Strategy (updated/extended 2011–2015) provides a strategic framework that sets out the key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a six year period.

The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Growth and retention (young players)
- ◀ Growth and retention (adult players)
- ◀ Football for All
- ◀ Raising standards and behaviour
- ◀ Player development
- ◀ Running the game
- ◀ Football work force
- ◀ Facilities
- ◀ Partnerships and investment
- ◀ Promotion

The Strategy also reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites.

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Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities rather than in private members' clubs. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years as priorities have been in other sectors. This has resulted in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields within the Country has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built 5-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals, JJB (now DW) and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of 5-a-side teams in recent years.

The FA National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2015)

The recently published new National Facilities Strategy sets out the FA's long term vision for development of facilities to support the 'National Game'. It aims to address and reflect the facility needs of football within the National Game (defined as all non-professional football from Steps 1-7 of the National League System down to recreational football played on open public space).. Facilities are considered to be crucial to the development of the game in England. One of the main issues raised by 'the Big Grassroots Football Survey' (by 84% respondents) was 'poor facilities'.

The FA's vision for the future of facilities in England is to build, protect and enhance sustainable football facilities to improve the experience of the nation's favourite game. It aims to do this by:

- ◀ Building - Provide new facilities and pitches in key locations to FA standards in order to sustain existing participation and support new participation.
- ◀ Protecting - Ensure that playing pitches and facilities are protected for the benefit of current and future participants.
- ◀ Enhancing - Invest in existing facilities and pitches, ensuring that participation in the game is sustained as well as expanded.

The Strategy commits the FA to deliver in excess of £150m (through the Football Foundation) into facility improvements in line with identified priorities:

- ◀ Natural grass pitches improved – target: 100.
- ◀ A network of new AGPs built – target 100.
- ◀ A network of refurbished AGPs – target 150.
- ◀ On selected sites, new and improved changing facilities and toilets.
- ◀ Continued small grants programme to address the modest facility needs of clubs.
- ◀ Ongoing support with the purchase and replacement of goalposts.

It also commits to:

- ◀ Direct other sources of investment into FA facility priorities.
- ◀ Communicate priorities for investment across the grassroots game on a regular basis.
- ◀ Work closely with Sport England, the Premier League and other partners to ensure that investment is co-ordinated and targeted.

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On-going engagement with the FA is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Council should further engage with the FA Regional Facility Manager (London) as part of the delivery of this Strategy. Along with its partners, The FA and England Hockey are working together to prioritise the replacement of existing AGP provision from sand based to 3G.

Rugby Football Union (RFU)

The recently launched National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for the development of high-quality and well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, it will assist and support clubs and other organisations to continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game.

It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

The priorities for investment which met the needs of the game for the previous strategy period remain valid. These are to:

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

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

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

On-going engagement with the RFU is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Council should further engage with the RFU Regional Funding and Facilities Manager (London and South East) as part of the delivery of this Strategy. Current consultation on Surrey RFU Facility Strategy is the possible concentration on support for additional AGP appropriate for rugby union use in London Boroughs.

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England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)

Grounds to Play, ECB Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013) continues to focus on four pillars, as identified in the previous strategy, Building Partnerships. The pillars are:

- ◀ Energising people and partnerships to deliver national goals at local level:
 - ◀ Having streamlined the management of ECB and established the County Boards, where feasible, services currently provided from the centre will be transferred to County Boards;
 - ◀ Enhance asset growth through continuing interest free loans to community clubs, expanding NatWest Cricket Force, seeking to support corporate or public sector cricket grounds under threat of closure through the England and Wales Cricket Trust, and seeking to expand partnerships for Indoor Cricket.
- ◀ Vibrant domestic game.
- ◀ Enhancing facilities, environments and participation:
 - ◀ The focus of this plan will be on providing facilities to sustain participation levels rather than a focus on a substantial increase in participation;
 - ◀ The Cricket Foundation's 'Chance to Shine' programme has been an outstanding success in reintroducing cricket into state schools. ECB will prioritise investment in the programme;
 - ◀ To further expand club/ school links and position the cricket club at the heart of the community, ECB will provide £1.5 million per annum capital improvement grants to local clubs that make their club facilities available to the local community and to local schools.
- ◀ Successful England teams.

The following actions executed during the duration of Building Partnerships provide a strong base for this new plan. Actions include:

- ◀ Streamlining ECB governance
- ◀ Building participation by more than 20% per annum (as measured through ECB focus clubs and County Boards)
- ◀ Developing women's cricket
- ◀ Attracting volunteers
- ◀ Expanding cricket's spectator base
- ◀ Introducing grants and loans to clubs
- ◀ Developing disabilities cricket

The theme of this plan therefore progresses to Grounds to Play and it is in the areas of facilities and coaches where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

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England Hockey (EH)

'The right pitches in the right places'¹

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGP's are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGP's for a number of sports.

EH were seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers who have a sound understanding of the following:

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

On-going engagement with the EH is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Council should further engage with the Relationship Manager (London and East) within the EH as part of the delivery of this Strategy. Along with its partners, England Hockey and The FA are working together to prioritise the replacement of existing AGP provision.

Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)

Places to Play Strategy

The LTA is in the process of reviewing its Strategy. However, currently its aim is to get more people to play tennis more frequently and the places to play strategy is a way of doing this. The strategy aims to provide high quality facilities for everyone at a convenient location. It aims to increase opportunities for people to play tennis on a regular basis at tennis clubs close to their home, which provides high quality opportunities on safe and well maintained tennis courts. The strategy sets out:

- ◀ Its overall vision for places to play.
- ◀ How it will grow regular participation by supporting places to play to develop and deliver the right programmes.
- ◀ How it will make its capital investment decisions to ensure it invests in the right facilities to grow the sport.
- ◀ How it will support performance programmes in the right locations.

¹

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

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The LTA is committed to growing the sport to ensure that more people are playing tennis more often at first class tennis facilities, with high quality coaching programmes and well organised competition. It's overall aim for the next 5 years (2011-2016) is to ensure that, as far as practicably possible, the British population has access to and are aware of the places and high quality tennis opportunities in their local area. In summary this is:

- ◀ Access for everyone to well maintained high quality tennis facilities which are either free or pay as you play.
- ◀ A Clubmark accredited place to play within a 10 minute drive of their home.
- ◀ Indoor tennis courts within a 20 minute drive time of their home.
- ◀ A mini tennis (10 and under) performance programme within a 20 minute drive of their home (Performance Centres).
- ◀ A performance programme for 11 - 15 year olds within a 45 minute drive time of their home (High Performance Centre).
- ◀ A limited number of internationally orientated programmes strategically spread for players 16+ with an international programme (International High Performance Centres).

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1.4 Local context

From a Council perspective, the PPS is a key evidence base for the review of spatial planning policy. There are already a number of significant developments proposed which impact upon playing pitch provision. The PPS will provide a framework to help inform decision making with regard to planning applications both now and in the future. Current proposals include, for example:

- ◀ Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea Opportunity Area to the north east of the Borough is the largest regeneration area in London outside of the Olympic Park and proposes to house up to 30,000 new residents in 16,000 new homes by 2025. A new school and playing pitches are also proposed in the Area.
- ◀ The redevelopment of Springfield Hospital site located in the centre of the borough proposes a mixed use development including an area retained for NHS purposes, but also proposes up to 800 homes and the creation of up to 13 hectares of public open space, including proposed sports pitches.
- ◀ Barn Elms Sports Centre is a proposed combined sewer overflow site that would impact on pitch provision for a minimum of two years.
- ◀ The creation of a number of new schools which have limited outdoor space due to land restrictions could place undue pressure on existing playing pitches and open space.
- ◀ A number of smaller developments including the provision of sports pitches on the Trinity Playing Fields, and new management arrangements for Roehampton Playing Fields on Doverhouse Road (i.e., Roehampton University is to take on the management of the playing fields).

The table below summarises key drivers for the Wandsworth PPS as identified via initial discussions with the relevant national governing bodies of sport (NGBs):

NGB	Key drivers
The Football Association (FA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of natural grass and artificial grass pitch provision. • Protect the right sites for current and future football participation. • Provide new pitches and facilities to FA standards where needed.
English Cricket Board (ECB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish long term maintenance of sites and review impact on pitches. • Ensure that activity and quality of provision are appropriate to respective facilities. • Ensure clubs are sustainable.
England Hockey (EH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the 'Single System' in Wandsworth to support the development pathway for players, coaches and officials of all ages and abilities to reach their full potential. • Ensure that there is sufficient provision (including accessibility) for predicted growth to support priority clubs • Ensure that existing artificial grass pitches have capacity to accommodate development programmes such as RUSH hockey • Ensure that any new hockey provision in the study area supports localised hockey demand and any hockey development programmes.

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NGB	Key drivers
Rugby Football Union (RFU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify levels of latent demand and predicted future participation increases. • Identify levels of current and future increases in rugby union participation including latent demand • Ensure that there is sustainable access to pitches in Wandsworth to satisfy current, future and latent demand.
Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of tennis provision. • Ensure that there are sites that offer 'all year round' play.

Active Wandsworth Strategy 2011-2016

The Active Wandsworth Strategy was produced in partnership with Wandsworth Borough Council and NHS Wandsworth. It has three main strategic aims which are:

- ◀ Improving facilities (quantity and quality) – including enhancing the environment and encourage greater participation in physical activity.
- ◀ Inspiring people – building the capacity of organisations, individuals and the workforce to improve and increase physical activity opportunities.
- ◀ Increasing participation – number of people taking part regularly in sport and physical activity in Wandsworth to benefit their health.

Open Space Wandsworth (2007)

The 2007 study (undertaken by Atkins) is an assessment of open space, sports and recreational facilities within the Borough. It assesses the current quantity, quality and value of parks and open spaces in Wandsworth, and whether existing provision in the Borough will be sufficient to meet the projected needs of the Borough up to 2018.

The study identified that the majority (75.1%) of outdoor sports pitches were assessed as being of 'good' quality, with eight out of ten (80%) of football and rugby pitches being good quality. However, cricket pitches were scored as below this average at 55%. The report acknowledges that this may be due to part of the assessment having been undertaken in early Spring (prior to the start of the season).

In terms of changing provision, the study suggests that improvements to the extent and quality of changing facilities for football should be prioritised.

Just under half (45%) of adult residents access outdoor sports facilities on foot whilst 32% use a car, 12% use a bus and 7% cycle. The survey data also reveals that 79% of residents take up to 20 minutes to access these spaces, with 27% taking about 5 minutes.

The study recommends that the quantity standard for playing pitches is 0.29 ha per 1,000 population which (at the time of the assessment) was marginally lower than the current level of provision (0.31 ha per 1,000 population).

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Wandsworth Local Development Framework: Core Strategy (Adopted October 2010)

The Core Strategy is a statutory development plan for Wandsworth which was adopted in October 2010. Policies PL 3 and PL 4 provide the local planning context for the PPS. The Strategy aims to make provision to meet needs for housing, business, community services and infrastructure, in a sustainable way, protecting and improving both the built and the natural environments while mitigating climate change. It identifies that the Council's spatial vision for the Borough is:

- ◀ A Borough of attractive and distinctive neighbourhoods, separated by parks and commons, with a good range of local services focused on five distinct town centres at Battersea (Clapham Junction), Wandsworth, Putney, Tooting and Balham, backed up by local centres in each district, with the retention and enhancement of its significant family-sized housing stock.
- ◀ Regeneration activity tackling pockets of deprivation in Battersea, Tooting and Roehampton, with the main areas of change and development being the Thames riverside, the town centres and the Vauxhall/Nine Elms/Battersea Opportunity Area.
- ◀ New mixed use quarters opening up the riverside and well linked into existing communities.
- ◀ Housing development of good quality, sustainable design, employing the latest innovations in energy reduction and the provision of renewable energy, to provide homes, including affordable homes, for the growing number of households seeking to live in the borough.
- ◀ A range of opportunities for local business activity, including start up and small enterprises, in mixed use developments.
- ◀ A strategic pool of key industrial sites in the Wandle Valley corridor and parts of Nine Elms and north-east Battersea, continuing to provide opportunities for industry and warehousing which are better located outside residential areas, as well as new waste management facilities.
- ◀ Investment in public services throughout the borough as opportunities arise.
- ◀ An enhanced local environment including cleaner air and less traffic congestion, with protected and improved habitat and biodiversity, particularly along the Thames and Wandle Valley corridors, the green chain network and the borough's parks and open spaces.
- ◀ Good access to the wider opportunities outside the borough for jobs and services, particularly in central London.

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PART 2: SUMMARY FROM THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

This section summarises the key findings from the Assessment Report. The Strategy has been developed in recognition of the consultation findings whilst drawing upon a core series of objectives which should be applied across the board and should not be attributed to any one particular type of facility.

2.1 Football

- ◀ There are 360 football teams playing in Wandsworth. Of the 186 youth football teams 78 hold the FA Charter Standard (CS) award (42%).
- ◀ There is one CS Community Club and two CS Development Clubs supporting high levels of participation across all categories of football (Adult Male, Adult Female, Youth Male, Youth Female, Mini Soccer & Disability Football).
- ◀ The peak youth age group is U11 with 30 teams in 2012/13 Season.
- ◀ The audit identifies 18 sites providing grass football pitches currently used for community use in Wandsworth, providing a total of 94 grass football pitches.
- ◀ Three sites are available for community use but are currently unused and two sites are not available for community use; Graveney School (lower school site) and Ibstock Place School.
- ◀ Over half (54%) of football pitches in Wandsworth are rated as standard quality. Pitches rated as good quality (8) are predominantly located on privately owned and/or managed sites, including the Bank of England Sports Centre and Battersea Ironsides Sports Club.
- ◀ Clubs generally rate pitches as overall acceptable quality (58%).
- ◀ In general there has been a decrease in senior men's football but an increase in youth, girls and women's football.
- ◀ Access to pitches and having no league are the main inhibitors to growing girls' participation.
- ◀ 31 clubs also report plans to increase the number of teams they could provide in the future and 14 clubs express latent demand for access to more pitches to accommodate current demand.
- ◀ There is significant informal use of public open spaces which contain football pitches in Wandsworth which impacts on the capacity of pitches to accommodate matches.
- ◀ 18 sites express potential spare capacity in Wandsworth. Most are actually unavailable at peak time and cannot therefore be counted as surplus provision.
- ◀ There is very little actual spare capacity (surplus provision) expressed in Wandsworth. Where spare capacity is expressed (Bank of England Sports Centre, Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields and Roehampton Playing Fields) spare capacity is likely to be retained as a matter of practise to allow pitches to rest and rotate.
- ◀ 11 sites are overplayed in Wandsworth. Poor quality and informal use of pitches is a significant factor in pitches being overplayed in Wandsworth.
- ◀ Modelling suggests a need for an additional four full size 3G pitches and a 60 x 40m 3G pitch to service football in Wandsworth. This is further supported through consultation with clubs.

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2.2 Cricket

- ◀ There are 19 cricket pitches available for community use in Wandsworth, accommodating 90 teams (including senior men, women and juniors).
- ◀ Wandsworth's three main clubs all support high levels of participation.
- ◀ There are high levels of both latent and displaced demand expressed by clubs, suggesting that more pitches are required to meet demand.
- ◀ Non technical site assessments generally score the quality of available cricket pitches as standard to high. However, club consultation indicates that the quality of Council pitches is worse.
- ◀ Despite spare capacity being identified at sites; the genuine ability for sites to accommodate additional play is reportedly lower due to the substantial level of informal and/or unauthorised use of pitches/outfields.
- ◀ There are insufficient pitches of the correct standard to accommodate both current and future demand in Wandsworth.

2.3 Rugby union

- ◀ There are 21 rugby union grass pitches (17 senior and four minis) available for community use in Wandsworth.
- ◀ Six further pitches are located at Barn Elms Sports Ground; managed by Wandsworth Council but just outside the local authority Area in Richmond.
- ◀ Four pitches identified are not available for community use.
- ◀ In total, 34 senior, 26 junior and 43 mini teams play across the Borough. In addition, there are a large number of training teams (team equivalents) playing on competitive grass rugby pitches (due to a lack of designated training facilities) which further adds to the pressure on pitches.
- ◀ Rosslyn Park RFC and Barnes RFC are the only clubs in Wandsworth which field senior women's teams, two and one teams respectively. The former has c. 90 registered senior female players.
- ◀ There are no specific junior girls' teams although junior girls play competitively with boys until the age of 12 (mini rugby). Battersea Ironsides highlights currently trying to establish a girl's team.
- ◀ Rugby union pitches are predominantly located in the Wandsworth analysis area.
- ◀ With the exception of Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields and Battersea Park, sites in the Borough are overplayed due to the large number of competitive matches and training.
- ◀ Latent demand for an additional one senior team is expressed by London Exiles RFC. However, both the Bank of England and Battersea Ironsides highlight potential need to meet demand from growing junior membership levels. The latter already being at capacity.
- ◀ Rugby training in Wandsworth is generally accommodated on existing competitive grass rugby union pitches. As a result this contributed to a number of sites being overplayed beyond their carrying capacity. Accommodation for floodlit training facilities is highlighted as Battersea Ironsides and Rosslyn rugby clubs biggest issue. Floodlighting issue is recognised as a major contributor to player drop out within the RFU National Facility Strategy.

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2.4 Hockey

- ◀ There is high demand in Wandsworth for hockey with five hockey clubs fielding 86 competitive senior teams, plus good junior sections.
- ◀ There are five full size AGPs in Wandsworth. However, Newton Preparatory School is not used for competitive hockey due to its poor quality. The remaining four are used to capacity for hockey at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ All full size AGPs, except for Newton Preparatory School are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ There is significant pressure on Battersea Park, for example, as it is the only publicly available site in Wandsworth and both its pitches are of a good enough quality to accommodate a high level of competitive hockey.
- ◀ There is a significant amount of displaced demand in Wandsworth. Most clubs use a number of sites to accommodate all teams. All clubs would prefer to play in Wandsworth and/or at one home ground venue (where possible).
- ◀ Provision in Wandsworth is unable to accommodate both current and future demand for hockey.
- ◀ Some opportunities exist to increase access in Wandsworth to accommodate competitive hockey, including increasing the quality of Newton Preparatory School and new provision at Roehampton Playing Fields.

2.5 Tennis

- ◀ There are 174 tennis courts across 23 sites in Wandsworth available for community use.
- ◀ The quality at private tennis clubs tends to be better than parks provision. Battersea Park courts are assessed as poor due to the surface quality, although the Council has committed to refurbish them in the next 12 months.
- ◀ Generally tennis club membership in Wandsworth has remained static over the last three years. However, clubs are generally operating at capacity, together with predicted increases of 34% year on year in London (from the Active People Survey).
- ◀ As a target increasing floodlighting on some sites and indoor provision could help to sustain participation.
- ◀ October to March at a number of clubs and parks
- ◀ Research also suggests that more people would participate in tennis (pay and play opportunities in particular) if there were better awareness and promotion of where and how to play.

2.6 Bowls

- ◀ There are 14 bowling greens in Wandsworth, located across a range of sites including parks and private clubs.
- ◀ Site assessments rate most bowling greens as either good or excellent. Only one site, Tooting Constitutional, is scored as average.
- ◀ There has been a reduction in the number of clubs/teams participating in the previous five years. Participation has either decreased or remained static over the past three years.
- ◀ Only one club cites has experienced an increase in membership.
- ◀ All clubs are looking to increase membership levels and suggest that any growth through recruitment of new members could be accommodated at existing provision.
- ◀ It is not thought likely that current and future demand for bowls will result in the need for new provision.

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2.7 Netball

- ◀ In total 29 outdoor netball courts are identified across 10 sites in Wandsworth.
- ◀ Although the majority of courts are assessed as good or adequate quality, courts at Barn Elms and Battersea Park are assessed as poor which impacts on usage.
- ◀ A number of clubs report displaced demand and are travelling outside the Borough to access courts.
- ◀ The Metropolitan League reports a waiting list to join.
- ◀ Participation levels in Wandsworth have increased over the previous three years, at both senior and junior level.
- ◀ There is demand in Wandsworth for more and/or better quality outdoor netball courts.

2.8: Education

- ◀ No significant issues with regard to quality are highlighted by schools. In general provision is deemed to be of a good quality. However, Graveney School does identify its mini football pitch as having poor drainage.
- ◀ There is limited provision of grass pitches at educational sites in Wandsworth. In total there are 21 facilities (including AGPs), of which 13 are available for community use. The majority of provision is located at secondary/college sites.
- ◀ In total, eight secondary and primary schools state they offer regularly taken up community use whilst a further one school suggests that it is available but currently unused.
- ◀ Most community use is at secondary school/college sites.
- ◀ In the majority of instances, where pitches are available and in use, access to school changing accommodation is limited or non-existent.
- ◀ A few secondary schools/colleges identify existing and future plans to improve current levels of provision. Only one primary school, Penwortham, is planning to upgrade its provision.
- ◀ Roehampton University does not currently provide sports facilities. However, it is currently in discussion with the Council with regard to leasing Roehampton Playing Fields.

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

2.9 Summary

In summary, the following are seen as the key overarching issues in Wandsworth to tackle in the Strategy:

- ◀ The need to increase girls' football participation through establishing a local league.
- ◀ A significant amount of latent and anticipated future demand for access to football pitches.
- ◀ The need to improve the quality of football pitches to increase capacity rather than providing new provision to satisfy current demand (overplay).
- ◀ The implications of 9v9 football on current and future provision.
- ◀ The need to provide more AGPs to service football and rugby.
- ◀ An insufficient number of cricket pitches, of the correct, standard to accommodate both current (including latent demand) and future demand.
- ◀ The need to provide more specific rugby training areas to reduce levels of overplay expressed due teams training on match pitches linked with increased/improved AGP provision of rugby compliant surfaces. Also supported through Surrey RFU stated aims of AGP provision.
- ◀ Increasing access to AGPs suitable to play hockey, including increasing the quality of Newton Preparatory School and new provision at Roehampton Playing Fields.
- ◀ The need for further floodlighting and improvement of tennis court quality in order to increase capacity.
- ◀ Where pitches exist at education sites, ensuring maximised use and access to changing accommodation with in any use agreements.
- ◀ It is predicted that there will be an increase in the birth rate in Wandsworth which is likely to see an increase in the need for additional primary school provision. It is therefore important to protect greenspace on schools from further development.

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 3: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

3.1: Introduction

The following section provides a framework for the Council and its partners to maintain and improve the playing pitch facilities and to help address the key issues emerging from the Assessment.

The Strategy will also help to meet the three strategic objectives and overall vision of the Active Wandsworth Strategy (vision: a place where everybody can enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle) which would also be in line with National Planning Policy Framework Core Planning Principle 12.

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

3.2: Strategic objectives

The proposed vision is based upon a clear, achievable framework of strategic objectives (not in any priority and summarised in the text boxes below) which should be adopted as policy). These are supported by a range of management objectives. The management objectives need to be implemented to enable the policy objectives to be delivered. It is recommended that the Council adopts the following strategic objectives (as policy) to enable it to achieve the vision of the Strategy:

OBJECTIVE 1

Address overplay and spare capacity to meet existing unmet demand and plan for new provision (as and where required)

OBJECTIVE 2

Address qualitative deficiencies and enhance existing provision to continue to support high levels of participation.

OBJECTIVE 3

To maximise access to all outdoor facilities (including DDA compliances, marketing and accessibility)

OBJECTIVE 4

To support the development of local leagues and clubs to meet their needs within Wandsworth

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 4: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The management objectives need to be implemented to enable the policy objectives to be delivered. It is recommended that the Council adopts the following management objectives across a range of departments to enable it to achieve the vision of the Strategy (note: not in any priority order):

OBJECTIVE 1

Address overplay and spare capacity to meet existing unmet demand and plan for new provision (as and where required)

- a. Regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality.
- b. Address under/over play through quality improvements and/or transferring play.
- c. Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both latent and potential future demand.
- d. Prioritise new capital development projects from the action plan according to a range of core criteria (such as strategic need, sports development objectives, sustainability of provision and work with target groups).
- e. Work with facility providers to establish an approach to co-ordinate investment.

Management objective (a) - Regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality.

It is important that the steering group maintains the data contained with the accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. Overall responsibility for this should sit with Active Wandsworth.

The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental working, including for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results are used to inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

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Management objective (b) - Address under/over play through quality improvements and/or transferring play

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies (overplay) and meet identified shortfalls (expressed as actual spare capacity) as outlined in the Assessment Report. It is important that the current levels of pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future.

In Wandsworth, the majority of sites are either played to capacity or overplayed; very little actual spare capacity for grass playing pitches is expressed. Therefore, latent and future demand generally can't be accommodated on the current level of provision.

Poor quality is also a significant factor in pitches being overplayed in Wandsworth. The ability for pitches to accommodate more matches in Wandsworth is affected by public and informal use of pitches.

In general, where sites are overplayed there are two possible actions which are attributed:

- ◀ Improving pitch quality
- ◀ Transferring play to sites with spare capacity

Similar, where sites are underplayed there are two possible actions which are attributed:

- ◀ Improving pitch quality
- ◀ Transferring play from sites which are overplayed

Transferring play should also be tempered with the need for clubs to be sustainable. Increasing the dispersion of activities of a club may have a negative impact on revenue generating/secondary spend activities at a central venue. Thus relative ability of club to be self-sustaining is potentially compromised. This will, in the main, relate to the transfer of football teams using local authority owned sites.

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitch stock, it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity (as recommended by each NGB). This is determined by assessing pitch quality and allocating a weekly match limit to each.

Poor quality is also a significant factor in pitches being overplayed in Wandsworth. The ability for pitches to accommodate more matches in Wandsworth is affected by public and informal use of pitches. Although some sites with spare capacity could accommodate some play from overused sites, there is a particular need for access to more, better quality in Balham.

Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this, for example, overplay at seven sites in the Borough is attributed to 'adequate' or 'poor' pitch quality:

- ◀ King Georges Park (overplayed by 3.5 matches per week)
- ◀ Battersea Park (overplayed by 3.5 matches per week)
- ◀ Falcon Park (overplayed by 0.5 matches per week)

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Improving pitch quality should not be considered in isolation from maintenance regimes.

Projects should seek to improve pitch/surface quality as a priority on sites based on usage, users and site facilities. Whilst it works both ways in so much as poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being played overcapacity, potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular.

Furthermore, of particular concern is overplay at Tooting Common; junior football pitches (21 matches per week), mini pitches (14 matches per week) and senior pitches (12 matches per week), Clapham Common (9.5 matches per week), Wandsworth Park (6.5 matches per week) and Wandsworth Common (senior football pitches seven matches per week). These sites are overplayed due to the large number of fixtures being played on the same day of the week. Play on these sites should be directed to sites which either have spare capacity or no community use.

Management objective (c) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both latent and potential future demand

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

There are a number of development opportunities which are likely to arise in Wandsworth which should seek to add to the existing pitch stock, including for example, Springfield Hospital and Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea Opportunity Area. It is imperative that the PPS is used as a guide to help determine the type and number of pitches that could be provided.

Increasing partnerships with education establishments, including independent schools, academies and free schools in the future should seek to increase the availability of outdoor sports facilities for community use of school sites (see Management Objective J).

Furthermore any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy may offer potential for meeting community needs on a localised basis. Where schools are closed their playing fields may be converted to dedicated community use to help address any unmet community needs.

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

Latent demand is expressed for senior (11v11), junior (9v9) and mini (5v5 and 7v7) football, senior rugby union as well as cricket pitches across Wandsworth.

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The Assessment Report highlights that at peak time, most football sites expressing potential capacity are actually unavailable and should, therefore not be counted as surplus provision. Spare capacity in Putney is expressed across three sites; Bank of England Sports Centre, Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields and Roehampton Playing Fields and in Tooting on one site; Fishponds Playing Fields.

Although spare capacity is often a result of a lack of demand for grass pitches, the sites in Putney (none of which are managed by the Council) are likely to retain spare capacity as a matter of practise to allow pitches to rest and rotate.

Given that there is not sufficient spare capacity expressed across Wandsworth, it is clear that not all latent and future demand for pitches can be met by current provision.

Table 4.1: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	<p>The needs of the game will change significantly from the 2013/14 season with the implementation of the FA Youth Development Review. As a result, pitch demands in the Borough will change. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).</p>	<p>Consider re-allocating leases to Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams.</p> <p>Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities.</p> <p>Work with clubs in relation to their pitch demands as a result of the FA Youth Development Review.</p>
	<p>Demand for senior football is also likely to be sustained by the high levels of junior participation onward flow of players and supported by the FA's National Strategy. FA targets for growth are 20,500 new teams by 2012.²</p> <p>The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of senior men for which there will be an anticipated further 210.3 teams by 2026.</p> <p>Get into Football is the FA's commitment to significantly increasing the number of adults playing the National Game. Recognising that male participation is already high in Wandsworth, emphasis is placed on increasing adult youth and female participation (14-25 year olds). This work involves supporting clubs and leagues, working with schools, colleges and universities, and devising flexible formats of football.</p>	<p>In order to ensure the Borough is ready to accommodate new FA pitch sizes and dimensions the Council should seek to work towards introducing 9v9 pitches by 2013/2014 (based on the number of junior football teams in season 11/12) to ensure it can accommodate this new format of football. However, this does not take into account latent demand and increases in football participation. This could be achieved by either re-marking senior pitches as 9v9 pitches or additional 9v9 line markings (therefore providing dual use senior and 9v9 pitches) to accommodate this new format of football. Any new pitch development should take into consideration the 9v9 pitch requirements.</p>

² Football Association National Game Strategy 2008 – 2012.

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Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Cricket	Clubs have strong and active senior and junior sections which access a range of club facilities.	A number of clubs with large junior sections are likely to require access to additional pitches and to be supported to make improvements to ancillary facilities.
	Together with disability cricket, women's and girls' cricket is a national priority for ECB. There is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years. Furthermore, Surrey Cricket Board has a development officer with the responsibility to help increase the profile of women and girls' and disability cricket across the County.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
	The ECB has developed more informal types of cricket (aimed at encouraging young people aged 16-25 into the sport) such as Last Man Stands (LMS). 24 teams currently play LMS across three sites; Wandsworth Common, Wandsworth Park and Battersea Park.	It is likely the League will field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches.
Rugby union	The Rugby World Cup (2015) is predicted to see a further increase in the demand for rugby provision in the Borough.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate.
Hockey	Likely that hockey participation will increase across the Borough through the range of key programmes being delivered in the Borough.	Work with clubs to ensure continued access to hockey provision.
AGPs	Demand for AGPs for football continues to increase. Provision of 3G pitches (IRB compliant) will help to reduce overplay of football and rugby pitches.	Continue to work with schools and clubs to identify partnerships and opportunities.

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Management objective (d) – Prioritise new capital development projects from the action plan according to a range of core criteria (such as strategic need, sports development objectives, sustainability of provision and work with target groups)

It is important that this strategy informs policies and emerging supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development. The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate outdoor playing fields and sports grounds/courts and its subsequent maintenance towards the first ten years. A number of management objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ To continue to ensure that where playing field and sports ground/courts are lost, through alternative development or closure, that the type of sports facilities of the same or improved standard are provided to meet the continued needs of residents within the Area.
- ◀ Where pitches are lost due to redevelopment of the site, compensatory re-provision or an equivalent contribution for re-investment into new pitches will be sought as appropriate in an alternative accessible location.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement or equivalent must be completed specifying the amount which will be linked to Sport England’s Building Cost Information Service from the date of the Planning Committee, and timing of the Contribution(s) to be paid.
- ◀ Some contributions may need to be ring fenced for use according to the particular terms of the Planning Obligation, where there is opportunity to improve the appropriate sporting facility within the local vicinity. However, for some sports such as for example cricket and rugby a “central pot” for developer contributions across the local authority area may be necessary for the particular sport.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance .
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.

Management objective (e) - Work with facility providers to establish an approach to co-ordinate investment

Some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Council therefore seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by schools, colleges, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision. In delivering this objective the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through existing networks.

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OBJECTIVE 2

Address qualitative deficiencies and enhance existing provision to continue to support high levels of participation.

- f. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of facilities which allows for facility development so the programmed within a phased approach including ancillary facilities such as changing and accommodation and car parking.
- g. Adopt a Borough wide quality standard.
- h. Invest in key strategic multi-pitch/sport sites.
- i. Prepare funding packages as appropriate to secure improvements to key strategic sites.

Management objective (f) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of facilities which allows for facility development so the programmed within a phased approach including ancillary facilities such as changing and accommodation and car parking.

Wandsworth has a small number of 'key centres', which are sites which are considered to be the most popular and therefore need to be of a high standard in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week. This applies mainly to football pitch hire. However, the Council should extend this provision model to recognise the supply and demand issues identified throughout the Assessment Report (i.e. current levels of overplay) and the investment necessary to improve sites based on current levels of usage. The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition to this, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both senior and junior matches, sometimes concurrently. Not only could such sites require a mixture of mini, junior and senior pitches, but they also require split-level ancillary facilities, in order to maximise their usage at all times.

In the context of developing a tiered model approach to the management of sports facilities, Wandsworth has a large number of multi-team junior clubs which place a great demand on the pitch stock. Therefore, there are a number of sites which are still owned and maintained by the local authority, but are actually booked by the clubs for the entire season. The sites are then recognised as the 'home ground' of the club. Such sites are fundamentally different from those which can be hired on a regular basis because they are, in effect, 'allocated' to a certain club and management responsibility, in terms of allocating teams to pitches, is transferred to the individual club.

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Table 4.2: Proposed tiered site criteria

Strategic Sites	Key Centres	Club/Education Sites	Strategic Reserve Sites
Strategically placed in the Borough.	Strategically placed in the local authority context.	Strategically placed in the local context.	Strategically placed in the local context.
Accommodates five or more pitches.	Accommodates three or more pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.	Likely to be single-pitch site with limited demand.
Pitches should be of a good quality and have a maximum of three games per week.	Pitches should be of a good quality and have a maximum of three games per week.	Pitches should be of a good or standard quality.	-
Single or multi sport provision.	Single or multi sport provision.	Single or multi sport provision.	Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.
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 or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Club either has long-term lease/hires the pitch for the entire season or owns the site. Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains with the Council or existing management body.
Special maintenance in conjunction with NGBs.	Special maintenance in conjunction with NGBs.	Maintenance can be either by the club or remain with the local authority.	Maintenance should remain with the local authority or existing management body.
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.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	Appropriate access changing to accommodate as required.

Good quality refers to facilities that have, for example, good grass cover, meet the NGB minimum size, are free from vandalism, litter etc, and are supported by good quality ancillary facilities including changing accommodation, toilets and car parking. While standard quality refers to facilities that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and reasonable changing accommodation. Please refer to the respective non technical quality assessments.

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Strategic Sites such as Wandsworth Common, King George's Park and Tooting Common already seeks to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for both senior and junior (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for junior football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for junior football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both junior and mini-football matches could be played on these sites and would be an appropriate site to accommodate 9v9 pitches. Initial investment could be required in the short term and has been identified in the Action Plan.

In order to help combat overuse of overplay/unofficial use on common land sites, a maximum of three games per week (as per FA recommendation), together with rotation of pitches where available, should be assigned to these sites. Where teams are displaced as a result in the reduction of play, alternative provision (of same or better quality) must be made in consultation with the clubs impacted.

There should be increased engagement with key stakeholders to look at a more innovative and long term solution to informal and unofficial use on strategic sites. In the long term options for an improved maintenance plan to sustain/improve pitch quality should be explored.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both Strategic 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. They should be designated as medium priority for investment.

Key Centres such as Fishponds Playing Fields, Clapham Common and Battersea Park Millennium Arena Bluebell already seek to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for both senior and junior (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for junior football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for junior football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both junior and mini-football matches could be played on these sites and would be an appropriate site to accommodate 9v9 pitches. Initial investment could be required in the short term and has been identified in the Action Plan.

In order to help combat overuse of overplay/unofficial use on common land sites, a maximum of three games per week (as per FA recommendation), together with rotation of pitches where available, should be assigned to these sites. Where teams are displaced as a result in the reduction of play, alternative provision (of same or better quality) must be made in consultation with the clubs impacted.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both Strategic 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. They should be designated as medium priority for investment.

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Club/Education Sites such as Spencer Cricket Club and Battersea Ironsides RFC refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis and are primarily two pitch sites. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment is relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site, in order that external funding can be sought. It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the pitches or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the facilities.

Strategic Reserve Sites which could be used for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They could be single-pitch sites with limited usage, or have no recognised current usage.

Management objective (g) – Adopt a Borough wide quality standard

In order to further improve quality, the Council should adopt a quality standard for outdoor sports facilities, to be achieved by 2026:

‘All outdoor sports facilities should be of a standard of play to meet the needs of the users’

Quality should link to the tiered hierarchy of provision, whereby sites of greater strategic importance are those sites of the highest quality to reflect the levels of play accommodated at these sites.

Priority should also, in the short term (given limited resources), be directed to poor quality sites that are overplayed. This standard, based on an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, should be used to identify deficiencies and hence investment should be prioritised to those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard. The policy approach to these outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

Management objective (h) – Invest in key strategic multi-pitch/sport sites

Consultation highlighted a number of important key sites in Wandsworth. These pitch sites are considered to be the most popular. They need to be high quality in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week – ideally to servicing a range of sports.

The creation of key strategic or hub sites is based on strategic importance in a Borough-wide context (i.e. or where they accommodate the majority of play). We therefore recommend that the following sites be developed as such:

- ◀ Wandsworth Common
- ◀ King George’s Park
- ◀ Tooting Common

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

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

Due to local authority budget constraints, it is clear that, across the life of this strategy, not all of those sites currently without changing facilities can be upgraded to have suitable changing facilities. Furthermore in some locations the provision of changing accommodation is not economic or efficient. It is therefore important to prioritise those sites which are being developed as hub sites.

Management objective (i) – Prepare funding packages as appropriate to secure improvements to key strategic sites

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

There may be opportunities within the Borough, to secure planning contributions (both proposed and outstanding Section 106 Agreements) to ensure that future provision is sustainable.

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

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OBJECTIVE 3

To maximise access to all outdoor facilities (including DDA compliances, marketing and accessibility)

- j. Establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools to maximise community use of educational facilities.
- k. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through lease arrangements.
- l. Create centralised booking services for playing pitches and sports grounds to ensure easy access on pitch availability for local teams, and to aid general promotion of sport and one-stop marketing of provision.
- m. Create a booking and pricing policy which supports the development of local leagues and clubs.

Management objective (j) – Establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools to maximise community use of educational facilities.

Colleges, secondary schools, and indeed primary schools where the facilities exist, have an important role in a playing pitch strategy. It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to outdoor sports facilities to the community is limited. The Assessment Report identified several issues relating to the use of school facilities:

- ◀ Community use is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs.
- ◀ There is no strategic guidance as to which clubs are allocated the use of playing pitch facilities (i.e. in accordance with a strategic need).
- ◀ There are no identified standard community use agreements between clubs and schools for outdoor pitches.
- ◀ There are management issues inherent in developing, implementing and managing community use agreements. Advice and guidance can be obtained from Sport England's Planning Bulletin 16 – School Sites and Community Provision (2004). (www.sportengland.org/planningkitbag).

Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use. This need to be examined against these issues:

- ◀ The analysis provides a clear indication of the future pitch requirements and provides a basis for partners to negotiate.
- ◀ Community use should not impact on the needs of schools to deliver curricular and extracurricular activities

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

It is recommended that a working group, led by a partner from the education sector but supported by a range of other sectors including sport and leisure is established to implement the strategic direction in relation to the increased use of school facilities.

Broadly speaking, its role should be to:

- ◀ To better understand current community use, practices and issues by 'auditing' schools.
- ◀ Identify and pilot one school/club formal community use agreement with a view to rolling out the model across the area.
- ◀ Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
- ◀ As part of any agreement secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not rely on existing school staff structures.
- ◀ Ensure that pitch provision at schools is sufficient in quality and quantity to be able to deliver its curriculum. Once this has been achieved provision could contribute to overcoming deficiencies in the area (as identified in the assessment above).

Management objective (k) - Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality development minded clubs through lease arrangements

As well as improving the quality of well-used, local authority sites, there are a number of sites which have poor quality (or no) ancillary facilities. These have not been included in the list identified in the area by area specific actions plans as they are used by a single club on a season-by-season basis. Such sites are therefore considered the 'home ground' of the club, despite not always having a long-term lease. It is recommended that security of tenure should be granted to the clubs playing on these sites (minimum 10 years) so the clubs are in a position to apply for external funding to improve the ancillary facilities.

There is potential for a number of sites in Wandsworth to be leased to sports clubs and/or organisations. Each club will be required to meet service and/or strategic objectives set out by the Council. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered, which take into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability.

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 in order that they may be able to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds to allow this.

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.2: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as Club Sites for new clubs (i.e. not those with a Borough-wide significance) but which offer development potential. For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management Borough Sites and Key Centres are appropriate.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should require 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> <p>An NGB/Council representative should sit on a management committee for each site leased to a club.</p>

Councils can further recognise the value of Clubmark/Charter Standard by adopting a policy of prioritising (and/or subsidising via preferential rates/lease) the clubs that are to have access to these better quality facilities. This may be achieved by inviting clubs to apply for season long leases on a particular site as an initial trial.

Club outcomes for lease agreements

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

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

Management objective (l) – Create a centralised booking service to provide a user friendly booking system helping the clubs/public to access and use playing pitches

A centralised management system should be implemented which assumes overall management of pitch bookings through a one stop booking service for users. This should include secondary school sites and should be centrally managed. Adequate promotion and marketing attached to this will ensure that users are aware of the availability, location and cost of provision.

Management objective (m) - Create a booking and pricing policy which supports the development of local leagues and clubs.

A booking and pricing policy should be developed to support and prioritise access for local clubs and leagues accessing sports facilities in Wandsworth.

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

OBJECTIVE 4

Support the development of local leagues and clubs to meet their needs within Wandsworth

- n. Support high levels of participation at clubs which contribute to the achievement of sports development objectives.
- o. Work with local clubs which have achieved quality accreditation to, where relevant, identify and secure facility improvements, appropriate sites for new facility development and funding opportunities.
- p. Support local clubs to demonstrate sustainability.
- q. Adopt a Community Asset Transfer Policy.

Management objective (n) – Support high levels participation at clubs which contribute to the achievement of sports development objectives

It is important that sports development objectives, to some extent, dictate and are embedded within the outcomes of the Strategy. To this end, the following objectives are suggested for use to monitor and evaluate the future sustainability, and relative success, of facility projects which are identified and supported:

- ◀ Increasing participation
- ◀ Raising standards
- ◀ Workforce development
- ◀ Improving facilities

Management objective (o) - Work with local clubs which have achieved quality accreditation to, where relevant, identify and secure facility improvements, appropriate sites for new facility development and funding opportunities

The Council should adopt a policy/charter which supports quality accredited clubs (<http://www.clubmark.org.uk/files/images/clubmark-charter-large.gif>). The Clubmark/FA Charter Standard and the local Club Registration Scheme help clubs to achieve their own aims and ambitions and to support the complementary objectives and targets of partners in local authorities, schools/school sport partnerships and other community agencies.

Support to accredited clubs may include offering discounted facility hire and priority bookings slots as well as assembling bespoke benefits packages incorporating free or reduced cost access to courses. The adoption of a charter as policy also benefits partners:

- ◀ **Grow:** Research suggests that Clubmark clubs are better equipped to drive and manage increased levels of participation; particularly, but not solely, for young people.
- ◀ **Meeting targets:** Having Clubmark clubs to work with will assist local authorities to achieve targets for youth participation and school-club links.

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ **Parental confidence:** Being seen to actively address issues such as equity and child protection gives parents confidence when considering or choosing a club for their children - thus helping to boost introductory participation.
- ◀ **Sustaining participation levels:** Clubmark stimulates innovation and improvements to how clubs cater for junior (and all) members. The culture it promotes boosts the morale of players and ensures that volunteers are recognised for their contribution.
- ◀ **Continuous improvement:** Accreditation encourages clubs to adopt better, more organised systems and structures, helping them to run more effectively and efficiently.
- ◀ **Coaches and coaching:** Research suggests Clubmark clubs both deploy more, and work harder to develop the skills of, coaches. This leads to better quality provision and improved player performance.
- ◀ **School-club links:** Increasingly, schools are seeking guarantees of quality and the presence of child-friendly systems and procedures. Clubmark clubs are the first invited to work with local school sport partnerships and individual schools. Teachers and schools staff are actively encouraged to signpost pupils to them.

Management objective (p) – Support local clubs to demonstrate sustainability

Local sports clubs should be supported to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example, the Council should continue to support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an income through their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)³. Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally whether volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

Management objective (q) – Adopt a Community Asset Transfer Policy

The Council should adopt a policy, which supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and national governing bodies with opportunities to take ownership of their own facilities; it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building.

³ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

4.1: Sport specific objectives

Sports development objectives should also guide delivery of sports specific objectives and should be read within the context of the summary findings identified by the Assessment Report.

FOOTBALL OBJECTIVE

Maintain current participation levels and meet identified deficiencies in junior, mini and girls football provision and ensure there is a range of facilities across the Borough to service all categories of the game.

- ◀ Work with all stakeholders to reduce the impact on informal and unofficial play protecting formal grass pitch provision on key strategic sites and ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity.
- ◀ In partnership with London FA, seek to establish, in a phased approach, a strategic spread of 3G pitches which can support mid week adult and junior leagues, back to back modified games on sat and sun along with increased training slots. This approach will improve quality and sustainability, and, as a result, is likely to reduce demand for junior grass pitches in the future.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop lease arrangements (and or asset transfers) with large, sustainable, development-minded (i.e. Charter Standard Community Clubs) clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development (as detailed in the management objectives).
- ◀ Creation of a central venue sites with access to suitable pitches and facilities to support and grow junior and women's and girls' football.
- ◀ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate dual gender changing (in line with FA standards)
- ◀ Reconfigure existing pitch provision where necessary in line with FA Youth Development Review proposal with access to suitable pitches and facilities to support and grow the game.
- ◀ Meet likely future deficiencies in the modified game (5v5, 7v7 and 9v9) by marking out more pitches where land is available on existing sites and 3G pitches.
- ◀ Encourage greater use of school sites in particular to cater for the modified game demands (5v5, 7v7 and 9v9).

CRICKET OBJECTIVE

Maintain current provision levels and quality but work to increase access to single team club pitches for those clubs expressing demand.

- ◀ Establish long term maintenance of sites and its impact on pitches
- ◀ Activity and quality of provision are appropriate to respective facilities.
- ◀ Ensure clubs are sustainable.
- ◀ Support clubs to develop their ancillary facilities to further meet local needs.
- ◀ Ensure that any facilities developed support opportunities for senior women's and junior girl's competitive cricket.
- ◀ Encourage and support development of junior girls' and women's cricket.
- ◀ Support the development of Last Man Stands (LMS).
- ◀ Investment should be primarily be targeted and directed to ECB focus clubs which support high levels of participation and have also the ECB Clubmark criteria.

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

RUGBY UNION OBJECTIVE

Work towards meeting identified current and future deficiencies and increase quality as required.

- ◀ Ensure there is sustainable access to pitches in the Borough to satisfy current, future and latent demand.
- ◀ Encourage and support further development of school rugby union.
- ◀ Ensure clubs have access to, where required, designated grass floodlit training facilities (on club sites) to alleviate pressure on competitive grass pitches.
- ◀ Explore demand for an IRB compliant artificial grass pitch in Wandsworth to accommodate training and playing demand. This will help to reduce levels of overplay on existing grass pitches and allow pitches to rest when not in use.
- ◀ Ensure involvement of the RFU in discussions with schools looking at enhancing AGP provision to ensure the Sport England 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' guidance is utilised to most effect.

HOCKEY OBJECTIVE

Maintain current provision levels and quality.

- ◀ Work with England Hockey (EH) to support its development programmes aimed at increasing participation.
- ◀ Maximise the availability of AGPs in Wandsworth to accommodate both hockey training and competitive play.
- ◀ Work to ensure that plans are in place to maintain AGP quality in the long term.
- ◀ Work to make quality improvements to AGPs to address current issues.
- ◀ Meet deficiencies (displaced and future demand) in AGP provision by investigating additional AGP provision (Roehampton Playing Fields).

TENNIS OBJECTIVE

Address quality issues with current facilities.

- ◀ Work with all Clubmark accredited clubs not already at capacity to grow membership as part of their long-term business strategy.
- ◀ Where demand exists, support tennis clubs to improve court quality and/or install floodlighting (in order to increase the capacity) of existing tennis court provision.
- ◀ Continue to support and encourage junior development at key tennis sites in order to increase participation levels in the sport.

NETBALL OBJECTIVE

Maintain current provision levels and quality.

- ◀ Improve the quality of netball provision in the Borough.
- ◀ Ensure there are sites that offer 'all year round' play.

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

BOWLS OBJECTIVE

To support and encourage junior bowls development in order to grow and sustain future participation levels in the sport.

- ◀ Support clubs to improve green quality.
- ◀ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing.
- ◀ Ensure bowling greens and pavilions are safe, secure facilities.
- ◀ Encourage clubs to increase membership levels.
- ◀ Support and encourage clubs to provide pay and play opportunities.
- ◀ Develop maintenance arrangements with clubs on all Council bowling greens.
- ◀ Seek to establish leases with larger, sustainable, development-minded clubs to fully manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development.
- ◀ Further investigate the sustainability of providing bowling hubs on artificial grass pitches.

EDUCATION OBJECTIVE

Work with schools to encourage greater community use, particularly for junior sports at appropriate sites.

- ◀ Secure existing community use through implementation of formal community use agreements where they are not currently in existence in order to provide sustainable community access.
- ◀ Ensure appropriate access to changing provision on school sites to support community use of their playing fields.
- ◀ Work with schools where there is no community use to open up sites (pitches and changing facilities) to help address the deficiencies identified in football, rugby and cricket.

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 5: ACTION PLAN

5.1: Introduction

The Action Plan seeks to address the surpluses and deficiencies identified in the Playing Pitch Model together with key issues emerging from the Assessment Report. This should be used to prioritise investment and spend developer contributions (where secured).

The Action Plan does not identify all quality improvements required. It is recommended that the Council and partners should seek to prioritise working through the relevant actions and recommendations (identified in the action plan below). Specific details on how this is best achieved can be found in the accompanying assessment database. Prioritisation of improvements should be led through the annual maintenance planning programme.

5.2: Justification of sites within the action plan

The Action Plan details policy options relating to individual sites and the need to enhance and develop new sporting provision. The following criteria have been used to identify priorities and justify the inclusion of sites within the Action Plan. Just one of the following may apply:

- ◀ A project is currently underway to enhance the existing site and/or funding has been secured.
- ◀ An evaluation of site use is required as it is of poor quality and is reportedly underused.
- ◀ The desired action is small scale, short term and will enhance the quality of current provision, whilst aiding community use.
- ◀ The importance of the site is identified in other strategies.

5.3: Management and development

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

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

The following tables set out a series of recommended actions relating to sport and site specific issues within Wandsworth.

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Area by area specific action plan

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. It is not feasible to include all sites with identified development issues. Only sites, which meet the criteria listed above, have, therefore, been included.

In terms of prioritisation it is reasonable to split the actions up into different time periods as follows:

- ◀ (S) Short term (within a year)
- ◀ (M) Medium term (1 to 3 years)
- ◀ (L) Long term (3 to 5 years)

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Putney

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Bank of England Sports Club	6	Private Club	Private multi sports club. Senior football pitches have spare capacity during the peak period (Saturday PM).	Retain spare capacity as strategic reserve to ensure quality of pitches is sustained.	Club site	S
			Cricket pitch is played to capacity at times.	Ensure there is no additional play on the cricket pitch as this will impact on the overall pitch quality. Future growth will require access to an additional pitch.		S
			It is likely that the AGP will need to be replaced in the next two years.	Work with the Club to explore external funding opportunities to replace the AGP.		S
Richardson Evans Memorial Ground	11	Wimbledon and Putney Commons	Site has spare capacity at peak time to accommodate additional football play (there are 10 senior football pitches not in use at peak time; Saturday PM). Furthermore, the rugby pitches have spare capacity for additional matches each week outside of peak times (i.e. Saturday PM).	In partnership with Wimbledon and Putney Commons explore options to accommodate additional football and rugby play from sites that are currently overplayed i.e. King Georges Park.	Strategic site	S
Ibstock Place	56	Education	No community use of its two senior football pitches, sand dressed AGP (half sixe) and one netball court.	Work with the School to look at options for opening up the facilities for community use. This will help to address levels of latent demand/overplay of football pitches in the Area.	Club site	S

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Wandsworth Park	17	Wandsworth Council	Site is overused due to the significant amount of informal and unofficial use. However, there are 2.5 pitches available for community use during peak period (Saturday PM).	Ensure maximum of 3 games per week max (as per FA recommendation) together with rotation of pitches. Any displaced teams should be provided alternative provision (of same or better quality).	Key Centre	S-M
			Reduced capacity rating of the cricket pitch due to poor quality pitches and unofficial use. Areas of outfield are reportedly uncut in places.	Retain recreational/junior cricket and LMS play at this site. Consider relocation of current artificial wicket. Remove grass provision and replace with additional artificial wicket. Explore options for an improved maintenance plan to improve outfield quality.	Key Centre	S M L
Saint Cecilia's School	43	Education	Site comprises two generic playground areas. The School aspires to develop a floodlit AGP (60 x 35) on its upper playground site. However, planning permission and external funding will be needed for this development.	Encourage the School to develop a link with a local club and explore external funding opportunities for its facility developments. Demand exists in the Area for an IRB surface (Rosslyn Park RFC). Support the School with planning guidance through its facility developments.	Education site	M

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Roehampton Playing Fields	23	Wandsworth Council	<p>Roehampton University is currently in discussion with the Council with regard to leasing the site. It is in need of enhancement but provides tennis courts, football and cricket pitches. The University would be keen to install an artificial grass pitch (AGP) at the site in partnership with Putney High School Girls School Day Trust (a large independent girls' school) which would use the pitch to deliver its lacrosse activities.</p> <p>Users report demand for better quality changing and shower facilities.</p> <p>Poor quality cricket pitch has resulted in the pitch not being used.</p>	<p>Ensure that current levels of community use are retained and ensure sufficient levels of community use are agreed for access to the AGP for hockey.</p> <p>Ensure that the quality of changing facilities is improved to meet the needs of users.</p> <p>Reinstate and improve cricket provision and ensure increased community use to meet demand identified in the Area.</p>	Strategic site	M
Roehampton Cricket Club	12	Wimbledon and Putney Commons	<p>The Club is seeking to install cricket nets.</p> <p>The site is not adequately serviced by changing accommodation (site provides only two changing rooms with no heating or hot water).</p> <p>It reports if its junior playing membership continues to increase it would require access to additional cricket pitch provision.</p>	<p>Support the Club with planning guidance for its facility developments, particularly given the site is located on common land.</p> <p>Ensure the Club has appropriate access to changing provision.</p> <p>If required, access to additional cricket pitch provision could be gained at Roehampton Playing Fields (see above).</p>	Club site	S M

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Putney CC, Putney Lower Common	10	Wimbledon and Putney Commons	Reduced capacity rating of the cricket pitch due to poor quality pitch/unofficial use. Club reports damage to the surface from social football/rugby played during the Winter.	Seek to increase protection of the square during the Winter. Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS) required to assess the quality of the square to identify improvements needed.	Club site	M
Rosslyn Park RFC	13	Rosslyn Park RFC (owned by Roehampton Sports Club)	The rugby pitch is overplayed due to accommodating training. Club identifies need for access to floodlit training facilities.	Explore options for provision of an IRB compliant AGP in Wandsworth in partnership with RFU and other clubs. Consider as a replacement surface for an AGP coming to the end of its life or as a new facility option i.e. Saint Cecilia's School (60m x 35m would only be appropriate for training).	Club Site	S

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Wandsworth

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Wandsworth Common	29	Wandsworth Borough Council	Football pitches are overused due to poor quality pitches coupled with significant informal and unofficial use.	Ensure maximum of 3 games per week max (as per FA recommendation) together with rotation of pitches. Any displaced teams should be provided alternative provision (of same or better quality). Seek options to improve the drainage and quality of the pitches in order to sustain play in the long term.	Strategic site	S-M
			Reduced capacity rating of the cricket pitch due to quality/unofficial use. Location of artificial wicket is considered impractical.	Work the ECB to look at the re-location of the artificial grass wicket elsewhere within the site (meeting ECB requirements).		M
King George's Park	27	Wandsworth Borough Council	Football pitches are overused primarily due to poor quality pitches but also some informal and unofficial use.	Ensure maximum of 3 games per week max (as per FA recommendation) together with rotation of pitches. Any displaced teams should be provided alternative provision (of same or better quality). Seek options to improve the drainage and quality of the pitches in order to sustain play in the long term.	Key Centre	S-M
			Poor quality cricket pitch which has resulted in it being used.	Retain artificial wicket provision for casual use only and maintain as appropriate for such use. If demand exists in the future, for say LMS, seek options to improve quality and reinstate for competitive use.		S

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Emmanuel School	40	Independent School	Large good quality site containing a wide variety of outdoor sports pitches. At present there is no community use. The School will lose access to one senior rugby pitch to accommodate building works.	Ensure the rugby pitch is reinstated following completion of building works. Where demand exists, work with the School to look at options for opening up the facilities for community use.	Local	S
Ashcroft Technology Academy	42	School	Whilst there is community use of the extensive sports facilities, the sport specific changing accommodation is not available for community use (which is rated as good quality).	Work with the School to look at options for opening up the facilities for users of the sports facilities.	Local	S
			Cricket pitch quality could be improved.	Work in partnership with users to apply for funding to improve provision, including provision of an artificial wicket in replace of the grass square.		M
Southfields College	36	Education	The College is constructing two multi use games area (to be completed in 2013/14).	Work with the School to ensure there is community use of the MUGA.	Education site	M

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Trinity Fields	41	Trinity Fields Trust	<p>Community access is limited due to the necessity to cater for private school provision to generate site revenues.</p> <p>There is potential development at the site, subject to planning permission, which will create a 3G floodlit AGP (for which there is demand), plus a new pavilion and changing facilities. This may have an impact on cricket provision which would result in the loss of the lower cricket pitch (there are currently two cricket pitches on the site). The lower pitch is of a poorer quality and has a small boundary and as such is used less by local teams.</p>	<p>The Trust should provide a sustainable business plan which also seeks to help meet local community demand for provision. A 3G pitch on this site with a planned community programme of use will be of benefit.</p> <p>Mitigation for the loss of a cricket pitch should seek to provide additional cricket provision at a nearby site i.e. Ashcroft Technology Academy or Wandsworth Common.</p>	Club site	M
			<p>Users report the rugby pitch is boggy and often results in cancellation of rugby matches.</p>	<p>Work with the Club, with support from the RFU to explore external funding opportunities to improve the drainage of the rugby pitches.</p>		M
Garratt Park	25	Wandsworth Council	<p>Minimum spare football capacity of 0.5 in the peak period (Saturday AM).</p>	<p>Spare capacity to be retained to sustain quality.</p>	Strategic Reserve Site	S

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Battersea Ironsides Sports Club	7	Private	Due to an increase in its junior playing membership Battersea CC reports that, as of 2013 it will not be able to accommodate all of its activities at the Sports Club.	Work with Battersea CC to explore opportunities to access additional cricket provision to accommodate its junior teams. For example, opening up community access at nearby Emmanuel School which accommodates two cricket pitches and has no community use.	Club site	S
			Rugby Club identifies need for access to floodlit training facilities.	Explore options for provision of an IRB compliant AGP in Wandsworth in partnership with RFU and other clubs.		M
Spencer Cricket Club	37	Private	The Club has a long-term aspiration to build a two storey clubhouse. It did previously have planning permission but this expired a few years ago. The Club reportedly operates to capacity and requires access to an additional pitch to accommodate juniors.	Support the Club to identify external funding opportunities and planning guidance to provide a clubhouse facility at the site. Work with Club to explore options to look to accommodate any additional junior demand to nearby sites that are currently underused i.e. Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports Field (although the quality of this pitch would need to be enhanced).	Club site	M
Garrett Green	8	Wandsworth Council	Site has no changing provision. It is overplayed by two matches each week (home ground to Battersea Ironside RFC) due to accommodating training.	Consider leasing the site to main users Battersea Ironside RFC which would result in the Club fulfilling the eligibility for external funding i.e. long tenure of the site.	Strategic Reserve Site	M
Spencer Sports Club	37	Private	Spencer Tennis Club (users of the site) has aspirations to convert two of the grass courts to hard surfaces due to the grass often being unplayable in poor weather.	In partnership with the LTA, support Spencer Tennis Club to identify funding opportunities and planning guidance to convert the surface of the courts.	Club Site	M

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Battersea

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Battersea Park	20	Wandsworth Council Sports Services	Senior football pitches are overused due to poor quality pitches coupled with significant informal and unofficial use.	Ensure maximum of 3 games per week max (as per FA recommendation) together with rotation of pitches. Any displaced teams should be provided alternative provision (of same or better quality). Seek options to improve the drainage and quality of the pitches in order to sustain play in the long term.	Key Centre	S-M
			Poor quality pitches overused. Small outfield for competitive matches.	In partnership with ECB, undertake a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS) to assess the quality of the square to identify improvements needed.		L
			Tennis courts are assessed as having a poor quality surface.	Capital investment has been secured to upgrade the tennis courts. Work with users of the site to ensure minimal disruption.		S
Falcon Park	24	Wandsworth Council	There is no changing provision at the site. Users Bedhead FC is in initial discussions with the Council to develop an AGP and changing facilities at the site.	Explore the potential for a 60 x 40m 3G pitch and asset transfer to Bedhead FC as a priority club for London FA. Support Bedhead FC to look at external funding opportunities and planning guidance to provide changing accommodation at the site.	Club site	M
Battersea Park Millennium Arena	22	Wandsworth Council	Site provides 19 tennis courts which are not floodlit.	Explore funding opportunities to provide floodlighting to the tennis courts which would enable all year round tennis play.	Key Centre	M

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Nine Elms

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Newton Preparatory School	58	Education	The sand filled AGP was built in 2002 and in need of refurbishment. It is reportedly very poor with sections coming away and patches of severe wear. It cannot be used for competitive hockey matches due to the poor quality. The School may consider resurfacing it in the future but there are no immediate plans.	Work with the School to explore external funding opportunities to replace the AGP and make it available for community use for hockey to help meet displaced demand identified.	Education site	M
Tooting Bec Tennis Club	16	Private	Tooting Bec Tennis Club has plans to increase its playing membership by 10% each year. However, it reports its courts are already at capacity.	Work with the Club to explore external funding opportunities and planning guidance to provide floodlighting to its courts.	Club site	M

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Balham

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Tooting Common	14	Wandsworth Borough Council	Football pitches are overused due to poor quality pitches coupled with significant informal and unofficial use.	Ensure maximum of 3 games per week max (as per FA recommendation) together with rotation of pitches. Any displaced teams should be provided alternative provision (of same or better quality). Seek options to improve the drainage and quality of the pitches in order to sustain play in the long term.	Strategic site	S
			The site has the potential to accommodate 9v9 pitches by reconfiguration of the senior pitches.	To address the shortfall of junior pitches the Council should work with clubs in the area to establish the need for junior pitches and consider the conversion of two senior pitches to accommodate four 9v9 junior football pitches. ⁴		M
			Only cricket pitch available (which accommodates seven grass and one artificial wicket) located in the Balham Area. However, at present there is no community use. League consultation rates pitch as poor.	In partnership with ECB, undertake a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS) to assess the quality of the square to identify improvements needed. In return, this will increase the playing capacity. Work with the ECB to explore potential opportunities for clubs outside of the analysis area to access the pitch as a second home ground i.e. teams with identified latent demand.		S

⁴ Requirement of 9v9 pitches in 2014 (estimated) in Balham equates to four 9v9 pitches

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Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Clapham Common	2	LB of Lambeth	Senior football pitches are overused due to poor quality pitches coupled with significant informal and unofficial use. Junior and mini pitches are played to capacity.	In partnership with Lambeth Council, ensure maximum of 3 games per week max (as per FA recommendation) together with rotation of pitches. Any displaced teams should be provided alternative provision (of same or better quality). Seek options to improve the drainage and quality of the pitches in order to sustain play in the long term.	Key Centre	S-M
			No changing provision at the site.	In partnership with Lambeth Council explore opportunities to increase access to changing provision.		M

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Tooting

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Graveney School (Lower school site)	124	Education	Mini football pitch is noted to have poor drainage and the changing facility is considered inadequate and in need of improvement. At present there is no community use.	Work with the Centre/College to look at opening up provision for community use. Site could potential accommodate overplay from other sites, however, remedial works and/or remarking of pitches may be required.	Education site	S
Fishponds Playing Fields	39	Wandsworth Council	No spare capacity on the senior football pitches at peak time to accommodate any additional play. No recorded play on the mini pitches.	Consider remarking mini pitches to create one senior football pitch. Pitch could then accommodate overplay from other sites.	Key Centre	S

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 6: CONCLUSIONS

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide a framework for planning decisions made across Wandsworth in the thirteen years up to 2026. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Wandsworth can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. The Strategy is intended to be flexible and regularly updated using the accompanying database tools provided.

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PART 7: MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is important that once the strategy is adopted that the plan becomes a live document so that progress against the actions can be reviewed and monitored. We recommend that there is regular monitoring (i.e. quarterly).

The Council should ensure that a process is put in place to track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan. This process should involve regular liaison with the pitch sport NGBs.

A PPS should be subject to a full review every three years. However, regular monitoring and updating of key supply and demand data could extend its life to five years and limit the resource needed to carry out a full review. Keeping the supply and demand information up to date annually will reduce the amount of work required in the long term. Demand for pitches is often subject to change and even a three year period will see changes in both the supply of and demand for provision.

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

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings. The NGBs will also be able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area. Discussion with the league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings which it may be useful to attend to pick up any specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Facilities Fund • Sportsmatch • Small Grants • Protecting Playing Fields • Inspired Facilities • Iconic Facilities http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Loans Scheme http://www.rfu.com/microsites/rff/index.cfm?fuseaction=loans.home	The Loans Scheme helps finance projects that contribute to the retention and recruitment of rugby players. Projects eligible for loans include: 1. Club House Facilities: General structural improvements, general refurbishment, storerooms and offices, kitchen facilities, training areas. 2. Grounds (other than pitches): Car parking facilities, ground access improvements, fencing, security measures.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Ground Match Scheme http://www.rfu.com/microsites/rff/index.cfm?fuseaction=groundmatch.home	The Ground Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, 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).

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Awarding body	Description
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: Young people and hockey. Young people and sport in Milton Keynes. Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level. Smaller Charities.

Protecting Playing Fields

SE has recently launched a funding programme; 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 over the next three years (2011-2014).

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

Sport England's 'Inspired Facilities' funding programme will be delivered via five funding rounds and is due to launch in Summer 2011 where clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and local authorities can apply for grants of between £25k and £150k where there is a proven local need for a facility to be modernised, extended or modified to open up new sporting opportunities.

The programmes three priorities are:

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

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also providing opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces

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Iconic Facilities Fund

The Iconic Facilities fund is part of the £135m Places People Play initiative which will deliver an Olympic and Paralympic legacy of increased sports participation by bringing the magic of a home Games into the heart of local communities. It is being delivered by Sport England in partnership with the British Olympic Association, the British Paralympic Association, with the backing of The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

It will direct capital investment into a small number of strategic facility projects that will significantly contribute to an increase in mass participation in sport across England. These facilities will be promoted as best practice and will provide a network of regional sports facilities delivering mass participation across a number of sports.

Iconic Facilities will prioritise funding to projects that provide:

- ◀ Strategic facilities in England for at least two National Governing Bodies of Sport
- ◀ Large scale capital developments resulting in facilities of regional significance for two sports or more; but also demonstrating local delivery
- ◀ Multi-sport facilities, but with a focus on sporting activities that will drive high participant numbers
- ◀ A mix of facility provision to encourage regular & sustained use by a large number of people
- ◀ Indoor and/or outdoor facilities
- ◀ An enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build
- ◀ Confidence in their ability to deliver with detailed designs and planning permission secured
- ◀ A strong project team, led ideally by a Local Authority (providing capital funding)
- ◀ A long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Operating models, which may include an emphasis on community ownership (e.g. social enterprises, trusts)

This may present opportunities to invest in its outdoor sports facilities although will require additional research to identify suitable sites.

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Funder's requirements

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

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

Indicative costs

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

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance.aspx

The costs are for the development of community sports facilities and are based on providing good quality sports facility for the 2nd Quarter 2011. 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 for 1st Quarter 2010 provided by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), prepared by Technical Team Lead of Sport England.

New work output is forecast to fall a little in 2011 as the cuts in public sector spending start to make their mark, partly mitigated by private sector output starting to recover more strongly. It is anticipated that there will be a return to sluggish growth in 2012, as public sector cuts deepen. The BCIS forecast is for tender prices to rise by 2.8% in the year to 4th quarter 2011, rising by 3.1% over the following year.