



# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN OCTOBER 2021

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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



# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFLE	Australian Football League
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
AP	Active Partnership
ARLFC	Amateur Rugby League Football Club
BAFA	British American Football Association
BC	Bowls Club
BE	Bowls England
BSUK	BaseballSoftball UK
CFA	County Football Association
EH	England Hockey
EL	England Lacrosse
ET	England Touch
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HE	Higher Education
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFA	London Football Association
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NC	Netball Club
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
SE	Sport England
TC	Tennis Club
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under
UKU	UK Ultimate
WBC	Wandsworth Borough Council
WR	World Rugby

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd was appointed by Wandsworth Borough Council to undertake an assessment and develop a strategy for all formal outdoor playing pitch facilities across the authority to assist in strategically planning for the future.

The Council is developing a new Local Plan which will provide the planning framework for Wandsworth Borough up until 2037. The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) will form a key element of the evidence base to support local policy and the Local Plan as a whole, ensuring that it is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework.

It has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidance and under the direction of a steering group led by the Council and including National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). It builds upon the preceding Assessment Report and is capable of:

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

### Monitoring and updating

It is important to ensure there is regular annual monitoring and review of the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the Council and supported by the Steering Group. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the Steering Group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS; and the information on which it is based, to be out of date. If the Strategy is used as a 'live' document, and kept up to date, the time frame can be extended to five years.

The PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time spent developing the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. Part 8 of this strategy report contains a suggested process for undertaking the update and monitoring. The Steering Group will need to agree the process prior to the adoption of this strategy.

### Covid-19

Following the production of the winter sport elements of Assessment Report (covering football, hockey and rugby union), England entered into an unprecedented state of nationwide lockdown (from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020) as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. With social distancing also required, this understandably led to all sporting activities, including all of those covered in the PPS, to cease until further notice.

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Lockdown restrictions began to ease in July/August 2020, leading to a return to play for summer sports such as cricket and rugby league albeit with truncated or repositioned seasons and new social distancing regulations. How this impacted on the production of the PPS is explained in greater detail in the relevant sports sections throughout this document. It is also detailed within the relevant sections of the preceding Assessment Report and has the full agreement of the appropriate NGBs.

It is currently unknown what the future impact of Covid-19 and subsequent and potential future lockdowns will have on participation and the quality/quantity of provision for each sport referenced in the PPS. Therefore, it is acknowledged that this should form a key part of the Stage E process, with the review of the documents ensuring that any recommendations made are still accurate based on future levels of supply and demand.

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the original PPS. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the work being signed off, Sport England and NGBs will consider it to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document and kept up to date, its lifespan can be extended to five years.

## Scope

The scope of the PPS will focus geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Provision included within the project is as follows:

Table 1.1: Summary of scope

Grass playing pitches	Artificial turf pitches	Non-pitch facilities
Football pitches	Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)	Tennis courts
Cricket pitches	Third generation artificial grass pitches (3G)	Netball courts
Rugby union pitches		Bowling greens
Rugby league pitches		
Lacrosse pitches		
Gaelic sports pitches		
Australian rules football pitches		
Touch rugby/ultimate pitches		
Softball diamonds		

Pitch sports (i.e. football, rugby union, rugby league, hockey and cricket) will be assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS. In addition, any other grass sport pitches identified during the project will also be included.

Non-pitch facilities (e.g. bowls, tennis, netball etc) were assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). This requires a different methodology to assess supply and demand to that used for pitch sports.

With regards to each sport, the PPS will specifically consider the number of pitches/facilities and will take into account the size, quality, location, accessibility and capacity of the provision as well as accompanying ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation, toilets and car parking.

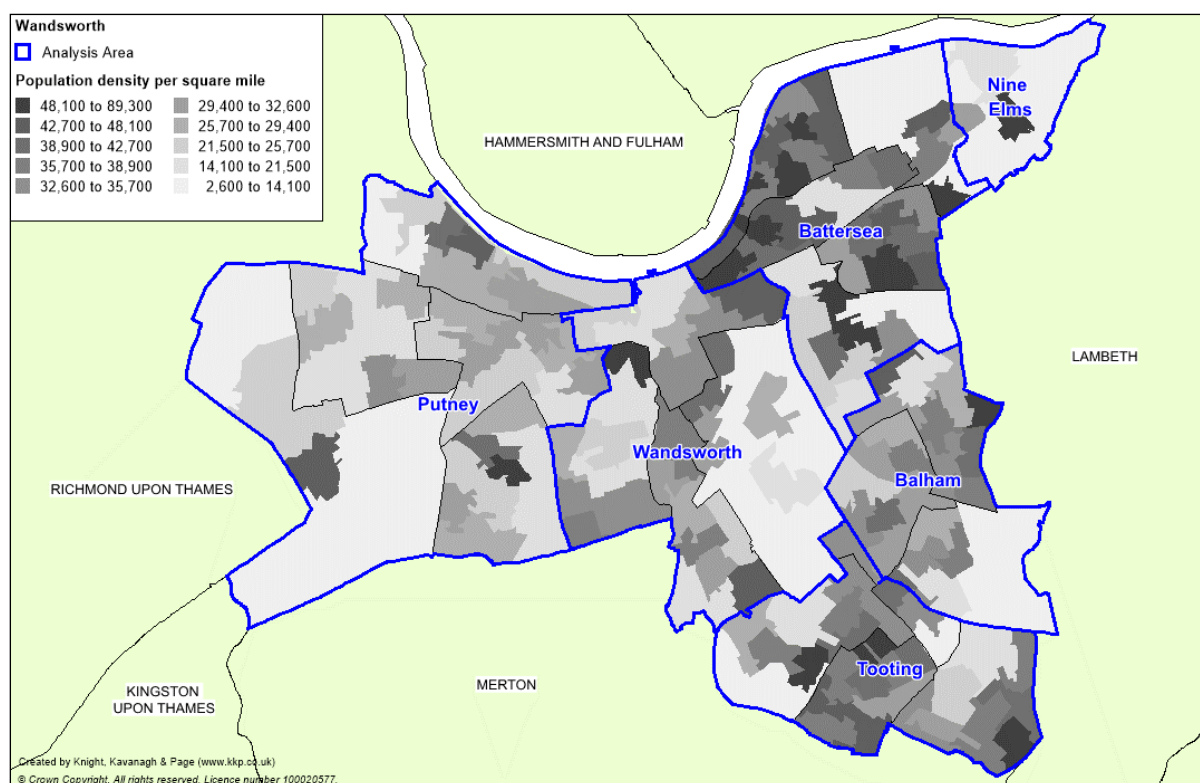
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## Study area

The study area will comprise the whole of the Council's administrative area. Wandsworth Borough forms part of Inner London and has four main settlements: Battersea, Putney, Tooting and Wandsworth Town. It borders the London Borough of Lambeth to the east, the London Borough of Merton and the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames to the south and the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to the west. The Borough's northern border is defined by the River Thames, across which lie the three boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster.

The PPS study area takes in all of Wandsworth Borough and has been sub-divided into six analysis areas made up of the aforementioned four main settlements (Putney, Battersea, Tooting and Wandsworth Town) as well as Balham and Nine Elms.

Figure 1.1: Wandsworth study area with analysis areas



## Population growth

The current resident population in Wandsworth is 326,474 (2018 mid-year estimates<sup>1</sup>). By 2037 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the Local Plan period) the population is projected to increase to 355,230<sup>2</sup> representing an increase of 28,756 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 8.8%) according to Office of National Statistics data. Key development sites are expected at Springfield Hospital Redevelopment, Nine Elms, Winstanley Estate Regeneration and Alton Estate Regeneration.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Office of National Statistics Mid-2018 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

<sup>2</sup> Source: ONS 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, by Single Year of Age and Sex

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### *Housing growth*

The target for the number of homes required across the Borough comes directly from the central government standard approach that will be used by all local authorities across the UK. This number is derived from Office of National Statistics population and household projections with adjustments made to take account of local house price to earnings ratios.

The 2020 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) has assessed 613 sites for housing use; these have a total capacity of 48,095 dwellings. The vast majority of them have been found to be deliverable, 25 were moved back to years 6-10 of the plan period due to significant restraints and two are in the years 11-15. Two sites had major constraints and have been held in abeyance. Large sites with planning permission have been assessed in detail in this SHLAA; most have been found to be deliverable in the first five years. The number of specific deliverable sites means there is no need for broad locations of growth to be identified.

The findings of this assessment inform the calculations in the five-year housing land supply report. The assessment data from this report will also be used to inform the Preferred Options Local Plan Document.

### **1.1: Context**

The rationale for undertaking this study is to update current levels of provision within Wandsworth Borough across the public, private, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand.

Its primary purpose is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of indoor and outdoor sports facilities meet local and community needs of existing and future residents. The strategies will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future sporting provision throughout Wandsworth Borough.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Paragraph 98 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 98 and 99 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields. A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

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

Corporate and strategic:

- ◀ It ensures a strategic approach to outdoor sport provision; the PPS will act as a tool for the Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for outdoor sports in the future.

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- ◀ It provides robust evidence for capital funding - as well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities, a PPS can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants; current funding examples include the Sport England Funding Programmes, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery.

### Planning:

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

### Operational:

- ◀ Helps improve management of assets, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ◀ The Action Plan identifies sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.
- ◀ An assessment of all pitches helps understand how facilities are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

### Sports development:

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

## 1.2: Local context

### ***Wandsworth Local Plan***

The Local Plan for the London Borough of Wandsworth consists of the following documents:

- ◀ Core Strategy: adopted in 2016, it outlines the Vision, Spatial Strategy and Planning Policies for the borough including policies PL 4 Open space and the natural environment, PL 8 Town and Local Centres, PL 9 River Thames and the Riverside, IS 6 Community services and the provision of infrastructure.
- ◀ Development Management Plan: adopted in 2016, supports the strategic objectives set out in the Core Strategy and important policies such as DMH 7 Residential gardens and amenity space, DMTS 12 Arts, culture and entertainment, DMO 2 Playing fields and pitches, sport, play and informal recreation, DMO 3 Open spaces in new development.
- ◀ Site Specific Allocations Document (SSAD): adopted in 2016 includes site specific proposals for the whole borough and looks ahead for 15 years.
- ◀ Wandsworth Borough Council has a variety of supplementary planning guidance / documents; however, none relate to parks, sports or playing pitches. Several do provide information on a range of topics including the Historic Environment, Town Centres, and Local Views which could be of use.



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The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the programme for the production of Wandsworth's Local Plan. The current Wandsworth Local Plan consists of documents adopted between 2016 and 2019. The forthcoming Local Plan Full Review (LPFR) will supersede all of these existing documents.

The Council has a statutory duty to maintain an up-to-date LDS. The Localism Act 2011 stipulates that the LDS must be updated every three years. In addition, Government has introduced a requirement to review and where necessary update the Local Plan every five years. This purpose of this LDS is to explain which Local Plan documents are to be produced up to 2022 and to set out the timetable for preparing them.

The LPFR sets out policies and guidance for the development of the Borough over the next 15 years. It looks ahead to 2037 and identifies where the main developments will take place, and how places within the borough will change, or be protected from change.

The PPS will be an evidence base document for the Local Plan Full Review, as will the Wandsworth Open Space Study being concurrently produced. It will ensure that existing facilities are the most appropriate in terms of quantity, quality and location and consider how best to meet the additional needs generated by the planned housing and economic growth.

### ***Wandsworth Open Space Study – 2021***

Commissioned alongside the PPS, an Open Space Study for Wandsworth will provide an assessment of supply and demand for different typologies of open space and formal play provision. Given the dense nature of population and limited extent of greenspace in the Borough, some sites are identified in both studies because the nature of the landscape is such that large and small green open spaces in Wandsworth have to meet multiple needs and functions. For example, large spaces such as Clapham Common function as formal sports provision, informal recreation provision, public open space and large scale event space to name just a few.

Whilst the open space study identifies supply of open green space including some sites which contain formal sports provision, the PPS is the go-to document which must be used to determine supply and demand for formal sport via its sport specific methodology.

### ***Enable Leisure & Culture***

Enable are Wandsworth Borough Councils appointed Leisure and Culture contractor delivering leisure facilities/service in the Borough, on behalf of the council.

In terms of outdoor sports facilities, Enable services notably include centre management at Battersea Millennium Arena and Battersea Sports Ground, Barn Elms Sports Centre, Furzedown Recreation Centre, Battersea Sports Centre and Tooting Bec Athletics Track. Several of these sites have artificial grass pitch provision.

Enable also manages and co-ordinates pitch bookings for local authority managed pitches such as Clapham Common, King George's Park and Wandsworth Common, as well as managing the maintenance contract for local authority pitches. This was sub-contracted to Idverde at the time of PPS non-technical assessments but has since been taken up by Continental Landscapes as of April 2021.

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### 1.3: Structure

As this strategy is specific to Wandsworth Borough, it focuses on findings, recommendations and scenarios for outdoor sports facilities within Wandsworth Borough, although it does give consideration and acknowledgement to facilities in neighbouring local authorities.

This strategy has been developed from research and analysis of outdoor sports provision and usage to provide:

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

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

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

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

### 1.4: Headline findings

The table overleaf highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. Match equivalent sessions have been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken.

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions.

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Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket is able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

The PPS Guidance does not advocate the conversion of match equivalent sessions to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed. For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

For artificial surfaces, how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, whole pitches are used as the comparable unit. Similarly, for the other non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, netball, bowls etc) where it is not as easy to determine carry capacity, whole facilities are used as the comparable unit.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Current demand (2019/20 season)		Future demand (2037)
	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES per week	Future capacity total in MES per week
Football (grass pitches)	Adult	Shortfall of 72.5	Shortfall of 80.5
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 22.5
	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 28	Shortfall of 37.5
	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 16	Spare capacity of 19.5
	Mini 5v5	Capacity is balanced	Shortfall of 5
Football third generation artificial grass pitches <sup>3</sup>	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of at least five full size floodlit pitches <i>Demand exists for 3G pitches for use by other sports</i>	Shortfall of at least five full size floodlit pitches <i>Demand exists for 3G pitches for use by other sports</i>
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 22	Shortfall of 35
Hockey (artificial grass pitches AGPs)	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 29.5, equivalent to at least seven full size AGPs	Shortfall of 29.5, equivalent to at least eight full size AGPs
Cricket	Senior	Shortfall of 132 per season	Shortfall of 236 per season
Rugby league	Senior	Shortfall of 1.5 (using rugby union pitches)	Shortfall of 1.5 (using rugby union pitches)
Tennis	Courts	Insufficient capacity to meet demand. Requirement for increased sports lighting.	Insufficient capacity to meet demand. Requirement for increased sports lighting.
Bowls	Greens	Sufficient supply to meet current demand <sup>4</sup>	Sufficient supply to meet future demand <sup>6</sup>
Netball	Courts	Shortfall, requirement for access to additional capacity on outdoor and/or indoor courts.	Shortfall, requirement for access to additional capacity on outdoor and/or indoor courts.

<sup>3</sup> Based on accommodating 38 teams on one full size pitch

<sup>4</sup> Based on clubs responding to consultation

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Sport	Current demand (2019/20 season)		Future demand (2037)
	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES per week	Future capacity total in MES per week
Lacrosse	Grass/artificial grass pitches	<b>Shortfall of capacity for both matches and floodlit training</b>	<b>Shortfall of capacity for both matches and floodlit training</b>
Gaelic sports	Senior	Demand can be met by maintained access to facilities outside of the Borough.	Demand can be met by maintained access to facilities outside of the Borough.
Australian rules football	Senior	Demand can be met by existing facilities	Demand can be met by existing facilities
Touch & Tag Rugby	Grass/artificial grass pitches	Demand can be met by existing facilities	Demand can be met by existing facilities
Ultimate (frisbee)	Grass/artificial grass pitches	Demand can be met by existing facilities	Demand can be met by existing facilities
Softball	Grass diamonds	<b>Shortfall of three diamonds</b>	<b>Shortfall of four diamonds</b>

## Conclusions

The current and future position for all five main pitch sports (football, rugby union, rugby league, cricket and hockey) is that significant shortfalls exist and will be exacerbated in future. This is also true for 3G pitches, where there is a current and future shortfall for football but also case for increased access to help meet demand for other sports, particularly rugby union and lacrosse.

For football, current shortfalls are identified on both adult and youth 11v11 pitch formats. When accounting for future demand, shortfalls are exacerbated and new shortfalls would be created at youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 formats, with only mini 7v7 pitches having capacity.

For rugby union there are both current and future shortfalls and a quantitative need for additional pitches. Onsite improvements are required to existing pitches to increase capacity to better sustain match play and training, whilst there is a deficiency of floodlit capacity for training, an issue that affects most pitch sports in the Borough.

For rugby league a relatively minor shortfall is identified, derived from the existence of rugby league in a rugby union setting and share of rugby union pitches, intensifying use at times of the year when the two sports seasons overlap.

For cricket and hockey there are significant quantitative shortfalls both current and future which require additional pitch provision. Consequently, there is a high level of exported demand for both sports, with several Wandsworth based clubs making use of facilities in neighbouring boroughs due to undersupply in Wandsworth. For cricket, on the basis of providing a standard quality ten wicket square, the current shortfall is equivalent to requiring as many as 3.3 additional natural turf pitches, increasing to 5.9 pitches in future. It is, however, more appropriate to look at a combination of natural turf squares and non-turf pitches to meet this demand.

For tennis, there is a requirement for additional capacity to provide for existing demand and to meet future growth amongst a latent market the LTA has identified in the Borough. There is a particular need for increased sports lighting to provide more year round hours of access for tennis at park sites.

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For netball, there is insufficient capacity across the court network in the Borough and a need for clubs to access additional capacity on either outdoor or indoor courts.

For softball, there has been a sudden reduction in the number of diamonds marked and available within the Borough and there is a requirement for additional diamonds to be marked to meet current and future demand for softball.

For all remaining sports, the current stock of facilities is presently meeting demand and is expected to do so in the future, although there are actions required at specific sites which are identified within the Action Plan.

As there are identified shortfalls for playing pitch provision, there is a need to protect both playing pitch provision currently in use and any other playing field land due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future needs.

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### PART 2: VISION

#### 2.1: Vision

Below is Wandsworth Borough's vision to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Wandsworth Borough PPS:

*“Wandsworth’s playing pitches will be accessible, high quality and a sustainable network of sports pitches and other outdoor sports facilities. They will meet the needs of people living, working or studying in the borough whether for formal competition or informal play. The Playing Pitch Strategy will robustly protect playing pitches from inappropriate development”.*

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

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

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## PART 3: AIMS

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

### AIM 1

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

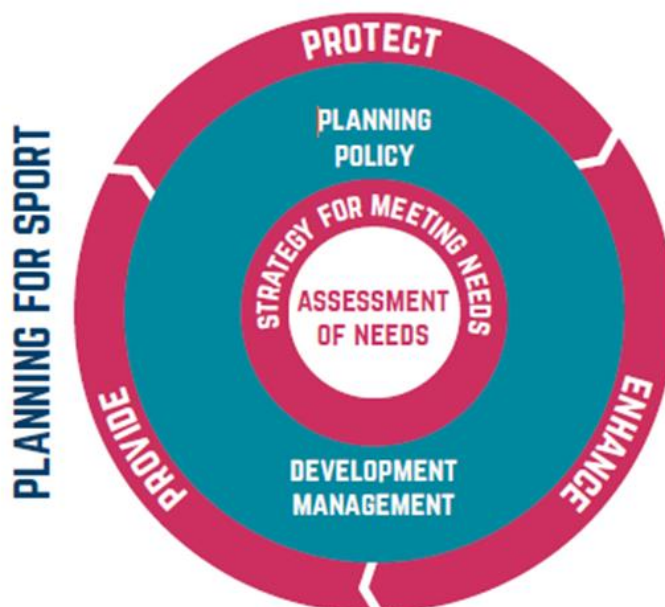
### AIM 2

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

### AIM 3

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

Figure 3.1: Sport England themes



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

## PART 4: ISSUES, SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

### 4.1 Sport specific issues, scenarios and recommendations

#### Football – grass pitches

##### *Summary*

- ◀ **There is insufficient capacity of grass football pitches to meet demand, with significant capacity shortfalls evident both currently and in future.**
- ◀ **Pitch quality is poor at the majority of sites, particularly those within Council/Enable management. This limits carrying capacity of provision.**
- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 88 formally marked grass football pitches in Wandsworth Borough across 20 sites. Of these, 84 are reportedly available for community use and four pitches unavailable to access by external groups.
- ◀ Of the 84 football pitches available for community use, the majority (61 pitches – 73%) are rated as poor quality. There are six pitches (7%) rated as good quality and 17 pitches (20%) rated as standard quality.
- ◀ A key issue is the poor quality of pitches at local authority managed sites and particularly the quality of grounds maintenance works.
- ◀ Pavilion buildings, particularly the changing room and shower areas, are generally considered to be of poor quality across most Enable managed playing field sites.
- ◀ Most pitches (61 - (72%) in the Borough are within local authority ownership and managed by Enable.
- ◀ There are 211 teams identified as playing football in the Borough. This is made up of 71 adult men's, seven adult women's, 69 youth boys', 16 youth girls' and 48 mini teams.
- ◀ There is some regular export of demand to other local authorities for access to National League System compliant facilities. There are no pitches in the Borough which meet National League System facility requirements for Step 6 or higher.
- ◀ Clubs do not report regularly exporting demand, instead export is irregular both within the season and in pre-season, typically caused by poor weather rendering pitches unplayable, or caused by the seasonal turnaround when goalposts are taken down to make way for cricket use of many sites.
- ◀ There is significant use of local authority sites by schools throughout the week as most do not have onsite pitch provision.
- ◀ Future club growth aspirations and participation targets total 72 potential new teams, resulting in the need for eight adult pitches, 12.5 for youth 11v11 pitches, 9.5 for youth 9v9 pitches and 3.5 for each of the two mini soccer formats.
- ◀ Only Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields has actual spare capacity to accommodate additional use. The site has actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on both adult and youth 9v9 pitches respectively.
- ◀ In total, 50 pitches across 12 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 129.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This has been aggregated up by pitch type below.
- ◀ There are current shortfalls on all pitch formats except mini 5v5, which are anticipated to grow in the future, predominantly due to overuse of pitches and poor quality of most available pitches.



# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Scenarios

### *Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality*

In total, there are 50 pitches available for community use across 12 sites in Wandsworth Borough that are overplayed beyond their recommended capacity. Improving the quality of these pitches (through increased/improved quality of maintenance regimes or improved drainage capability achieved through greater aeration, decompaction or installation of drainage system) would increase capacity and consequently reduce overall current and potential future shortfalls. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating are identified in the table below:

*Table 4.1: Football pitch capacity ratings in match equivalent sessions per week*

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Capacity	Pitch quality	Capacity	Pitch quality	Capacity
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

In total, 50 pitches across 12 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 129.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improvement of pitch quality by one increment (poor to standard or standard to good) would create additional capacity to reduce the total level of overplay to 76.5 match equivalent sessions per week, a reduction of 41%.

*Table 4.2: Impact of qualitative improvement on overplayed pitches if improved by one quality increment*

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Match equivalent sessions per week	
					Current capacity rating	Improved quality capacity rating
7	Battersea Park	Adult	1	Poor	3	2
		Mini 7v7	2	Poor	9	5
		Youth 11v11	1	Poor	7	6
18	Fishponds Playing Fields	Adult	2	Standard	3	1
23	Garratt Park	Adult	1	Poor	3	2
30	King Georges Park (Site 1)	Mini 7v7	2	Poor	2	2
31	King Georges Park (Site 2)	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	2	1
		Youth 9v9	1	Poor	2.5	1.5
32	King Georges Park (Site 3)	Adult	2	Poor	3	1
		Youth 9v9	1	Poor	2.5	1.5
50	Roehampton Playing Fields	Adult	2	Poor	9	7
		Mini 7v7	3	Poor	2	4
		Youth 9v9	2	Poor	4	2
69	Tooting Common	Adult	4	Poor	9	5
74	Wandsworth Common	Adult	6	Poor	20	14
		Youth 9v9	2	Poor	15	13
		Mini 7v7	3	Poor	3	3
75	Wandsworth Park	Adult	3	Poor	10	7
78	Barn Elms Sports Centre	Adult	7	Poor	14	7
		Youth 9v9	2	Poor	2	-

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Match equivalent sessions per week	
					Current capacity rating	Improved quality capacity rating
2	Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports Field	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2.5	0.5
		Youth 9v9	1	Standard	2	-

Improving overplayed pitches by one increment, from poor to standard or standard to good, would create an additional 57 match equivalent sessions per week, reducing the total level of overplay across the Borough to 76.5 match equivalent sessions per week, a reduction of 41%.

Furthermore, this would not only eliminate overplay across 11 pitches but for eight pitches would create potential spare capacity for use (subject to peak time availability). Actual spare capacity at peak time would be created at Roehampton Playing Fields of three match equivalent sessions but not Wandsworth Common or King Georges Park (Site 1).

The table below shows the impact this would have on capacity balance across Wandsworth Borough. The overall current shortfall would be reduced from 126.5 to 70.5 match equivalent sessions per week, however, a significant current and future shortfall would still remain. This indicates that improving quality of overplayed pitches alone is not sufficient to eliminate all shortfalls.

*Table 4.3: Impact of qualitative improvement on overall capacity balance for football in Wandsworth Borough.*

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity <sup>5</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
		Overplay <sup>6</sup>	New current total	Unmet demand	Future demand	Future total
Adult	-1.5	46	44.5	-	8	52.5
Youth 11v11	-1.5	7.5	6	-	12.5	18.5
Youth 9v9	-	18	18	-	9.5	27.5
Mini 7v7	-3	5	2	-	3.5	5.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	3.5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>109</b>

Note that whilst it may be possible to meet current shortfalls through improving quality of presently overplayed sites, this may not always be feasible where, for example, pitches are located on public open space, which may present challenges to scale and extent of remedial works able to be conducted, or where sites do not presently offer secure access or tenure for clubs, such is the case at education sites.

Whilst improvement of one quality increment may appear realistic to achieve, in practice there are key challenges to the delivery of and investment into improved and more regular maintenance regimes, as well as competing agendas for site uses, which compromise and limit the potential to what level of improvement can be achieved. This is particularly the case across the local authority portfolio and just one (Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports Field) of the 12 overplayed sites is outside of local authority management via Enable.

Furthermore, given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that could offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The current

<sup>5</sup> In match equivalent sessions per week

<sup>6</sup> Following improvements, as per Table 4.2

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, which can support intensive use and are great assets for football activity. These do not suffer from overplay in the same way as grass pitches and therefore can be an important tool in reducing pressures on grass pitches. Other solutions such as increased access to unused or unavailable sites should also be explored to meet future shortfalls.

Hybrid pitches, where part artificial turf is stitched into natural turf playing fields to support natural turf growth and performance, may also present a future solution to supporting and sustaining these significant levels of grass pitch use in the Borough. However, the performance of hybrid turf pitches is yet to be fully determined and is being tested by Sport England and NGBs as part of a pilot programme, including in the region at Regent's Park.

Hybrid pitches are not a product presently supported or funded by NGBs such as the Football Foundation but Wandsworth Borough should be considered as a possible opportunity within any future consideration as a supported product for football (and other pitch sports). Sport England has funded the pilot testing of hybrid pitches, such as in Runcorn and in Regent's Park.

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect all grass football pitches currently in use and pitches that are no longer in use due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future needs (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Prioritise investment to improve the quality of grass pitches at key strategic sites identified within the PPS Action Plan, either to address overuse or to support high levels of site demand or accommodate growth.
- ◀ In the first instance, the Council and local football partners should undertake technical quality assessments using the Football Foundation PitchPower application at key sites identified as requiring improvement to pitch quality, to establish Grounds Management Association professional recommendations on how best to do so.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure they are of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality to increase capacity.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand as well as any exported, unmet and latent demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites not currently available for community use that could be moving forward.
- ◀ In conjunction with qualitative improvements to key sites, consider opportunities for reconfiguration of pitches which exhibit spare capacity, in order to meet demand for adult pitch shortfalls.
- ◀ Seek to gain increased access to presently unavailable education sites (such as Ibstock Place School, Emmanuel School) and where possible seek to formalise this use through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes where possible in line with the FA Youth Review.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities as key sites, prioritising those identified within the PPS Action Plan. Priority should be where there is existing demand for use and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ In line with the development of new 3G pitches, transfer a greater proportion of play from grass pitches to playing competitive matches on FA registered 3G pitches, particularly the majority of mini soccer match play.
- ◀ Explore innovative products and solutions, some of which, may be in development or may not yet be supported by NGBs or Sport England, to help meet demand and reduce shortfalls for matches and training provision in the Borough.

### ***Third generation artificial grass pitches***

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## **Summary**

- ◀ **There is insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand in Wandsworth Borough based on the FA training model for football and demand amongst other sports.**
- ◀ **Given the multi-sport nature of most playing field sites in the Borough and competing demands from many sports for access to floodlit provision, there is a need for 3G pitches to also be multi-sport facilities where possible.**
- ◀ There are two full size 3G pitches in the Borough at Aspire Centre (Southfields Academy) and at Rosslyn Park Rugby Club. Both have floodlighting and are available for community use.
- ◀ There are a further 22 small size 3G pitches across 15 sites.
- ◀ The pitch at Aspire Centre (Southfields Academy) and the small size pitches at Falcon Park and Wandle Recreation Centre (five pitches) are listed on the FA Register for certified pitches.
- ◀ Rosslyn Park Rugby Club 3G pitch is World Rugby compliant and RFU registered to accommodate contact rugby union activity.
- ◀ The 3G pitch at Aspire Centre (Southfields Academy) is rated as standard quality, whilst pitch at Rosslyn Park Rugby Club is rated as good quality.
- ◀ The full size pitch at Rosslyn Park Rugby Club is considered to have no spare capacity for additional use.
- ◀ There is a good level of accessibility within the peak period and no identified restrictions on availability, other than capacity given that both pitches are effectively operating at capacity.
- ◀ Small size 3G pitches are heavily used by small sided commercial football leagues throughout the week, reducing the capacity available for affiliated team training.
- ◀ The FA training model estimates that there is a need for six full size 3G pitches to service current and future football training needs from teams based within the Borough. There is a subsequent requirement for at least five additional full size 3G pitches for football (or equivalent small size pitches in part).
- ◀ Given the high level of competition amongst sports for floodlit training provision, there may be a case for development of more than five full size pitches to accommodate programming to meet demand from other sports such as lacrosse and rugby union.
- ◀ There is a potential project suggested for the development of new 3G pitch provision at Wandle Recreation Centre.
- ◀ There is no opportunity to convert sand based AGPs as all hockey suitable pitches at are presently required to meet demand for hockey.
- ◀ There are planning constraints, such as on Metropolitan Open Land and environmental factors in wetlands areas such as around Wandle Recreation Centre, that limit the scope for where facilities with sports lighting can be developed.

## **Scenarios**

### *Accommodating football training demand*

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit third generation artificial grass pitch, together with priority access for every England Football Accredited Club through a partnership agreement.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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In order to calculate the number of football teams a third generation artificial grass pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week. Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match.

Full size third generation artificial grass pitches are divided into thirds or quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers, it is estimated that 38 teams can be accommodated on one full size pitch for training.

There are 211 football teams based in Wandsworth Borough which require access to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface. This equates to a requirement for at least six full size 3G pitches to service this level of training demand.

One full size 3G pitch presently exists at Aspire Centre (Southfields Academy) programmed mainly for football, however there are a number of small size pitches able to contribute towards meeting training demand. The full size 3G pitch programmed mainly for rugby union at Rosslyn Park Rugby Club also meets a proportion of demand for other sports including football.

Though small size 3G pitch provision and sand based AGP provision play a role in supporting football training demand, there is also a significant level of recreational and small sided football activity reported in the Borough for which floodlit facilities are the preferred and required facility type. For example, Griffin Primary School, Harris Academy Battersea, Powerleague (Nine Elms), Sacred Heart Primary School and Wandle Recreation Centre are all heavily used from Monday to Thursday for commercial small sided football leagues.

Demand for floodlit provision is highly competitive between football clubs and with other sports and though sand based provision plays a role in meeting football demand, there are capacity issues for hockey and sports such as lacrosse where transfer of football from sand based AGPs to 3G pitches can better help meet the needs of all sports.

On the basis that there is a requirement for at least six full size 3G pitches to meet affiliated football demand against existing supply of one full size pitch programmed for football, there is a requirement for five additional full size 3G pitches for football to meet affiliated training demand in the Borough. This could be met in part with equivalent capacity in small size 3G pitches, though this limits the formats of competitive football matches able to be played on the pitch to junior or mini age groups on smaller areas.

There may be scope and opportunity to sustain more than five additional full size 3G pitches in the Borough given the extent of competition amongst sports for floodlit provision and demand for artificial turf training facilities for sports such as rugby union and lacrosse especially. Greater representation for these sports within the programme would reduce availability for football and consequently increase the number of 3G pitches required to meet all affiliated football training demand.

Though outwith the scope of the PPS, the Football Foundation reports that there is a significant level of demand for use of 3G pitches for non-formal football activity, such as competitive small sided leagues, social or recreational football, informal play and community participation programmes. Consequently, through the mix of formal (football and other sports) and non-formal demand for football, there is case to suggest that delivery of more than five additional full size 3G pitches (or equivalent) could be sustained due to demand from other sports and other types of football activity.

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### *World Rugby<sup>7</sup> compliant third generation artificial grass pitches*

The RFU strategic approach to 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. There is one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Wandsworth Borough at Rosslyn Park Rugby Club. Wandsworth is considered by the RFU to be a strategic area for the development of additional rugby union compliant provision.

There may be scope and opportunity to sustain more than five additional full size 3G pitches in the Borough given the extent of competition amongst sports for floodlit provision and demand for artificial turf training facilities for sports such as rugby union and lacrosse especially. Greater representation for these sports within the programme would reduce availability for football and consequently increase the number of 3G pitches required to meet all affiliated football training demand.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect the current level of supply of third generation artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet NGB recommended dimensions where feasible and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria for match play (e.g. FA and/or RFU registered).
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have formal community use agreements associated as part of the planning permission to secure access for local sports clubs.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a mechanism for long-term sustainability, preferably a sinking fund formed over time, to fund future repair and eventual surface replacement at end of lifespan.
- ◀ Encourage greater transfer of match play demand (for both football and rugby union) to 3G pitches where possible and ensure that pitches remain suitable quality to accommodate such demand through appropriate certification when required to be renewed or retested.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to develop new World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision to support rugby union training and match play use. This should be to senior rugby union pitch specifications where possible, alternatively there is opportunity for cross-compliance and shared programming with football, for example installation of sub-surface shock pad within football design construction.
- ◀ All hockey suitable AGPs should be protected for hockey use and should not be converted to 3G surfaces.
- ◀ Explore innovative solutions and products for 3G pitches (and hockey suitable AGPs) to help meet demand for a several sports to maximise their impact. This may for example include location (e.g. rooftops, within car parks) or design (e.g. extended build footprints, incorporating non-turf wicket provision for cricket).

### **Cricket pitches**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ **There is insufficient supply of cricket provision to cater for current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket across Wandsworth.**
- ◀ **Shortfalls are greatly significant and there is a need for new provision to increase the quantitative supply available due to temporal issues with any capacity available at specific sites already in use at peak times.**

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<sup>7</sup> <https://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/rugbyturf>

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ There are 23 natural turf cricket squares identified in Wandsworth located across 15 sites. Of these, all but the two squares at Emanuel School are available for community use.
- ◀ There are 15 non-turf pitches. Ten accompany grass wicket squares and a further five are standalone. There is a good level of use of non-turf pitches for junior matches and short format cricket.
- ◀ Of the 21 natural turf cricket squares available for community use, nine (43%) are rated as good quality, six (24%) are rated as standard quality and seven rated as poor (33%) at Wandsworth Common (three squares) Battersea Park (two squares), Wandsworth Park and Roehampton Playing Fields.
- ◀ Overmarking is a key issue for cricket in Wandsworth, with many pitches sharing playing field area during the winter season with sports such as football, rugby union, lacrosse and softball.
- ◀ A recurring issue reported by several clubs is the perceived quality of maintenance and consequent pitch quality at local authority sites.
- ◀ Sinjun Grammarians CC, Nasir CC, St James' CC and Roehampton CC also indicate demand for additional net training facilities.
- ◀ Although most clubs have secure tenure, Bank of England Sports Club is not yet known due to proposed sale of the site, as well Roehampton CC at Putney Heath Cricket Ground which is rented from Thames Water without formal agreement.
- ◀ Clubs aspire to take on greater responsibility for management and maintenance of some local authority sites, such as Fishponds Playing Field and Roehampton Playing Fields.
- ◀ There are a number of proposals to develop new cricket provision, including at Roehampton CC and for new community building provision at Trinity Fields.
- ◀ There are 11 affiliated cricket clubs based in Wandsworth with a 2019 season total of 140 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 49 senior men's, three senior women's, 82 junior boys' and six junior girls' teams.
- ◀ There is a significant level of unaffiliated demand for short format match play from four midweek leagues, especially Last Man Stands.
- ◀ Such is the scale of demand, approximately 34 teams (24%) export demand to neighbouring Boroughs.
- ◀ There is unmet demand reported from both clubs and short format leagues, unable to grow due to reported lack of available provision in the Borough.
- ◀ Future demand is considered to amount to ten men's, three women's and 25 junior teams which would require access to cricket pitch provision in the Borough.
- ◀ There are eight sites in Wandsworth with a total of ten natural turf pitches considered to be overplayed by a combined 157 match equivalent sessions per season. Of these, five of the eight squares are poor quality and therefore have no effective carrying capacity.
- ◀ Only Barn Elms Sports Centre has both capacity across the season and peak time availability to accommodate additional cricket match play on Saturday afternoons. The site has two other unprepared squares which if able to be reinstated and maintained (subject to assessment by Regional Pitch Advisor) would further increase capacity available for cricket at peak time.
- ◀ For cricket, on the basis of providing a standard quality ten wicket square, the current shortfall is equivalent to requiring as many as 3.3 additional natural turf pitches, increasing to 5.9 pitches in future. It is, however, more appropriate to look at a combination of natural turf squares and non-turf pitches to meet this demand.

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Scenarios

### Resolving safety issues – poor quality pitches

There are four sites, all local authority managed and maintained by a subcontractor, which have poor quality provision. There is a total of six natural turf squares and two non-turf pitches which are rated as poor quality and therefore are considered to contribute no carrying capacity, with poor quality considered a safety issue for cricket. These sites are used nonetheless, meaning that because they offer no carrying capacity, they are by definition overplayed. Improvement of cricket pitch quality through improved standard of maintenance, preparatory and remediation practices would foremostly address safety issues to make surface safe for cricket activity. It would also create capacity of 181 match equivalent sessions per season on grass wickets, of which, 104 are on senior wickets.

Table 4.4: Site by site effect of improving poor quality cricket pitches to standard quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Wicket type	Capacity balance	New carrying capacity	Improved capacity balance
7	Battersea Park	Battersea	Senior	4	20	16
			Junior	-	8	8
			Senior	3	20	17
			Junior	-	25	25
50	Roehampton Playing Fields	Putney	Senior	25	32	7
			NTP	23	60	37
69	Tooting Common	Balham	NTP	48	60	12
74	Wandsworth Common	Wandsworth	Senior	-	4	4
			Junior	-	24	24
			Senior	27	20	7
			Junior	-	4	4
			Senior	26	8	32
			Junior	-	16	16

This does not necessarily mean it would create actual spare capacity, for example, several sites are already used for Saturday cricket and have no availability at peak time. It would, however, create potential capacity to help eliminate shortfalls. This increase in capacity would eliminate overplay across all poor quality natural turf squares and whilst one square at Wandsworth Common shows as overplayed still, the additional capacity created across the site would allow for better balance of use across pitches, therefore in practice there would be no overplay.

Based on the current manner of use at cricket sites, eliminating overplay on these natural turf squares through qualitative improvement of poor quality squares to standard quality would reduce the current Boroughwide shortfall from 128 match equivalent sessions per season to 43, a reduction of 66%. The future shortfall would be reduced from 232 to 147, a reduction of 37%. All current and future shortfalls would be eliminated in the Battersea Area.



# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.5: Overall effect of improving poor quality cricket pitches to standard quality

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per season)				
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand <sup>8</sup>	Displaced demand	Total
Balham	-	-	-	-	-	-
Battersea	-	-	-	-	-	-
Putney	-	37	37	50	24	111
Nine Elms	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tooting	-	7	7	10	-	17
Wandsworth	-	24	24	-	20	44
Outside	-25	-	-25	-	N/A	-25
<b>Total</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>147</b>

Further to the position for Saturday senior cricket, improvement or replacement of the non-turf pitches at Roehampton Playing Fields and Tooting Common to standard or good quality would create additional capacity of 120 match equivalent sessions per season, eliminating existing overplay at these sites and creating additional capacity for use.

### Development of new cricket provision

There is a requirement for the development of additional cricket pitch provision to provide greater capacity in the Borough, foremostly to meet current shortfalls and reaccommodate exported demand back within Wandsworth, as well as to help meet future demand.

The following tables identifies possible opportunities to add to the existing provision of pitch facilities for cricket and the potential impact it might be able to have in reducing capacity shortfalls. Capacity gain has been assumed based on squares being developed to standard quality (i.e. minimum fit for use quality) and having ten wickets.

Table 4.6: Potential capacity gain from development of new cricket pitch provision

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Possible new provision	Match equivalent sessions per season	
				Capacity gain	Peak time capacity gain (Saturday PM)
50	Roehampton Playing Fields	Putney	1x non-turf pitch	+60	-
78	Barn Elms Sports Centre	Outside	2x natural turf squares	+80	+40
			2x non-turf pitches	+120	-
30-32	King Georges Park	Wandsworth	1x natural turf square	+40	+20
			3x non-turf pitches	+180	-
49	Roehampton Cricket Club	Putney	1x non-turf pitch	+60	-
74	Wandsworth Common	Wandsworth	1x non-turf pitch	+60	-
69	Tooting Common	Balham	1x non-turf pitch	+60	-
18	Fishponds Playing Fields	Tooting	1x non-turf pitch	+60	-

Installation of new non-turf pitches would bring an overall capacity increase and would help to better meet demand for junior cricket and the growth of midweek senior cricket especially,

<sup>8</sup> Based on six additional senior Saturday cricket teams playing an average of ten matches per season  
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however this additional capacity benefit would not be felt on Saturdays at peak time for senior cricket. This is because most local weekend leagues still do not permit use of non-turf pitches for league match play, meaning proposed new standalone non-turf pitches at Tooting Common or King George's Park likely could not be used on Saturday afternoons.

Similarly, new non-turf pitches at Roehampton Playing Fields, Barn Elms Sports Centre, Roehampton Cricket Club, Wandsworth Common and Fishponds Playing Fields would all lie adjacent to natural turf squares or overlap existing playing boundaries, therefore cannot be used simultaneously at the same time as natural turf squares.

Reinstatement of previously existing natural turf squares at King Georges Park and Barn Elms Sports Centre (two squares) would however represent an increase in capacity available for Saturday peak time cricket, subject to assessment of the area at the latter to ensure that playing areas do not overlap and can be safely used simultaneously. On the basis that senior teams playing on Saturdays play an average of ten home matches per season, the reinstatement of these three natural turf squares would represent capacity sufficient to accommodate an additional 60 match equivalent sessions per week on Saturday afternoons, or equivalent to six senior teams. Remaining capacity of these pitches could also be used at off-peak times, for junior or women's cricket.

*Table 4.7: Possible effect on Saturday cricket capacity balance with the reinstatement of natural turf squares.*

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per season)				
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand <sup>9</sup>	Displaced demand	Total
Balham	-	-	-	-	-	-
Battersea	-	7	7	-	-	7
Putney	-	62	62	50	24	136
Nine Elms	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tooting	-	7	7	10	-	17
Wandsworth	-20	81	61	-	20	81
Outside	-65	-	-65	-	N/A	-65
<b>Total</b>	<b>-85</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>176</b>

The Assessment identifies five senior men's teams presently exporting demand to grounds outside of the Borough. Reinstatement of these three natural turf squares would be sufficient to be able to accommodate all of these teams within the Borough again. King George's Park would be local to Battersea Ironsides CC in the Wandsworth area, whilst although not within the Putney area, Barn Elms Sports Centre is relatively accessible to both Bank of England CC and Roehampton CC.

Regaining secured access to Bank of England Sports Centre would further increase capacity available on Saturday afternoons, to a total of 30 match equivalent sessions per season on Saturdays or equivalent to three teams. This would eliminate displaced demand as it could be reaccommodated in the Putney area, reducing the future shortfall from 136 to 106 match equivalent sessions per season.

The Assessment identifies 24 junior teams which export demand in neighbouring boroughs, particularly Spencer CC into Merton where it is believed Wandsworth based clubs will lose access to pitch provision. On the basis that junior teams play an average of four home matches

<sup>9</sup> Based on six additional senior Saturday cricket teams playing an average of ten matches per season  
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per season, this represents a need for 104 match equivalent sessions per season to meet this existing exported demand within the Borough.

King George's Park is located within the same Wandsworth Analysis Area as The Spencer Club and is therefore local and accessible to Spencer CC. On the basis that junior teams could have a minimum level of four days/evenings access per week, one non-turf pitch could accommodate eight junior teams per week, playing 32 matches per season. Development of a possible three non-turf pitches at King George's Park on this basis would therefore create capacity sufficient to 96 matches per season for 24 junior teams. This would sufficiently meet exported demand identified from Spencer CC within the Assessment report.

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect cricket pitch provision currently in use (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Ensure protection from development that may prejudice the use of a cricket square such as residential development in close proximity to a cricket outfield (ball strike issues). This includes development of other sports provision which may compromise continued use for cricket.
- ◀ Work with WBC, Enable and subcontracted grounds staff to review quality issues with cricket pitch provision and establish a recommended, robust and deliverable maintenance regime.
- ◀ Prioritise improvement of poor quality cricket pitches as a key matter of safety concern, as well as overplayed club sites such as Battersea Ironsides Sports Club and Roehampton Cricket Club in order to increase carry capacity and reduce overplay.
- ◀ Work with clubs and site providers to secure long-term tenure through formal agreement where there is presently no agreement in place, or where current agreements may be due to expire, for example at Roehampton Cricket Club.
- ◀ Support cricket clubs to take on greater responsibility for management and maintenance of cricket pitch sites where there is opportunity to do so, in order to improve quality of facilities and increase investment into improving and sustaining these sites for cricket.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to develop new cricket pitch provision, specifically new non-turf pitches, at new sites which may or may not have a cricket presence. King George's Park is one key site which may hold opportunity to develop several new non-turf pitches.
- ◀ Similarly, explore opportunities to reinstate dormant provision to help meet shortfalls, such as at Barn Elms Sports Centre.
- ◀ Support clubs with sufficient access to net training provision, including development of onsite provision where possible, or access to offsite provision such as at Barn Elms Sports Centre.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for the development of innovative products which may be able to meet demand for formal cricket. For example, this may include non-turf squares (a non-turf area able to be marked with several wickets), which although not able to provide several pitches that could be used simultaneously, would provide an enhanced player experience and may be suitable for league cricket in the future. This may present a more sustainable solution for maintenance of cricket provision at some sites and for some users. Other examples include specially designed multi-use games areas or delineated areas for street cricket.
- ◀ Work with clubs to accommodate targeted growth for women's and girls' cricket through the ECB Inspiring Generations Strategy.
  
- ◀ Improve facilities to meet growth markets (All Stars Cricket, Dynamos Cricket, women and girls' cricket) at key clubs. Specifically, improve quality of toilets, changing room and showers and social spaces to meet these growing demands, as well as ensuring sufficient pitch access to help promote these formats.

### Rugby union

#### *Summary*

- ◀ **Overall, there is insufficient capacity to sufficiently service both senior and junior rugby union demand in Wandsworth Borough both at present and in future.**
- ◀ In total, there are 20 rugby union pitches in Wandsworth Borough across nine sites. There are 17 senior pitches, one dedicated mini pitch and two junior size pitches.
- ◀ There are 16 pitches across seven sites identified as being available and used for rugby union activity. Four pitches are located at Independent School sites and are unavailable for community access, two each at Ibstock Place School and Emanuel School.
- ◀ There is also a full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Rosslyn Park Rugby Club which accommodates a significant level of rugby union activity, able to support grass pitches in the area.
- ◀ Most available grass rugby union pitches (12 of 16 pitches – 75%) in the Borough are rated as poor quality, all of which are local authority sites operated by Enable, except for Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields which is managed and operated by Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (WPCC) and maintained by its grounds staff. Four pitches across two sites are rated as standard quality.
- ◀ Clubs are considered to have unsecure tenure at Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports Field (Battersea Ironsides RFC and Bec Old Boys RFC) through rental, whilst Bank of England Sports Club is reportedly for sale and Bank of England RFC expects to lose access in the short-term future with no alternative venue identified.
- ◀ There are proposals to improve the quality of pavilion provision at both Garratt Green and Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields, though structural issues at the former may require it be fully replaced.
- ◀ There are eight affiliated rugby union clubs and one university based and playing within the Borough, including Barnes RFC based on the local authority border. Between them they field 33 men's, six women's, seven colts, 16 junior and 102 mini teams.
- ◀ Rugby clubs identify lack of sufficient access to floodlit capacity as a key issue and there is a lack of floodlit grass rugby union pitches. Only Barn Elms Sports Centre has fixed lighting, with two clubs using mobile floodlights and others training on 3G pitches (some non-compliant for contact activity) or on other floodlit grass spaces.
- ◀ Team generation rates based exclusively on population change forecast the growth of two whole new junior boys' teams to 2037. Club growth aspirations amount to nine new teams.
- ◀ Combined, future demand would amount to 11 teams requiring additional match play capacity of six match equivalent sessions per week on senior pitches.
- ◀ Only Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields offers secure tenure and has some capacity to accommodate additional use at senior peak time (Saturday afternoon) or on Sundays when the pitches are not presently used.
- ◀ There are 12 pitches overplayed across four sites, to a total of 22.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Overplay is due mainly to high levels of demand for matches and limited carrying capacity as a result of poor quality at some sites, whilst use of grass pitches for training is also a major contributor.

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Scenarios

### Improving pitch quality (via maintenance)

There are two sites (Garrett Green and Barn Elms Sports Centre) which are overplayed and offer secure tenure, both sites within local authority ownership. Both sites are poor quality and have scope for increases in capacity achieved through improvements to maintenance practices. The capacity rating for each type and quality rating is identified in the table below.

Table 4.8: Pitch capacity (match equivalent sessions per week) based on quality assessments

Drainage score	Match equivalent sessions per week		
	Maintenance score		
	M0 - Poor	M1 - Adequate	M2 - Good
D0 - Natural Inadequate	0.5	1.5	2
D1 - Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained	1.5	2	3
D2 - Pipe Drained	1.75	2.5	3.25
D3 - Pipe and Slit Drained	2	3	3.5

The table below looks at the effect of improving the maintenance regime at these two sites by one increment (M0 to M1, from poor quality to adequate).

Improvements to the maintenance of the two pitches at Garratt Green would create additional capacity of one match equivalent session per week. This would have minimal effect in reducing overplay due to the extent of site use, reducing overplay from seven to six match equivalent sessions per week.

Doing so at Barn Elms Sports Centre would create capacity of three match equivalent sessions per week. Based on a sustained manner of use, this would eliminate overplay of the junior size pitch, whilst reducing overplay on senior pitches by 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week, reducing total overplay of senior pitches from 8.5 to six.

Table 4.9: Site by site effect of improving poor quality rugby union pitches to standard quality (sites with secure tenure)

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Floodlighting	Quality rating	Current capacity balance	Improved quality rating	Potential capacity rating
22	Garratt Green	2x Senior	No	M0/D0 (Poor)	7	M1/D0 (Standard)	6
78	Barn Elms Sports Centre	1x Senior	Yes - partial	M0/D1 (Poor)	5	M1/D1 (Standard)	4.5
		4x Senior	No		3.5		1.5
		1x Junior	No		0.5		-

Improvement of maintenance by one increment to M1 at both sites would reduce both the current and future shortfalls for rugby union by four match equivalent sessions per week. This level of improvement to maintenance is considered realistically achievable to local authority sites, however, other measures are required to reduce shortfalls further, such as transfer of training demand from grass pitches, development of additional pitches and improvement to quality at site with unsecure tenure.

Table 4.10: Overall effect of improving poor quality rugby union pitches (with secure tenure) to standard quality

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

	Match equivalent sessions per week					
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Unmet demand	Future total	Future total
Wandsworth Borough	0.5	18.5	18	7	6	31

## *Transfer of training demand from match pitches*

The use of grass pitches for midweek floodlit training not only increases demand onsite but also intensifies use to one or two pitches which have floodlighting, such is the deficiency of lighting across the Borough.

*Table 4.11: Site by site effect of removing evening training demand from rugby union pitches*

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Quality rating	Usage	Capacity	Current capacity balance	Usage without training	Potential capacity rating
2	Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports Field	2x Senior	M1/D1 (Standard)	8.5	4	4.5	5	0.5
4	Bank of England Sports Centre	2x Senior	M1/D1 (Standard)	6	4	2	4	-
78	Barn Elms Sports Centre	1x Senior	M0/D1 (Poor)	6.5	1.5	5	2.5	1

Removing training demand from match pitches would reduce overplay by 9.5 match equivalent sessions per week, in turn the current Boroughwide shortfall from 22.5 to 13. However, whilst in principle this has a notable effect in reducing shortfalls, in practice it is not possible to remove training demand from pitches in entirety due to the lack of floodlit provision elsewhere in the Borough, specifically that suitable for rugby union activity.

It is therefore more appropriate that options are explored to transfer a proportion of training demand from pitches, increasingly so in line with increases in demand for match play use. There is a need to develop additional suitable floodlit provision for rugby union, such as floodlit grass training areas or compliant 3G pitches, coupled with improvements to pitch quality to increase capacity alongside alleviation of use.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect all rugby union pitches currently in use and pitches that are inaccessible or no longer in use due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future needs (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, foremostly through improved and more regular maintenance across poor quality sites such as Garratt Green, Barn Elms Sports Centre, Battersea Park and Wandsworth Common.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to develop new rugby union pitch provision at playing field sites, for example King George's Park which is used for rugby activity but not marked by dedicated pitches.
- ◀ Develop new floodlit provision for rugby union training, preferably within existing rugby union settings, otherwise at local sites where development of sports lighting is permitted.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Improve quality of ancillary provision servicing pitches, particularly changing and toilet provision. Ensure provision is able to suitably meet requirements of site users, particularly women's teams at sites where this activity takes place, for example, Garratt Green.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to develop new World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision to support rugby union training and match play use. This should be to senior rugby union pitch specifications where possible, alternatively there is opportunity for cross-compliance and shared programming with football, for example installation of sub-surface shock pad within football design construction.
- ◀ Seek to gain access to school sites not presently permitting community use but which have rugby union pitch provision, such as Ibstock Place School and Emanuel School. Formally establish this use through agreement where possible.

### Hockey pitches (sand/water-based artificial grass pitches)

#### *Summary*

- ◀ **Supply of hockey suitable AGPs in Wandsworth Borough is insufficient to accommodate demand from all clubs and teams based within the authority. There are significant current and future shortfalls.**
- ◀ **There is a quantitative shortfall of hockey suitable AGPs in the Borough and therefore a need to develop additional pitches.**
- ◀ **There is a need to retain all four full size hockey suitable AGPs and further secure use of Bank of England Sports Centre.**
- ◀ There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs in the Borough, all are sand based pitches and all have sports lighting.
- ◀ Three of the four pitches are available for community use and well used. The pitch at Bank of England Sports Club was previously available for use by local sports clubs and groups and there is still a degree of use by Bank of England HC, however, the future of the site is uncertain and the pitch may not be available in the near future.
- ◀ London Wayfarers HC, Clapham Common HC and Spencer HC (with Spencer Lynx) each aspire to develop their own full size AGP. Clubs would need to acquire a land asset or work in partnership with another organiser with land to do so but both are potentially in a position to self-fund.
- ◀ There is one good quality pitch and two pitches rated as standard quality. No pitches are considered to be poor quality, nor do any clubs report notable or significant quality issues, though the surfaces at Battersea All Weather Sports Ground are approaching the recommended surface lifespan and will be due for resurfacing in the coming few years.
- ◀ None of the clubs in the Borough are asset owning and all rent use of facilities from either Enable, Ashcroft Academy or Bank of England Sports Centre.
- ◀ There are seven affiliated clubs in Wandsworth Borough which based on 2019/20 season data field a total of 98 senior teams. There are 88 junior teams in total fielded by just two clubs, Spencer HC and London Wayfarers HC. Club membership in 2019/20 totalled 972 men, 898 women and 1,623 juniors.
- ◀ There is extensive exported demand both for matches and junior activity at weekends and also floodlit training midweek evenings. Eleven venues in other boroughs are used regularly by five different clubs.
- ◀ Spencer HC identifies existing unmet demand of four senior teams.
- ◀ England Hockey reports a target of 9% growth in participation in Wandsworth Borough, resulting in 167 new members. This equates to two new men's and two new women's teams or two match equivalent sessions on Saturdays.
- ◀ Total junior growth of 146 members is sufficient to create new junior teams across London Wayfarers HC and Spencer HC, therefore requiring additional capacity on Sundays and midweek for training.

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ There is a significant current shortfall of capacity for hockey matches at peak time, amounting to 29.5 match equivalents per week. This shortfall is exacerbated to 33.5 match equivalent sessions per week when taking into account unmet demand and future growth.
- ◀ There is no scope to convert any of the full size hockey suitable in the Borough to 3G surfaces and all full size hockey suitable AGPs should be retained and protected.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Ensure that all hockey suitable AGPs are protected from development and retained as hockey suitable surfaces.
- ◀ Monitor rate of surface deterioration and resurface hockey pitches before they become poor quality and unsafe for use. Pitches at Battersea All Weather Sports Ground will require resurfacing in the short to medium term and is the main hub for hockey in the Borough.
- ◀ Explore opportunities and potential land partners with which to work to develop new full size hockey suitable AGPs, including education sites such as Burntwood School.
- ◀ Ensure that any recreational based hockey programmes can be accommodated to service non-competitive or recreational demand.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a mechanism for long-term sustainability, preferably a sinking fund formed over time, to fund future repair and eventual surface replacement at end of lifespan.
- ◀ Seek to maximise hockey use of AGPs at sites where hockey is being played.
- ◀ Increase participation driven through community clubs and schools.
- ◀ Explore innovative solutions which may help to meet hockey demand in future, for example should there be future developments in surfaces which suitably meet the demand for both hockey and other sports.

### **Rugby league**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ **There is insufficient capacity to meet demand for rugby league both now and in future on the basis that play takes place on rugby union pitches. This additional use compounds existing overplay from rugby union activity.**
- ◀ There are no rugby league pitches in Wandsworth. Match play was due to take place on a rugby union pitch at Barn Elms Sports Centre, agreed principle to be dually marked for rugby league, however this was not possible for 2021.
- ◀ All rugby league training takes place at Clapham Common on the areas where football pitches are marked throughout the winter season. There are no rugby pitches onsite of either code.
- ◀ As per the rugby union non-technical assessment criteria, the quality of the pitches at Barn Elms Sports Centre is poor and thus they have a carrying capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week each.
- ◀ One pitch at Barn Elms Sports Centre was to be used year round for both rugby union and rugby league, meaning would have likely had little time for sufficient repair and off-season maintenance works.
- ◀ London Chargers RLFC is the only community rugby league based and playing within Wandsworth and has two open age men's teams playing Saturday afternoon leagues matches.
- ◀ There is also some rugby league use for training at Rossllyn Park RFC, where professional club London Broncos will use the pitch during the mornings Monday to Friday on a three year agreement to 2024.
- ◀ Having been somewhat nomadic, the Club more recently played at Clapham Common in 2019 and for 2021 was due to play at Barn Elms Sports Centre, the 2020 season having been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Since the PPS Assessment Report, the RFL reports that this is no longer available and that the Club has sought pitch provision outside of the Borough in Chiswick for the 2021 season.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities are available to service the match pitch at Barn Elms Sports Centre, whilst the Club reports that it had an agreement with Barnes RFC situated close by in Richmond for use of its clubhouse for bar and social facilities after matches.
- ◀ Tenure at Barn Elms Sports Centre is considered to be secure as the site is managed by Enable as part of the Council's maintained leisure and recreation offer.
- ◀ Team generation rates based solely on population change predict no future growth in number of teams, whilst London Chargers RLFC did not identify any clear plans to develop additional teams and at which age formats. There may however be increased participation as a legacy result of the Rugby League World Cup to be held in the UK in 2021.
- ◀ All rugby union pitches at Barn Elms Sports Centre are overplayed by rugby union use. Rugby league use when the seasons overlap would add to this use and exacerbate overplay.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Mark a dedicated rugby league pitch in the Borough for match play, either a unique area or within a rugby union setting/pitch area.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality through increased and better standard of maintenance practices to increase pitch carrying capacity, enabling it to better sustain year round use for rugby league and rugby union.
- ◀ Support the Club to grow participation and explore options to develop or access additional pitch provision in line with future growth.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to further develop rugby league participation locally, including within rugby union settings.

### **Bowls**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ **When accounting for current demand and future growth aspirations from the responding five clubs, there is considered to be sufficient supply of outdoor bowling greens to meet both current and identified future demand.**
- ◀ There are eight flat bowling greens located across eight sites in Wandsworth. There are no sites which operate as double greens.
- ◀ There are four greens which lie disused or lapsed, one of which sits alongside a functioning green at Magdalen Park BC but is currently used for alternative purposes.
- ◀ Six greens are rated as good quality and two as standard. No greens are rated as poor quality.
- ◀ The five responding clubs all manage and maintain in-house by the respective bowling clubs.
- ◀ Two greens are operated by All Star Tennis and do not have a resident club user but are made available for pay and pay.
- ◀ Both Putney Town BC and Heathfield BC aspire to improve and increase the range of ancillary provision.
- ◀ Across the responding five clubs, reported current demand amounts to a total of 161 members made up of 124 senior males, 31 senior females and six juniors.
- ◀ Four of the five responding bowls clubs report ambitions of increasing their current playing membership base and none report to operate a waiting list. Growth aspirations across the four clubs are modest and equate to 28 members in total.
- ◀ Four of the five responding bowling clubs report ambitions of increasing their current membership base by a cumulative total of 28 members.

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ None of the five responding clubs report capacity issues or a need to access increased capacity to meet current demand or future growth. Membership levels are considered to be sustainable at existing sites.
- ◀ Based on the findings relating to demand for outdoor bowls, there is not sufficient demand to require disused or lapsed greens to be brought back into use

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of greens currently used for bowling.
- ◀ In the short-term, support All Star Tennis to develop a programme of use and maximise use for pay and play of the two greens it operates. Monitor levels of use and should there be insufficient demand for use of the greens in future, consider the value of alternative uses for these spaces, if demand for bowls can otherwise be met.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.

### **Tennis**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ **In conclusion, there is insufficient capacity for tennis within the Wandsworth stock to meet current and future demand.**
- ◀ **There is insufficient capacity both within formal club environments and to meet existing and latent demand at sites pitched at public use.**
- ◀ **There is a need to increase capacity of existing provision through a combination of floodlighting existing courts, increased covering of courts, as well increasing the quantitative supply.**
- ◀ There are 186 outdoor tennis courts identified in Wandsworth across 23 sites, of which, 118 are identified as being floodlit.
- ◀ There are 170 courts available for community use, the only exception being the 16 courts at Bank of England Sports Club
- ◀ Over half of tennis courts are within the Putney area (94 courts – 51%) where large multi-court sites such as the National Tennis Centre and Bank of England Sports Club are located.
- ◀ Of the 170 courts that are available for community use, 131 courts (77%) are rated as good quality, 26 courts (15%) are rated as standard quality and 13 courts (8%) are rated as poor quality.
- ◀ All seven club sites are managed in-house by the respective clubs. Other key stakeholders include All Star Tennis which operates a local authority owned portfolio of six sites, as well as Enable which manages four sites with tennis courts.
- ◀ No clubs express concerns in regard to security of tenure.
- ◀ There is a reported need to improve ancillary provision servicing non-club sites, particularly All Star Tennis sites at Wandsworth Common and King George's Park which have high levels of tennis activity and activity by other sports.
- ◀ Five clubs identify aspirations to improve court and/or ancillary provision. All Star Tennis also has significant aspirations to improve facilities across its presently managed stock as a phased approach.
- ◀ In 2020, tennis membership across the seven clubs in Wandsworth equates to 5,379 members, made up of 4,239 senior members and 1,140 junior members.
- ◀ Putney LTC and Spencer LTC indicate plans to increase membership, equating to an additional 75 senior and 50 junior members in total.
- ◀ All Star Tennis membership usage data indicates exponential growth in membership usage for both recreational play and as part of formal tennis programmes. It reports a need for increased capacity to retain and growth demand, specifically increased floodlighting.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ LTA modelling data identifies six sites in Wandsworth as being priority sites for tennis market penetration nationally. It also identifies a latent market for tennis participation, specifically those who are likely to play tennis regularly within formal settings.
- ◀ Five of the seven club sites are identified as being overplayed.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Retain and protect the existing stock of tennis facilities.
- ◀ Improve poor quality courts to ensure suitability to sustain tennis activity. Prioritise improvement and development of the courts at Roehampton Playing Fields in order to establish a publicly accessible tennis offer in the Roehampton area where there is an identified deficiency of public/park court provision.
- ◀ Protect and improve tennis courts at education sites and explore opportunities for greater community use of education sites where there is demand for tennis to do so.
- ◀ Pursue development of sports lighting of courts at key venues, particularly key hub parks Wandsworth Common and Tooting Common, as well as key centre Barn Elms Sports Centre which is reportedly heavily used for tennis.
- ◀ Ensure that tennis courts are served by sufficient access to suitable ancillary facilities, prioritising toilets. Prioritise hub park sites, such as King Georges Park and Wandsworth Common, which sustain high levels of tennis demand.
- ◀ Explore feasibility and case for the development of covered tennis court provision in the Brough to increase year round capacity for public and community use. This may include permanent or semi-permanent structures and may include coverage of existing outdoor courts.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a mechanism for sustainability, for court repair and eventual resurfacing, such as a sinking fund formed over time.
- ◀ Support clubs to access partnership funding to improve facilities where required, for example LTA grant and loans.
- ◀ Explore opportunity to develop new tennis offers linked to existing tennis environments, such as courts for padel tennis.

## **Lacrosse**

### **Summary**

- ◀ **There is insufficient supply of pitch provision across Wandsworth Borough and the Lambeth fringe to meet current and future lacrosse demand.**
- ◀ There are two lacrosse pitches marked at The Spencer Club on the cricket outfield, used by Spencer Lacrosse Club.
- ◀ There are four lacrosse clubs activity in Wandsworth, fielding ten senior teams. Four teams play on the Lambeth fringe at Haydon's Road Recreation Ground where pitch quality is poor in peak season and ancillary facilities also poor.
- ◀ There is reported unmet demand for lacrosse, totalling three women's teams.
- ◀ Demand for lacrosse is expected to increase alongside increased strategic development activity led by England Lacrosse.
- ◀ The lack of line markings on 3G and AGPs is a key issue affecting range of available facilities for lacrosse across the Borough and the wider inner London area.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Retain the current supply of lacrosse pitches and sustain or increase current level of access for community clubs.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to develop multi-sport partnerships where additional pitch provision could be marked at existing sports sites, for example cricket club outfields.

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Seek to establish an England Lacrosse hub in Wandsworth as part of the emerging hubs programme.
- ◀ Seek to develop a club focus venue in the Borough where lacrosse pitch dimensions are marked on 3G or AGP provision, to be established as the focal venue for lacrosse matches and training in the Borough.

### Netball

#### *Summary*

- ◀ **There is insufficient capacity for netball in the Borough, with junior demand oversubscribed relative to facilities. There is a need for additional capacity, though indoor facilities may help to meet this demand.**
- ◀ There are 28 outdoor netball courts identified in Wandsworth Borough across ten sites.
- ◀ England Netball identifies seven affiliated netball clubs based in Wandsworth Borough. Club membership totals 804 members, made up of 367 adult and 437 junior members, though membership in practice may exceed these levels.
- ◀ Go Mammoth! runs outdoor netball leagues at Battersea Park, Emanuel School, St John Bosco College and Chestnut Grove Academy.

#### *Recommendations*

- ◀ Retain the current supply of outdoor netball courts and sustain or increase current level of access for community clubs.
- ◀ Protect and improve courts at education sites and explore opportunities for greater community use of education sites where there is demand to do so.
- ◀ Identify opportunities for tennis and court facilities to be marked for netball to help meet demand in areas where there is club demand for access for training particularly. Focus should be where there are opportunities for netball to co-exist with courts for tennis as part of the operational model and where they can provide for both club training and social league/programme activity.
- ◀ Work in partnership with England Netball to increase participation in netball in school, club and recreational settings.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for the possible development of a netball hub in the region, including potential sites in Wandsworth, able to meet league and talent pathway requirements incorporating both an indoor and outdoor court offer.
- ◀ Seek greater access for indoor sports hall capacity for winter netball activity.

### Softball

#### *Summary*

- ◀ **There is insufficient capacity for Softball in the Borough to meet either current or future demand.**
- ◀ There is just one softball diamond marked at Wandsworth Common, reduced from two diamonds since the 2020 season.
- ◀ Like Wandsworth Common, there was previously a diamond marked at Battersea Ironsides Sports Club which is no longer in use for 2021. Total provision in the Borough has reduced from three diamonds to one within the last year.
- ◀ The Council reports issues with ballstrike and receipt of public safety concerns within Wandsworth Common, promoting the removal of one diamond.
- ◀ London Softball League also reports regularly receiving challenges from the passing public despite having formally booked pitch use.
- ◀ Most softball activity takes place within the London Softball League. The League covers Greater London and is the main provider of softball competition in the area.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ The diamond at Wandsworth Common is used four nights per week between 7-8.30pm each time.
- ◀ The League has 44 teams in total this season, down from 52 teams as chosen not to play the 2021 season.
- ◀ There are substantial levels of displaced (four teams) and unmet (four teams) demand for softball which presently exists.
- ◀ BSUK and the League achieve growth of at least two new teams per year.
- ◀ Based on levels of current and future demand, there is a requirement for at least three softball diamonds in Wandsworth to meet current demand, increasing to four in future. There is currently just one.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ BSUK, London Softball League, Enable and Wandsworth Borough Council should work together to establish a co-ordinated strategy to mark out additional softball diamonds, in order to establish the sport within suitable public settings and be able to meet the current and future needs of both the sport and local residents.
- ◀ Seek to develop a multi-pitch diamond offer for softball where two or three more diamonds can be marked to develop as a hub for softball activity.
- ◀ Provide shared container storage provision at key sites for softball to store equipment, accessible to benefit other sports onsite also.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to work with providers to introduce softball within other non-Council managed sites, such as sports clubs or other sites managed by charitable or community organisations.

### **Other pitch sports**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ **There is considered to be sufficient provision to accommodate demand for touch and tag rugby, Australian Rules football, Gaelic football and Ultimate.**
- ◀ **There may be a future need for increased capacity for these sports in line with future growth as all are developing sports with increasing interest and exposure.**
- ◀ **There are 12 touch/ultimate pitches marked across three sites, used for both sports.**
- ◀ There is one Australian Rules football pitch marked at Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields, used by Putney Magpies.
- ◀ Wandsworth Demons and Clapham Cubs are based at Clapham Common, managed by Lambeth Council.
- ◀ There are no Gaelic sports pitches marked in the Borough. Wandsworth Gaels is the only club based in the Borough and trains at Battersea Park but exports demand for matches to Spelthorne Borough. This level of export for a dedicated pitch is considered sustainable.
- ◀ There is a range of opportunities for Ultimate, from club based participation to recreational leagues and pick up sessions. Venues used are Spencer Park and Clapham Common.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Retain a dedicated Australian Rules Football pitch in the Borough and sustain or increase current level of access for community clubs.
- ◀ Retain marking of dedicated pitches for Touch/Tag/Ultimate and ensure maintenance regimes at these sites are strong and robust to ensure playing field can sustain year round use as several are marked on areas shared with winter sports pitches.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Identify opportunities to mark additional pitches for Touch/Tag/Ultimate in line with any future increases in demand.
- ◀ Ensure that sites are served by sufficient access to suitable ancillary facilities, prioritising toilets.
- ◀ Consider marking a Gaelic Football pitch within the Borough in future should there be demand for this match play activity to take place within Wandsworth again rather than outside of the Borough.
- ◀ Seek to gain access to floodlit grass or artificial grass pitch provision where required to meet demand for training and year round play, for both clubs and social midweek leagues.

## PART 5: STRATEGIC ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1: Strategic objectives

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

#### OBJECTIVE 1

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

#### Recommendations:

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

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

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used outdoor sports sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is a requirement for playing field land to meet the identified shortfalls. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.

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

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

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

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There are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions and much demand is currently not being met. It is not the case that most shortfalls are likely able to be addressed through quality improvements, as levels of use (particularly compounded by the extent of school use at some sites) exceeds the potential carrying capacity of pitches, even if they were good quality. There are maintenance and operational challenges to realistically being able to achieve good quality at all or even some sites, particularly publicly accessible commons/destination park sites, which limit the potential effect improvement of pitch quality can feasibly have as a solution.

Including the need for additional facilities in the Local Plan is recommended as a priority, including 3G pitches or other floodlit pitches where there is a need for additional provision.

The PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing fields and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy<sup>10</sup>.

It is important that developments are planned collaboratively in order to protect sites, for example, to ensure that a development which may benefit one or more sports does not prejudice use of facilities for others. This is particularly pertinent in Wandsworth where most sites are multi-sport and shared by two or more sports.

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

### *Policy Exception E1:*

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

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

### *Policy Exception E2*

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

### *Policy Exception E3*

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

- ◀ Reduce the size of any playing pitch.
- ◀ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas).
- ◀ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality.

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<sup>10</sup>[https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing\\_fields\\_policy](https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy)



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- ◀ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site.
- ◀ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site’.

### *Policy Exception E4:*

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

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

### *Policy Exception E5*

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

Lapsed and disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England’s policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. A disused site is a playing field which is not currently being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’. Any disused/lapsed playing fields are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

Given that the PPS evidences both current and future shortfalls for several of the main pitch sports and some others (e.g. lacrosse), this evidence base proves that there is not a surplus of playing field provision, therefore Exception E1 cannot be met and thus all provision requires protection.

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

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

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

The Borough Council should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at

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poor quality sites, possibly with inadequate ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

This may not be possible for the majority of the local authority portfolio because of the need to retain control over these sites due to the important role they play in meeting wider community need in Wandsworth, such as publicly accessible open space and for events. However, there may still be opportunity for developing alternative management models at some sites where considered appropriate and viable, particularly at secured access sites such as Fishponds Playing Field and Roehampton Playing Fields, where new management models have taken effect from Summer 2021 at both sites.

At Fishponds Playing Field a club-led operational model could further help improve facility quality. Any externalisation of management would need to be subject to competitive tender process in future, clubs which have demonstrable capacity and resource to sustain and improve playing field assets should be supported to take greater responsibility for the management and operation of sites where appropriate.

Wandsworth Borough Council manages the majority of playing pitch sites with football and rugby union provision and manages all but one (Richardson Memorial Evans Playing Fields) of the large multi-pitch, multi-sport playing field sites. Those in private or sports club (by leasehold or freehold) management are typically single sport provision such as bowling greens or tennis courts, as well as some cricket pitches to a lesser extent. Consequently, the Borough Council may need to support clubs and NGBs in developing relationships with external providers such as schools and to establish formal community use agreements.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Borough Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>11</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

For clubs with leaseholds already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping clubs attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to meet conditions of grants funded by external partners.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Community asset transfer**

Another way of ensuring tenure long term tenure for clubs is through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This is the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (usually a local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Development Trust, a Community Interest Company or a social enterprise) for less than market value – to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Community based organisations are often much more effective at engaging people than other types of organisation because they are close to and directly accountable to their community.

Communities that come together to plan and deliver services can make them more inclusive and responsive than state run services. Communities can mobilise a lot of volunteer time and energy. Asset transfer can, for example:

- ◀ Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability
- ◀ Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces
- ◀ Involve people in designing and running the services from which, they benefit
- ◀ Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers
- ◀ Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process

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should this be an option for the Council to consider. It can be accessed here: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/community-assets-and-rights>

Wandsworth Borough Council does not currently have in place a formal Community Asset Transfer Policy but will consider options and opportunities for externalisation of management on a site by site basis as appropriate.

### **Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.**

To maximise community use of education facilities it is recommended to establish a coherent, structured relationship with schools. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. Pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access but also physical access and resistance from schools to open provision due to staffing, site security or to protect the quality of facilities for school use.

Education sites in the Borough typically have little by way of onsite outdoor sports provision and those which do generally have a small pitch facility such as a 3G or AGP surface pitch or a hard court area.

Several schools do not make their pitches available for community use, either through policy (e.g. Ibstock Place School) or because they lack sports lighting to facilitate evening use (e.g. St Marys Roman Catholic Primary School, Fircroft Primary School, Oak Lodge School). Those that do allow community use are heavily used throughout the week by commercial small sided football league operators, whilst meeting demand for small sided and recreational sport leaving little capacity to help meet formal sport demand.

Only two schools, both Independent schools (Ibstock Place School and Emanuel School), have a substantial playing field offer with natural turf pitches. Neither of these schools permits community use. Further work should be carried out to negotiate access to these sites for community groups and to ensure an appropriate community use agreement is in place (including access to changing provision where required).

Due to the lack of direct provision at education sites, there is a history and legacy of local schools dependent on access to and use of local authority managed provision to meet curricular requirements and provide extracurricular opportunity. There are six key local authority sites (Battersea Park, Fishponds Playing Fields, Roehampton Playing Fields, Tooting Common, Wandsworth Common, Wandsworth Park) where this takes place.

The highest priority sites for securing formal community access arrangements should be those schools which already have community use but do not have secured community use arrangements. These already provide an important role in meeting community needs but this must be secured to ensure continued use into the future. Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use.

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

## OBJECTIVE 2

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

### Recommendations:

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

### ***Recommendation (d) – Improve quality***

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality. Primarily this includes improving the quality, frequency and extent of maintenance, preparatory and remedial regimes, however in some cases there may be a requirement for dedicated drainage systems and solutions for example. Professional and NGB led support is available, including through the following programmes:

#### ***GMA Pitch Advisory Service***

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation, the Pitch Advisory Service (PAS, formerly the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme) was launched in 2014 and is funded by the GMA and its partners; the Football Foundation, Sport England, FA, ECB, RFU and RFL.

Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots clubs across England and Wales. The PAS provides an enhanced network of support and expertise available to those maintaining natural turf pitches, particularly at a local level.

The service can be utilised by grassroots clubs, organisations and local authorities with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

For football, Pitch providers are encouraged to complete a self-assessment of pitches using the Football Foundation PitchPower tool, whilst for other sports a site visit in person may be undertaken by a GMA Pitch Advisor.

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

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### *Football Foundation PitchPower Assessment*

The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund, The app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

The tool across mobile app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment. If a PitchPower assessment categorises pitches as 'poor' or 'basic' they are then eligible to apply for Grass Pitch Funding through the Football Foundation through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund<sup>12</sup>, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030. Clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding.

All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, National League System Clubs at Steps 1-6 and charities (with an annual turnover of under £500,000). Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, clubs, leagues and charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a new Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

### ***Addressing quality issues***

Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.

Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

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

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<sup>12</sup> <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

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

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

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

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. Also, key sites without a suitable offer may not be able to establish or grow participation in key sport development areas with specific requirements, such as disability or women and girls' sport.

In order to prioritise timing and allocation of investment into key sites identified within the Action Plan, it is recommended that the Steering Group works up a list of criteria, relevant to Wandsworth Borough, to provide a steer on future investment. For example, for cricket priority should be on poor quality pitches which are considered, by definition, to be dangerous and contribute no carrying capacity.

For improvement/replacement of artificial grass pitches refer to Sport England and NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable artificial grass pitch surfaces: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/outdoor-surfaces>

### ***Addressing overplay***

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

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

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Table 5.2: Recommended carrying capacity of grass pitches

Sport	Pitch type	Number of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One non-turf wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season

For all remaining non-pitch sports (e.g. bowls, tennis) there are no capacity recommendations set out by the respective NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

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

For cricket, an increase in the usage of non-turf pitches is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of some demand from grass wickets, for example junior activity, short format adult matches and senior league matches where permitted by local leagues. This should be undertaken alongside quality improvements to a cricket square to improve the quality which in turn will increase carrying capacity.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting can mitigate some overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas, rather on one dedicated training pitch, such as is the case at Barn Elms Sports Centre. This should be undertaken alongside quality improvements to increase carrying capacity of pitches and it is important to ensure a high quality maintenance regime is in place to sustain additional training demand on pitches facilitated by installing floodlighting.

Aside from Battersea Park, senior pitches at all other rugby union sites except for Richardson Memorial Evans Playing Fields are overplayed and therefore have no capacity to accommodate additional training use without increasing capacity to better sustain this use. There is however a key need for increased floodlit provision to service demand and to meet this need through increased sports lighting of existing pitches without maintenance improvements would increase levels of overplay.

Alternatively, access to World Rugby compliant 3G grass pitches will help, through the transfer of evening training demand and competitive match play, reducing the pressure on grass pitches.



## ***Improving maintenance***

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

The Pitch Advisory Service has been developed in partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) to establish a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches.

The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but also aims to focus on developing improved maintenance programmes with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority maintained sites.

## ***Improving changing provision***

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in Wandsworth (these are detailed in the Action Plan). As previously mentioned, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement.

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

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

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

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

Partners, led by Wandsworth Borough 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 outdoor sports facilities.

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

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

One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and it is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health and wellbeing, for example.

Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

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

### **Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions**

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

For playing pitches, the Borough Council should use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality.

This uses team information from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then converts this into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs (both for providing the provision and for its lifecycle).

The PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration). Please refer to Part 7: Housing growth scenarios for more detail.

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPS findings are taken into consideration and that consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs.

This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused, such as single grass pitch football sites without adequate ancillary facilities or new cricket/rugby grounds located away from existing clubs. Instead, multi-pitch and multi-sport sites should be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future artificial grass pitch development.

A number of planning policy objectives could be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106/CIL Agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs

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- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements

## OBJECTIVE 3

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

### Recommendations:

- ◀ Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.
- ◀ Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.
- ◀ Consider opportunities to meet the need of community demand for playing pitches through new and proposed education facilities.

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

The Steering Group should use the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council's own outdoor sports facilities 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 identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions and current and future demand is not able to be met. Some shortfalls can be addressed or reduced via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or currently unavailable. However, for some sports such as hockey, rugby union and for 3G pitches to service a number of sports (football, cricket and rugby union particularly), adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is recommended as a priority.

When exploring opportunities to develop new provision or making improvements to existing, Enable advises that a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) should be commissioned to inform plans and proposals at the earliest stage, in order to ensure there is no detrimental impact to Biodiversity. The PEA should assess the biodiversity value and potential of all aspects both green and grey, as many species rely specifically on the built environment for roost and nest space and this can be critical when considering works near existing buildings. The PEA may advise that further survey work is necessary – any such additional survey and study must be undertaken, the consequences understood and recommendations implemented, before any preparatory work is commenced and prior to planning permission being sought to ensure that work can be undertaken lawfully.

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

The Borough Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the specific recommendations (Part 3) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports, the current and future shortfalls can be reduced through making better use and maximising use of existing stock through a combination of:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity
- ◀ Securing long-term community use at school sites including those currently unavailable
- ◀ Developing additional artificial grass pitch provision to help alleviate overuse of grass pitches

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

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long-term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate a senior pitch where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

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

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Demand for adult male football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults.	Additional need for 3G pitches. Sustain current pitch stock but consider pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements.
	Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase based on team generation rates and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G pitches.	Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing.
	The FA's strategy for Women's and Girls' football: 2017 – 2020 was released in March 2017. One of the major goals of the new strategy will be to double female participation.	Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase.
	Greater focus on the growth of non-formalised recreational and informal football participation.	Increased use of public access sites for informal play. Need to incorporate capacity for small sided play within 3G pitch programmes.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Third generation artificial grass pitches	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.	<p>Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for community use agreements to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds.</p> <p>Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches.</p> <p>Utilise Sport England/National Governing Body guidance on choosing the correct surface.</p> <p>Develop additional World Rugby compliant pitches to help reduce capacity shortfalls for rugby union.</p>
Cricket	Except for at grounds identified as poor quality, ECB predicts further growth in cricket demand for pitch use over the next few years.	Pitches that are already identified in the PPS as being at capacity will not be able to accommodate additional playing demand generated and it is predicted there will be demand for additional cricket playing facilities.
	<p>All Stars Cricket, the ECB national programme for 5-8 year olds, is engaging large numbers of children and has already been delivered over the past 3-4 years, with increasing numbers of participants year on year, alongside Chance to Shine cricket delivery in primary schools. Increasing numbers of those children are continuing to play cricket as they get older so junior numbers are increasing within clubs.</p> <p>Dynamos Cricket is the ECB national programme for 8-11 year old. It builds on the core principles of All Stars Cricket and participants will continue to develop skills and be introduced to a countdown style of cricket.</p>	<p>Greater usage of outfields to accommodate demand from All Stars Cricket.</p> <p>Shorter formats of cricket, and additional formats including softball cricket, are also driving up demand for pitches.</p>
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national ECB priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.	<p>Increased requirement for peak time access to pitches.</p> <p>Need to ensure access to good quality facilities including, segregated changing and toilet provision.</p>
Rugby union	Locally, it is expected that there will be a rise in demand which will lead to a higher demand for pitches and midweek training facilities.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and support facility development. In particular, capital improvements are required to the existing natural turf pitches as is improvements to the quality of changing rooms, where appropriate. All clubs should have access to high quality floodlit pitches to support training and match play demand.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Hockey	Current playing level in the Borough is likely to increase with a 9% growth rate achievable anticipated by England Hockey.	Ensure continued access to all sand-based artificial grass pitches to best accommodate current demand and ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure that no AGP to 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey. Develop additional hockey AGPs to meet capacity shortfalls in the Borough.
	High profile events (Hockey World Cup 2018 Legacy)	These high profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England and there will be community events in the build-up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. This will inevitably raise the profile of the game with the aim to increase participation.
	New England Hockey initiative, Hockey Heroes (aimed at growing participation for under 10s).	Ensure that existing facilities can accommodate additional future demand.
Rugby league	RFL is working towards growing rugby league participation including through growth at junior clubs, Play Touch RL and 9 aside RL. Expected future increase in participation as a legacy of the Rugby League World Cup (RLWC) to be held in the UK in 2021.	A need to improve pitch quality and address overplay within shared settings with rugby union. Seek access to 3G pitches for training, Play Touch and grass pitches for 9 aside. Opportunities to support growth in participation through investment in facilities as part of CreatedBy, the RLWC2021 Capital Grants Programme.
Bowls	No expected net increase in memberships.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.
Tennis	The LTA has a key priority for the strategic development and growth of tennis at both club and wider community level such as local parks.	Increases in participation can be accommodated through providing additional courts that are floodlit. An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as digital access systems.
Netball	Membership of clubs is expected to increase.	Increased access to outdoor courts needed. Need for a central competition venue in the region which has indoor and outdoor court provision.
Lacrosse	Demand for lacrosse is likely to increase with the development of lacrosse hubs. England Lacrosse is seeking to develop several lacrosse hubs across the country over the next five years to 2025 in order to increase demand, including one in the inner London/Wandsworth area.	Sustain and increase current pitch stock. Qualitative improvements to existing pitches. Need for additional access to 3G/AGP/floodlit grass pitches to meet training demand.
Touch/Tag rugby	Demand is likely to increase, for both club based matches and social/commercial league play.	Sustain and increase current pitch stock. Potential need for increased access to floodlit artificial grass pitches for increased year round play.

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Australian Rules Football	Demand likely to be sustained and may increase.	Need to retain dedicated pitch provision to host matches.
Gaelic Football	Demand likely to be sustained and may increase.	May need to mark dedicated pitches should demand need to be met within the Borough.

## **Recommendation (j) - Consider opportunities to meet the need of community demand for playing pitches through new and proposed education facilities.**

The Borough Council and its relevant education partners should consider how the creation of any future new school facilities in Wandsworth Borough can meet the needs of community sport. New facilities (and particularly those in major new residential developments) may provide opportunities to address shortfalls for grass playing pitches which have been identified in the PPS.

As earlier detailed in Recommendation B, to maximise community use of education facilities it is recommended to establish a coherent, structured relationship with schools. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. Securing the use of new school facilities through a formal community use agreement (secured through planning permission) therefore provides a platform for local sports organisations to securely access facilities and may also work to address identified shortfalls.

The PPS should be used as a baseline to inform the facility mix of playing pitches at any new school developments in Wandsworth Borough (in line with consultation with the NGBs) to ensure that both community and educational needs are provided for.

## **5.2: Strategic issues and actions**

There are four strategic issues which define playing field provision and the manner of facility use in Wandsworth Borough. Some of these actions relate to physical provision such as investment, improvement and development of new facilities. Some concern governance and strategic planning in order to achieve optimal outcomes across sports and planning for sport within the Borough and the wider inner London area.

## ISSUE 1

**Playing pitch quality (natural turf) across most of the local authority owned portfolio is poor, affecting users across several sports.**

### Actions:

- ◀ Enable and WBC to work more closely with the newly (April 2021) appointed maintenance contractors to improve the quality and extent of maintenance works undertaken at local authority owned playing field sites.
- ◀ Develop stronger relationships with user clubs to understand their needs and expectations for pitch provision in order to provide a better quality offer.
- ◀ NGBs and GMA to support the improvement of maintenance practices through broadening skillset and knowledge amongst the contracted workforce where required, including through increased training for sports pitches and fine turf.
- ◀ Enable and WBC to work with NGB partners to make increased use of resources available, such as the GMA Pitch Advisory Service and technical assessment of key playing field sites for football (and other sports if available in future) using the Football Foundation PitchPower self-assessment app. Focus to be on key sites identified in the PPS Action Plan.
- ◀ Improve existing poor quality provision to help meet existing demand and future demand growth, alongside opportunities to develop new provision and capacity.

## ISSUE 2

**Deficiency of floodlit capacity for midweek team training, both in general and due to the shortfalls for artificial grass pitches for all pitch sports.**

### Actions:

- ◀ Further investigation required by WBC to fully understand potential planning and land constraints which may affect the potential development of artificial turf pitches and/or increased floodlighting at playing field sites.
- ◀ NGBs and Sport England to advocate the advancements of modern sports lighting products and examples of best practice, in order to pursue a practical solution to delivery of lit provision at sites where additional consideration of other site uses may be required.
- ◀ Where possible and where there is sufficient demand, seek to develop additional artificial grass pitches as multi-sport facilities, such as incorporating shock pad installation to support rugby use of 3G or additional line marking to allow for use for lacrosse match play.



## ISSUE 3

**Shortfalls for all pitch sports cannot realistically be resolved fully through provision of additional pitches, such is the extent of shortfalls and limitations on available land in the Borough.**

### Actions:

- ◀ Sport England and NGBs should strongly consider Wandsworth Borough as a potential future test case or pilot area for the delivery of innovative or new to market products which may be available in future and supported by governing bodies.
- ◀ Subject to emerging findings of pilot installations such as at Regents Park, the opportunity to install one or several hybrid pitches to support the establishment and year-round use of natural turf at local authority owned sites should be explored.
- ◀ Whilst hockey suitable AGPs are not presently the preferred surface for affiliated football, any future surface product which could meet demands for both hockey and football should be explored within Wandsworth given the extent of shortfalls for both sports.

## ISSUE 4

**Sports clubs, leagues, schools and other community organisations have a high level of dependency on local authority managed provision to meet facility needs. There is a resulting high level of competition and multi-sport crossover across most sites, with few single sport sites.**

### Actions:

- ◀ The PPS Steering Group should be retained, and a separate multi-sport working group formed by Sport England and NGBs to operate alongside, as an arena in which to discuss multi-sport investment and cross-sport issues, including but not limited to those in Wandsworth Borough.
- ◀ Sport England and NGBs should pursue development of a policy for multi-sport investment, with a focus on inner London boroughs where this is a common issue.
- ◀ Led by this multi-sport working group, explore opportunity to develop a multi-borough PPS for inner London authorities in order to fully understand the inter-relationship or demand between them. There is a perception that Wandsworth meets a substantial level of demand from other boroughs due to attractiveness and membership of established club structures which do not exist in other areas, for example the lack of cricket and rugby union clubs in Lambeth.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to introduce increased/new multi-sport use at sites where appropriate and where not compromising existing activity, to help meet demand for other sports. E.g. there may be opportunity to introduce non-turf cricket provision at King Georges Park.

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## PART 6: SITE ACTION PLAN

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

The Borough Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Borough Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor facility sites and associated provision.

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

*Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria*

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
<b>Site location</b>	Strategically located in Wandsworth Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the Borough.	Serves the local community.
<b>Site layout</b>	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an artificial grass pitch.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
<b>Type of sport</b>	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.
<b>Management</b>	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.
<b>Maintenance regime</b>	Maintenance regime aligns with NGBs guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGBs guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.
<b>Ancillary facilities</b>	Good quality ancillary facility onsite, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	No changing room access on site or appropriate access to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Hub sites are of strategic importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified based on the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

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

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both hub sites and key centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one facility or a low number of facilities that service just one or two sports. The level of priority attached to them for external investment may be relatively low.

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

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

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

### **Management and development**

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

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

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Partners

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

## Priority

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

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

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

## Costs

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

- ◀ (L) – Low: less than £50,000
- ◀ (M) – Medium: £50,000 - £250,000
- ◀ (H) – High: £250,000 or more

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

Table 6.2: Summary of action plan cost estimates

Analysis area	Low (<£50,000)	Medium (£50,000-250,000)	High (>£250,000)	Total number of sites
Balham	6	-	-	6
Battersea	2	5	1	9 <sup>13</sup>
Nine Elms	2	1	-	3
Putney	16	1	3	20
Tooting	6	-	-	6
Wandsworth	16	1	6	23
Outside	-	-	1	1

The Action Plan is presented on a site-by-site basis per analysis area. For full details of the study area and analysis areas, please refer to Part 1: Introduction.

<sup>13</sup> Strategic actions for Clapham Common are accounted for in the Lambeth PPS though part of the site falls within the Battersea Area.

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### ***Timescales***

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

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

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

### ***Aim***

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

**BALHAM ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
13	Chestnut Grove Academy	Hockey AGP/ Netball	Academy	Small size floodlit AGP of standard quality. Also marked with three netball courts. Available for community use and used by commercial sports league provider GoMammoth! for netball and touch rugby leagues.  Small size floodlit 3G pitch of standard quality. Available for community use and used by Balham FC as well as hosting an FA Wildcats Centre.	Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Academy EH FF/LFA/AFA EN	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
40	Oak Lodge School	Hockey	School	Small size 3G pitch of standard quality, without sports lighting. Available but no identified community use.	Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	School EH Sports Clubs	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
58	Southfields LTC	Tennis	Sports Club	Six macadam surface tennis courts of good quality, five of which have sports lighting. Membership waiting list in operation at present but not currently seeking to increase membership numbers, with a focus on retaining members. The Club plans to resurface the courts and to improve the clubhouse facilities.	Support the Club in maximising access to courts to meet demand and opportunities to increase levels of unmet demand, including potential access to offsite courts at nearby venues King Georges Park or Wandsworth Park.  Support the Club to improve clubhouse provision.	LTA Sports Clubs	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
60	St Francis Xavier College	Hockey AGP	College	Small size floodlit AGP of standard quality. Available for community use and used for hockey by London Wayfarers HC for junior activity and goalkeeper training, as are the indoor facilities for disability hockey activity. Indoor facilities are used by netball league providers GoMammoth! and Netbusters.	Maximise level of access for hockey activity to help meet demand for training and junior participation.  Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	College EH	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
69	Tooting Common	Football	Council/Trust	Four adult, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all rated as poor quality. Adult pitches are overplayed by nine match sessions per week, mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity, whilst the mini 5v5 pitch has capacity but not at peak time. Pitches used during the daytimes by Eveline Day School.	Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality.  Work with current maintenance provider to improve pitch quality through improved standard and regularity of maintenance.  Seek to transfer a greater proportion of match play to 3G pitches and to develop a programme of rotation and off-season remediation of pitches.	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF LTA ETA UKU BSUK RFL	Key Centre	M	S-M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		Poor quality standalone non-turf pitch used by Last Man Stands midweek evenings. Overplayed by 48 MES per season. The site has potential to accommodate more pitches, such as the triangle field to the north where a non-turf pitch previously existed prior to its removal.	Replace poor quality pitch and ensure appropriate pitch and outfield maintenance programme is put in place. Explore feasibility to install additional non-turf pitches onsite to increase capacity for cricket.						
		Touch/Tag Rugby/ Ultimate (Frisbee)		Four pitches marked on the triangle field to the north of the site and used for both touch/tag rugby and Ultimate.	Work with current maintenance provider to improve pitch quality through improved standard and regularity of maintenance.						
		Softball		No current softball provision at present, however the site may offer potential to accommodate multiple diamonds to develop a hub for softball activity.	Explore feasibility to mark softball diamonds at this site to meet current and future demand for softball.						
		Tennis	All Star Tennis	Three artificial grass surface and three macadam tennis courts of good quality, without sports lighting. Artificial surface courts are used in the daytimes by local schools but considered to be played to capacity at peak community use times. All Star Tennis aspires to install sports lighting to increase capacity and court hours to better meet current and future demand. LTA penetration data highlights the Balham and Tooting areas as a latent market for increased tennis participation.	Explore feasibility to install sports lighting to increase capacity and number of accessible community use court hours of existing courts.  Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.						
82	St Michael's Church Field	Cricket	Church	Unmarked playing field managed by the Church and available to hire for events and functions, serviced by onsite pavilion. A single disused cricket net training bay exists to the south west corner of the site. Perimeter fencing secured from public access. Previously marked with a grass running track, may be used in some capacity by St Michael's CE Primary School opposite.	Explore potential for this site to be accessed more regularly by community groups and clubs. Potential for use for junior activity for cricket (possible non-turf pitch for softball play as it does not allow for junior match play) or for use by other playing pitch sports. Consider potential to refurbish cricket net training facility should there be demand locally from clubs to use such a facility.	ECB	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**BATTERSEA ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
5	Battersea All Weather Sports Ground	Hockey AGP	Council/Trust	Two full sized, floodlit AGPs of standard quality. The surfaces were last refurbished in 2012 and are due to be refurbished within the next few years. Venue preferred by and accommodating most of the higher level league teams in the Borough.	<p>Monitor rate of surface deterioration and resurface both pitches before they become poor quality and unsafe for use.</p> <p>Maximise level of access for hockey activity to help meet demand for training and junior participation.</p> <p>Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.</p> <p>Explore feasibility to develop a third artificial grass pitch within Battersea Park and to extend pavilion provision to develop a triple pitch hub for hockey, with possible opportunity for increased capacity for lacrosse.</p>	Council/Trust EH EL	Hub Site (dual site)	L	S-M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
7	Battersea Park	Football	Council/Trust	One adult pitch, two mini 7v7 pitches and one youth 11v11 pitch, all poor quality. Adult pitch overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week, mini pitches overplayed by nine, whilst the youth pitch is overplayed by seven. No capacity for additional use due to existing overplay. Used by community clubs but also heavily by six schools throughout the week. Football pitches are marked onto shared areas with cricket outfield.	<p>Undertake PitchPower assessment and GMA assessment for ECB to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality.</p> <p>Work with maintenance providers to improve pitch quality through improved standard and regularity of maintenance.</p> <p>In the long-term, review the development and effectiveness of hybrid pitch pilot projects and consider this site as a potential future hybrid pitch location should this product be supported by NGBs. This may include full pitch development, or in high traffic areas of pitches only, to support the resilience and extend playability of natural turf.</p>	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU		M	S-L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		<p>Two poor quality natural turf squares, each with an adjacent non-turf pitch. Three lane net training facility onsite which is of poor quality.</p> <p>One square has five senior wickets and two junior wickets played to capacity. The other square has nine wickets made up of five senior wickets and four junior wickets.</p> <p>Senior wickets are overplayed by a total of seven match sessions per season and both non-turf pitches are essentially played to capacity with just four match sessions per season of capacity available. Junior wickets played to capacity.</p> <p>The site has no capacity to accommodate additional play at any time or format, used heavily by Spencer CC, Battersea Badgers, Cairns Fudge and Last Man Stands.</p> <p>A third, standalone non-turf pitch exists but does not have sufficient outfield area to accommodate match play and is for recreational and informal cricket only.</p>							



**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
7	Battersea Park	Rugby Union	Council/Trust	Poor quality senior pitch used for matches by London Media RFC. Not floodlit. Issues with the bare playing surface and a lack of grass coverage, whilst the goalposts are also reportedly too short. Played to capacity and no capacity for additional use. The quality of the showers is reportedly poor, otherwise the rest of the building is of standard quality.	Undertake PitchPower assessment and GMA assessment for RFU and ECB to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality.	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU	Hub Site (dual site)	M	S-L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Gaelic Football		Wandsworth Gaels play matches out of Borough but training takes place on unmarked playing field during summer.							
8	Battersea Park Millennium Arena	Tennis/ Netball/ Lacrosse	Council/Trust	Thirteen good quality macadam surface and six synthetic grass surface, all with sports lighting. Nine of the courts (six macadam, three synthetic) are overmarked by six netball courts. Heavily used site for tennis and Enable aspires to develop provision, including potential to add padel tennis courts. This site is identified by the LTA as ranked number one for market penetration potential of 1,000 park sites identified nationally, therefore is a very significant for tennis. Some use of the synthetic court area by Spencer Lacrosse Club for women's team training.	Uphold court quality through rigorous maintenance practice to ensure good quality for use.  Explore opportunities to enhance, expand and diversify tennis provision onsite to maximise participation amongst a high demand tennis market.  Ensure high standard of maintenance of the grass infield area and ensure that any use for athletics does not compromise safety for use for team sport training.	LTA EL Sport Clubs EN Commercial	Key Centre	M	S-M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby union/ Athletics		Floodlit grass infield of the athletics track is used by London Exiles RFC as a training facility due to having floodlighting.							
10	Battersea Sports Centre	3G Pitch	Council/Trust	Small size 3G pitch with floodlighting. Available for community use but no identified club users. Insufficient run off area or fencing to prevent potential collision with floodlighting pillars. Surface and safety measures are poor quality. Installed 2007 and surface replacement required.	Resurface the pitch to improve quality for use.  Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	M	Protect Enhance
16	Falcon Park	3G Pitch	Council/Trust	Small size floodlit 3G pitch of good quality. Developed in 2019 supported by Football Foundation funding. FA registered for competitive football use. 9v9 size pitch overmarked for 7v7 play. Used by commercial football leagues during peak times throughout the week as well as being used by clubs including FC Battersea, London Falcons and Providence House FC.	Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary. This is a condition of the partnership funding agreement in place with the Football Foundation which helped support development of the pitch.  Maximise use for football activity, particularly training and match play, to alleviate grass pitch shortfalls.	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	M	Protect

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
26	Harris Academy Battersea	3G Pitch	School/ Commercial	Small size floodlit 3G pitch, available for community use which is managed by commercial operator outside of school hours. Used by commercial football leagues during peak times throughout the week, with little capacity for formal club training.	Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	M	Protect
54	Sacred Heart Primary School	3G Pitch	School	Small size floodlit 3G pitch, available for community use. Used by commercial football leagues during peak times throughout the week, with little capacity for formal club training.	Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	M	Protect
55	Saint John Bosco College	Netball	School	One netball court onto hard surface multi-use games area. Used by commercial league provider Go Mammoth! for netball leagues.	Maximise use for netball and ensure court quality is sufficient and safe for use.	School EN	L	L	M	L	L
N/A	Clapham Common <sup>14</sup>	Football Shale pitch Cricket Tennis Bowls Rugby league Softball Australian Rules Football Tag Rugby Netball Touch rugby	Lambeth Borough Council	<p>The western part of the site accommodates changing provision as well as playing field marked for football, Australian Rules Football, non-turf cricket provision and shale pitches identified as a potential location for the development of new artificial grass pitch (surface to be determined) provision. The south western part of the site has eight tennis courts, two bowling greens, a three lane fixed net training facility for cricket and a softball diamond.</p> <p>Football pitch areas are used by London Chargers RL for training, which would like to mark a rugby league pitch onsite to establish as a home ground. The site is also used by London Softball League and by Wandsworth Demons Australian Rules Football Club.</p> <p>Facilities lie within Lambeth Borough boundary.</p>	<p>Refer to the Lambeth PPS (under development – to be completed 2022) for strategic actions relating to sports at this site.</p> <p>Wandsworth Borough Council to work collaboratively with Lambeth Borough Council and the NGB network to establish best strategic actions for the site to help meet the sporting demands of both Boroughs.</p>	Lambeth Borough Council FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF EH LTA BE EN RFL	Hub Site	H	N/A	N/A	Protect

<sup>14</sup> This site is managed by Lambeth Borough Council and is excluded from the Wandsworth PPS Assessment on the basis that it is managed in entirety by Lambeth Borough Council which administers decisions relating to operation of the site. The western part of the site lies within Wandsworth Borough and for which Wandsworth Borough Council is the responsible planning authority.

**NINE ELMS ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site	Sport/pitch type	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
25	Griffin Primary School	3G Pitch	School	Small 7v7 size, standard quality floodlit 3G pitch. Available for community use and used mainly by small sided commercial football leagues at peak times throughout the week, limiting availability for other community use such as affiliated team training. Pitch is not FA registered.	Sustain and improve pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.  Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	School FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
38	Newton Preparatory School	Hockey AGP	School	Small size, standard quality floodlit sand based AGP. Available for community use and used two evenings midweek by London Wayfarers HC for goalkeeper coaching. Used Monday-Thursday evenings for small sided football leagues.	Sustain and improve pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.  Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.  Maximise access for junior/small sided hockey to help meet shortfalls.	School EH FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
42	Powerleague (Nine Elms)	3G Pitch	Commercial	Commercial small sided football centre with six small size, floodlit 3G pitches, of which three are located on the building rooftop and three indoors.  Pitches are standard quality and available for community use, however small sided commercial leagues run at peak times throughout the week, limiting availability for other community use such as affiliated team training. Pitches are not FA registered.	Sustain and improve pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.  Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Commercial FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	M	Protect Enhance

**PUTNEY ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Ark Putney Academy	3G Pitch	School/ Commercial	Small size 3G pitch of standard quality. Available for community use and managed by a commercial operator outside of school hours. Small sided commercial football leagues use the site at peak times throughout the week, limiting availability for other community use such as team training.	<p>Sustain and improve pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.</p> <p>Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.</p> <p>Explore ability for the pitch to meet performance testing criteria and if able, undertake testing and pursue FA registration to be able to accommodate formal match play. Access to do so would help to reduce grass pitch shortfalls.</p> <p>Maximise access for team training to help meet training demand for football.</p>	School Commercial FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
4	Bank of England Sports Centre	Football	Private	The site is up for sale and the facilities have broadly been closed to users, though there has been some reported access for some sports. A potential lessee for the site has been identified which is understood to have committed to engage with the community regarding future, which in the short-term indicates community use of the outdoor facilities until summer 2021. Three adult pitches, all of good quality, marked onto cricket outfield. One pitch is used to mark eight grass tennis courts in summer for Wimbledon Tennis Championships Qualifiers. Capacity for additional football use but no peak time capacity.	<p>Protect playing field provision and ancillary provision which directly services the pitches. There are shortfalls for all sports onsite and therefore there is a need to protect all playing field from loss of access or loss to development.</p> <p>Determine the future vision for the use of the site and how this may impact on the way the site is used or extent of community use. Pursue measures to formally secure access and community use of sports facilities onsite.</p> <p>Ensure a high quality of maintenance is upheld so that pitches remain good quality. The pitches are of high quality which must be sustained through change of management.</p> <p>Relocate Bank of England CC back to the site and undertake assessment of pitch quality to understand extent of any works required to bring squares up to suitable quality given a period out of use.</p> <p>Consider the value of developing an alternative model for sport onsite, including the establishment of a Trust or Sports Association style organisation to collectively represent the sports clubs which are based onsite.</p>	Private ECB/SCF FF/LFA/AFA RFU EH LTA	Hub Site	H	S	L	Protect
Cricket	Three good quality natural turf squares, though have not been prepared or used for cricket since prior to the 2020 season. Two squares have both junior and senior wickets, whilst one is a junior square. Outfield areas shared with football and rugby union pitches. Bank of England CC has been unable to access the pitches and relocated to use a site in Merton where investment has been made to improve provision for club use, as well as Barn Elms Sports Centre.										
Rugby Union	Two senior pitches of standard quality, marked onto cricket outfield areas, overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week, therefore have no capacity for use. Used for matches and for training using mobile floodlighting.										

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
4	Bank of England Sports Centre	Hockey	Private	Full size AGP with sports lighting, good quality and last resurfaced in 2015. Access again made available from March 2021 having previously been closed. Used by Bank of England HC, Spencer HC and Spencer Lynx.		Private ECB/SCF FF/LFA/AFA RFU EH LTA	Hub Site	H	S	L	Protect
		Tennis/netball		Six floodlit macadam tennis courts and ten grass tennis courts, without floodlighting. All courts are of good quality but unavailable for community use, mainly used for Wimbledon Tennis Championships Qualifiers each year.							
29	Ibstock Place School	Football	Independent School	One youth 9v9 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch of standard quality. Both pitches are dually used, as senior and junior rugby union pitches. The site is unavailable for community use and is used only by the School.	Seek to gain access to the site for community use to help meet demand and reduce capacity shortfalls for football, rugby union and access for cricket training.  Formalise this community use via agreement where possible.  Sustain and improve quality of maintenance regime to improve pitch quality.	School FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Hockey AGP/ Cricket		Small size AGP of standard quality. Without sports lighting and not made available for community use.  The pitch also acts as the run up area for the five lane net training bay provision and therefore cannot safely be used whilst cricket practice is taking place.							
48	Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields <sup>15</sup>	Football	WPCC/ Sports club(s)	Nine adult pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches, used by Old Thorntonians FC via short-term lease. Pitches are standard quality and actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week exists for both adult and youth 9v9 pitches. Two pitches are overmarked by a senior Australian rules football pitch in summer season. The Trust (WPCC) aspires to redevelop clubhouse provision.	NGBs to work with resident clubs and WPCC to improve quality and regularity of maintenance practices across the site to improve pitch quality.  Undertake PitchPower assessment of football pitches and technical assessment of rugby union pitches to develop a programme of recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality.  Support WPCC and clubs to improve clubhouse and ancillary provision.  Explore opportunities to further develop the site as a multi-sport hub, including the potential to develop floodlit provision (a 3G pitch onsite for football and rugby union, or floodlit training area) and/or non-turf cricket provision between existing grass pitches to help meet demand for cricket in the area.	WPCC FF/LFA/AFA RFU AFL England Sports club(s) ECB/SCF	Hub Site	H	S-M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby union		Two senior rugby union pitches used by London Cornish RFC via short-term lease. Both pitches are rated as poor quality due to limited maintenance works performed by Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators grounds team. Recent club investment into drainage works on the main pitch beside the clubhouse. Pitches have spare capacity for additional use but not floodlit training, which takes place offsite. No sports lighting and perceived issues with permission to develop lighting onsite. The Trust (WPCC) aspires to redevelop clubhouse provision.							
		Australian Rules Football		One senior size pitch marked across three football pitches (in summer). Standard quality with sockets for fixed goals. Used by Putney Magpies which has no formal security of tenure.							

<sup>15</sup> The site takes in further playing field land to the south west, accommodating pitches for rugby union and pitches and training nets for cricket. This land is located within LB Richmond

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
50	Roehampton Playing Fields	Football	Council/Trust/ Community Trust	<p>Two adult, one mini 5v5, three mini 7v7 and two youth 9v9, all of poor quality. Pitches are marked on the playing field area used as the cricket outfield. Adult pitches are currently overplayed by nine match sessions per week, mini 7v7 pitches overplayed by two and youth 9v9 pitches overplayed by four. The min 5v5 pitch has some capacity for additional use at peak time but improvements to pitch quality are required for this to be usable.</p> <p>Ancillary provision and changing rooms are poor quality and require improvement and remodelling based on current site users requirements.</p> <p>Management recently transferred jointly to Roehampton Playing Fields Community Trust and Enable via four year leasehold, headed by the Community Trust. It has a longer term aspiration along with Doverhouse Lions FC for the development of a 3G pitch onsite.</p>	<p>Undertake PitchPower assessment of football pitches to develop a programme of recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality.</p> <p>Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.</p> <p>Develop additional non-turf and net training provision for cricket.</p> <p>In the short-term, establish the operational model under new management and focus on improving pitch quality for football and cricket.</p> <p>LTA identifies Roehampton area having a lack of publicly accessible sites. Support the Trust to improve and develop an accessible community use model for public and pay and play participation.</p>	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF LTA Community Trust Schools	Key Centre	H	S-M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		<p>One poor quality square used by Spencer CC, Nasir CC and St James's CC. The cricket outfield is shared with football pitches. Ancillary provision and changing rooms are poor quality and require improvement and remodelling.</p> <p>The square has eight senior wickets, overplayed by 25 match sessions per season and a non-turf pitch overplayed by 23.</p> <p>Clubs playing on Sundays report the wickets are not repaired or rolled from Saturday use and are dangerous for use on Sundays.</p> <p>Roehampton Playing Fields Community Trust and the clubs aspire to improve provision. ECB and SCF are supporting into development of new net training provision and a new non-turf pitch at this site through the London Cricket Trust.</p> <p>The Trust has a longer term aspiration along with Doverhouse Lions FC for development of a 3G pitch.</p>	<p>In the medium to long term, reconfigure pavilion provision to develop suitable changing, toilet and social space provision for shared and wider community benefit.</p> <p>Seek to negotiate a possible solution to deliver increased car parking capacity to service the site through potential access to the hospital car park adjacent.</p> <p>In the long-term, a site masterplan is required to explore the feasibility to deliver a 3G pitch (size to be determined) onsite without prejudicial impact on other existing use for sport, specifically for cricket and tennis. The plan must be able to evidence that a 3G pitch can be developed without direct (loss of playing field/court area for cricket or tennis) or indirect (such as, but not limited to ballstrike risk) prejudicial</p>						

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
		Tennis		Five macadam tennis courts all of poor quality. Available for community use. Roehampton Playing Fields Community Trust aspires to redevelop the courts, to improve them and to establish regular tennis use, in partnership with Enable. This includes resurfacing the courts and exploring feasibility for floodlights.	impact on cricket pitch, cricket nets, tennis courts, or supporting ancillary provision. The plan must also be able to evidence in both planning and practical terms that a 3G facility could be illuminated, with sports lighting a condition of developing such provision. It is critical that any future proposal for development of 3G pitch provision at this site does not negatively impact cricket and tennis facilities or activity. Though not a presently funded or supported product by NGBs, the relative benefits of developing a hybrid pitch should be explored in line with long-term 3G feasibility. A hybrid turf pitch may present an alternative option which could have lesser impact on grass playing field provision and would present less challenge to multi-sport use of the site, e.g shared spaces with cricket outfield areas.						
50	Roehampton Playing Fields		Council/Trust/Community Trust			Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF LTA Community Trust Schools	Key Centre	H	S-M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
51	Roehampton University Playing Field	Football	University	Standard quality adult pitch. Currently unused by as the pitch is not serviced by changing rooms or toilets. Potential for access to ancillary provision in the adjacent sports centre not managed by the University. FA Pitch Improvement Programme assessment undertaken at this site.	Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity.  Undertake future PitchPower assessment to determine the effectiveness of maintenance works undertaken and any improvements made.  Seek to establish a solution to ancillary provision, either through access to the centre adjacent or possibly through development of facilities onsite. Establish access for community use to help meet pitch shortfalls for football.	University FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
75	Wandsworth Park	Football	Council/Trust	Three adult pitches, all of poor quality. Pitches overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions per week and therefore have no capacity for additional use. Used by two local schools as well as community clubs. Pitches are marked onto playing field shared as cricket outfields.	Undertake PitchPower assessment and GMA assessment for ECB to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality.	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF LTA/ Charitable Trust Schools	Local site	M	S-M	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Natural turf square of poor quality with one senior and five junior wickets. The senior wicket is overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions per season, whilst junior wickets are overplayed by 20. Natural turf square has no capacity for additional use.  There is a standalone non-turf pitch which is overplayed by 36 equivalent sessions per	Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.  Maximise access and use for recreational tennis and public participation.						

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				season. Availability to accommodate more Sunday cricket but no capacity available to do so. The site is used by Spencer CC and Last Man Stands.							
		Tennis	Charitable Trust	Good quality macadam court without floodlighting. Pay and play available at this site which is mainly programmed and made available for recreational play rather than formal tennis programme and coaching activity. There is some reported capacity to accommodate additional use.							



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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
44	Putney Cricket Club	Cricket	Trust/ Sport Club	<p>One natural turf square of standard quality, with five senior wickets and four junior wickets. Senior wickets are overplayed by 37 match equivalent sessions per season though junior wickets have some capacity to accommodate additional use.</p> <p>ECB and SCF are working to support the Club with development of new net training provision onsite.</p> <p>The Clubhouse is shared with football teams, located away from the cricket pitch across the Common. The Club aspires to relocate the pavilion to beside the cricket pitch because it obstructs application for entry to the Surrey Championship due to being situated over 100 metres away.</p>	<p>Undertake ECB/GMA assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality, increasing capacity to reduce overplay.</p> <p>Work with maintenance providers to improve pitch quality through improved standard and regularity of maintenance. Develop new net provision to support demand for training.</p> <p>Explore opportunity to relocate the pavilion to develop a new building adjacent to the pitch, as per ECB design guidance.</p> <p>Explore feasibility to install a non-turf pitch adjacent to the existing square to allow for transfer of use from grass provision, to reduce overplay of senior wickets.</p>	Trust Sports Club ECB/SCF	Local Site	M	M	M	Protect Provide Enhance
49	Roehampton Cricket Club (Putney Heath Cricket Ground)	Cricket	Trust	<p>Standard quality natural turf square with reportedly uneven outfield area. Square has five senior wickets and eight junior wickets. Reportedly difficult to sustain quality across the site which is designated common land and thus subject to public access.</p> <p>Senior wickets are overplayed by 27 match equivalent sessions per season, junior wickets have some capacity to accommodate additional use. Junior participation is due to increase significantly as the club welcomes merging of Fulham CC.</p> <p>The Club does not have security of tenure, rented from Thames Water, albeit does not anticipate threat to loss of access.</p> <p>The Club is being supported by ECB and SCF to invest in new net training facilities through the London Cricket Trust.</p>	<p>Pursue formal agreement to secure tenure for the Club via long-term agreement.</p> <p>Undertake ECB/GMA assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality, increasing capacity to reduce overplay.</p> <p>Work with maintenance providers to improve pitch quality through improved standard and regularity of maintenance. Develop new net provision to support demand for training.</p> <p>Explore feasibility to install a non-turf pitch adjacent to the existing square to allow for transfer of use from grass provision, to reduce overplay of senior wickets.</p>	ECB Sport Clubs	Local Site	M	S-M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
43	Prospect House School	Hockey AGP	School	<p>Small size AGP of standard quality. Without sports lighting and not made available for community use.</p>	<p>Seek to gain access to the site for community use to help meet demand and reduce capacity shortfalls for play during daylight hours, such as junior hockey training/activity which typically takes place on Sunday mornings.</p>	School EH	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
52	Rosslyn Park Rugby Club	3G Pitch	Sport Club	Full size rugby union design 3G pitch, World Rugby and RFU registered. Good quality and available for community use. The Club reports that the pitch is operating at capacity and cannot accommodate any other bookings other than on Friday nights. The Club aspires to develop a netball court at the main Rosslyn Park Rugby Club site. Daily midweek in the early mornings by London Broncos RL which has a three year agreement for use of the pitch. At evenings and weekends use is for training for local clubs and for rugby union matches at weekends. Commercial tag rugby league provider also operates from the site.	Undergo retesting and ensure the pitch is renewed and registered on the RFU register to be able to support contact rugby activity.  Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.  Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Sports Club RFU RFL FF/LFA/AFA EN	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Provide
		Netball		Rosslyn Park Netball Club presently plays at Roehampton University (Froebel Campus) but the wider sports club aspires to develop a single netball court so that all activity can take place onsite.	Support any future plans to develop new netball provision onsite and to facilitate growth in netball participation.						
37	National Tennis Centre	Tennis	LTA	Twelve hard surface (six indoor and six outdoor), four clay surface, three padel tennis and one cardio tennis court, all with sports lighting. Four other grass courts onsite which are not floodlit and only available in the summer months. Some access by Roehampton University for its tennis programmes and for matches. Site is mainly used for performance and national programmes as well as events	Sustain court quality through upholding rigorous maintenance regimes. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual repair or resurfacing of courts when required.	LTA FF/LFA/AFA	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
		3G Pitch		Small sized 3G pitch, unavailable for community use and without floodlighting. Used only by centre staff.	Seek to secure community access to help meet demand for training and small sided football.						
46	Putney Town Bowling & Social Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat bowling green. The Club reportedly has 36 members.	Sustain quality of the green to ensure it is in suitable condition to continue to meet club demand.	Sports Club BE	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
12	Cedars LTC	Tennis	Sports Club	Two macadam tennis courts of good quality, with floodlighting. Membership levels and capacity balance not known.	Sustain court quality through upholding rigorous maintenance regimes.	Sport Club LTA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
33	Leaders Gardens	Tennis	Charitable Trust	Three macadam tennis courts of good quality. Not floodlit but available for public use and pay play. The site is programmed for recreational play, with some coaching programmes also available. Has capacity to accommodate further use. Identified as within a high penetration area for tennis market participation.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual repair or resurfacing of courts when required.  Maximise use for public access and to increase tennis participation.	Charitable Trust LTA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
34	Lower Putney Common	Tennis	Trust	Five macadam tennis courts of poor quality, without floodlighting. Site is secured and locked from public entry. Site reportedly used previously by Putney Common Tennis Club, though no known use is currently identified and it is not known whether this Club remains in existence.	Improve court quality and establish tennis activity.	Sport Club LTA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
45	Putney LTC	Tennis	Sports Club	Five synthetic grass surface tennis courts and five clay surface tennis courts, eight of which are floodlit and all of good quality. Club membership has increased over recent years and that it now has 50 new off-peak members, whilst it plans to achieve growth of 50 more new members. The Club aspires to redevelop the Clubhouse at its home site and to install LED floodlights in place of the existing lighting.	Sustain court quality through upholding rigorous maintenance regimes.  Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual repair or resurfacing of courts when required.  Ensure that capacity onsite can meet club needs and explore opportunities to access offsite provision in line with increase in demand if required.  Support the Club to improve the quality of sports lighting and clubhouse facilities.	Sport Club LTA	Local Site	L	M-L	L	Protect Enhance
64	The Roehampton Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Four synthetic grass surface tennis courts, eight acrylic courts (plus one junior sized), three clay tennis courts and ten grass tennis courts, all floodlit and all of good quality. Three of the acrylic courts are covered in winter months using a temporary air dome. The Club has membership of 2,700, with a two year long waiting list in operation and has been for some time. Roehampton Club has a development plan to 2035 including two new padel courts (now built since the PPS Assessment Report in early 2021) resurfacing of eight courts and to develop two new airhalls, as well as extension to the clubhouse and a new sports shop.	Sustain court quality through upholding rigorous maintenance regimes.  Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual repair or resurfacing of courts when required.  Support the Club to develop covered provision to increase capacity on site and hours of access, also allowing greater year round use through winter.  Support the Club to improve the clubhouse facilities.	Sport Club LTA	Local Site	L	S-M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
77	Gardens Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Six synthetic grass surface tennis courts of which four are floodlit. All courts are good quality and four were recently resurfaced in 2020. Floodlighting was also installed in recent years. The Club has 331 members and aspires to grow membership. There is considered to be capacity to accommodate growth within the existing site. The Club aspires to rebuild the existing clubhouse.	Sustain court quality through upholding rigorous maintenance regimes.  Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual repair or resurfacing of courts when required.  Support the Club to improve the quality of clubhouse facilities.	Sport Club LTA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
79	Roehampton University (Froebel College)	Tennis/ Netball	University	Two good quality macadam tennis with floodlighting, overmarked by one netball courts. Used for recreational student tennis but available for community use and used by Roslyn Park Netball Club. The University would like to develop or access 3G pitch provision for student sport teams and has considered potential for the resurfacing of this area to 3G surface.	Sustain court quality through upholding rigorous maintenance regimes.  Maximise access for community tennis and netball.  Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual repair or resurfacing of courts when required.	University LTA EN	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect

**TOOTING ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
18	Fishponds Playing Fields	Football	Council/Trust	<p>Two adult football pitches of standard quality, overplayed by four match equivalent sessions per week. No capacity for additional use. Pitches marked onto playing field shared with cricket pitch outfield area.</p> <p>Good quality cricket square with three senior wickets, four junior wickets and an adjacent non-turf pitch. The senior wickets are currently overplayed by seven match sessions per season, the junior wickets are played to capacity, whilst the non-turf pitch has capacity to accommodate additional use but not at peak time.</p> <p>The playing field and cricket square receives contracted maintenance by the Council, with some additional works performed by Spencer CC which uses the site, as do Balham &amp; Tooting CC, Last Man Stands and Ernest Bevin College. The quality of the cricket pitch is higher relative to other Council sites due to additional grounds maintenance support undertaken by Spencer CC at its own time and cost expense, as part of an informal agreement with the Council to provide a better quality pitch for cricket users onsite. Balham &amp; Tooting CC aspires to improve quality of the pavilion facilities.</p> <p>The site, which has an onsite play area, is secured from public access by perimeter fencing was previously only accessible to residents as public open space whenever there was a pitch booking and a member of staff is onsite. The site temporarily opened for public access during the government lockdown in 2020 but is now secured again.</p> <p>The Council is considering options for the future management of this site in the long-term, having recently moved to a new management model for the short-term, with Enable managing the site for 18-24 months from summer 2021. A greater level of public access will be facilitated from 10-6pm initially throughout summer.</p>	<p>Retain the site as a formal community sport location and maintain secured perimeter access to protect both pitch quality and investment into pitch maintenance by the Council and local sports clubs.</p> <p>Ensure increased public access is well co-ordinated and does not enable misuse or damage to formal sports provision which may increase risk or be detrimental to quality.</p> <p>Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of football pitch quality.</p> <p>Work with contracted and club maintenance providers to improve pitch quality through improved standard and regularity of maintenance.</p> <p>Support user clubs to improve the quality of ancillary provision, particularly the quality of the onsite pavilion building.</p> <p>Opportunities are being explored, through a new management model, for residents to access the site considering different models of operation, without compromising its current or future use for sport or its sporting provision. See recent committee approval in relation to the site: <a href="#">Committee Report Template.doc (wandsworth.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Should a change in management be considered by the Council, ensure that there is a commitment under any new model to sustain and protect level of access for community sport onsite.</p> <p>As referenced as an option in the aforementioned Committee Report, it is recommended that a club-led model be strongly considered as the future operator for the site via future opportunity for long-term leasehold, to protect and enhance cricket facilities and activity onsite, as well as football within a shared use model.</p>	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF	Local Site	M	S-M	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket									

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
17	Fircroft Primary School	Hockey AGP	School	Small size AGP without floodlighting. Available but no known community use.	Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	EH School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
20	Furzedown Recreation Centre	Hockey AGP/ Tennis	Council/Trust	Small size, floodlit AGP of standard quality. Available for community use. Overmarked with three tennis courts which are rated as poor quality for tennis.	Sustain and improve pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.  Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.  Undertake performance testing and FA registration of the 3G pitch to be able to accommodate competitive play and maximise use for matches to help reduce grass pitch shortfalls for football.	EH FF Sport Clubs LTA	Local Site	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
		3G Pitch		Small size, floodlit 3G pitch of standard quality. Available for community use and identified as used for football training or activity by seven different clubs and groups.							
41	Penwortham School	3G Pitch	School	Small size 3G pitch of standard quality, with sports lighting. The pitch is not recorded as made available for community use.	Seek to secure community use access to help meet demand for floodlit training, for football primarily but other sports if suitable. Secure any community access via formal agreement where possible.	School FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
62	Streatham Park Bowling Club	Bowling	Sports Club	Good quality flat bowling green used by Streatham Park BC. Membership and usage levels not known.	Uphold standard and frequency of maintenance practices to sustain good quality green.	Sports Club BE	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
21	Furzedown Recreation Ground	Tennis	Charitable Trust	Two good quality macadam courts without floodlighting. Pay and play available at this site which is mainly programmed and made available for recreational play with some formal tennis programme and coaching activity also provided. There is some reported capacity to accommodate additional use. LTA penetration data highlights the Tooting area as a latent market for increased tennis participation.	Maximise access and use for recreational tennis and public participation.  Explore opportunities for the development of the disused green for alternative use. Possible opportunities may include as additional tennis courts with access to the former bowls pavilion to increase capacity onsite for tennis.	LTA/ Charitable Trust BE	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
		Bowls		<b>Disused</b> - flat green now lies disused.							

**WANDSWORTH ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
2	Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports Field	Football/ rugby union	Sports Club	<p>One youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch both of standard quality, dually used as two senior rugby union pitches. Pitches are overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week in total though Academy use and community rugby union play by Bec Old Boys RFC (matches and training using mobile floodlighting) and Battersea Ironsides RFC junior section. The site is maintained by the grounds team from The Spencer Club situated adjacent, as pitches are marked on the outfield of the cricket pitch used by Spencer CC, managed by the Club via long-term lease from the Academy. Tenure is unsecure for hiring rugby union teams.</p>	<p>Undertake PitchPower/RFU/GMA assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality.</p> <p>Work with The Spencer Club to improve pitch/cricket outfield quality through improved standard and regularity of maintenance.</p> <p>Seek to transfer a proportion if not all rugby union training demand off match pitches in line with the development of new floodlit provision in the Borough, either 3G pitch or natural turf, to alleviate overplay of grass pitches.</p>	Academy FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU EH EL	Hub Site (group)	H	S-M	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket	<p>Good quality square used by Spencer CC on long-term lease from the Academy. It has seven adult wickets overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per season, one junior wicket played to capacity and one adjacent non-turf pitch which is used but carries some capacity for addition use, albeit often unavailable due to the natural turf square being in use. The site has no spare capacity throughout the week to accommodate additional play and is in use every day. Spencer CC accesses pavilion provision at the main Spencer Club site adjacent.</p>								
		Hockey AGP/ Lacrosse	Academy/ Sports club	<p>Standard quality floodlit AGP with floodlighting. Owned by the Academy but outside of school hours, community use of the pitch is managed by Spencer HC as part of an operational partnership which sees the club as main user at evenings and weekends. Spencer Lacrosse Club has some limited access but both clubs report demand for increased floodlit training provision. There is also some use for junior cricket activity in summer.</p>							

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
65	The Spencer Club	Cricket/ lacrosse	Private/ Sports Club	<p>Good quality natural turf cricket square with 15 adult wickets and five junior wickets. Capacity exists for both senior and junior wickets to accommodate more use, however there is no capacity for the site to do so in practice because it is in use every night of the week, therefore there is no additional temporal capacity.</p> <p>Three lacrosse pitches are marked on the cricket outfield, two senior and one junior, used by Spencer Lacrosse Club. Pitches have spare capacity to accommodate additional activity.</p> <p>The Spencer Club (with Spencer CC) aspires upgrade the pavilion building and develop indoor net provision for cricket.</p>	<p>Uphold high quality maintenance and preparatory regime to sustain good quality pitch and best sustain high levels of demand through the week.</p> <p>Support the club to improve quality of pavilion provision.</p> <p>Develop indoor net provision to benefit Spencer CC and other clubs locally.</p>	ECB/SCF EL	Hub Site (group)	H	S-M	H	Protect Enhance
59	Spencer LTC	Tennis		<p>Five macadam tennis courts which are floodlit and five grass tennis courts which are not floodlit. All courts rated as good quality.</p> <p>Quality of courts has declined in recent years due to age, now 13 years old. The tennis club aspires to convert one of the existing grass courts to a clay surface to allow for year-round play.</p>	<p>Uphold high quality maintenance regime to sustain good quality courts.</p> <p>Support the club to resurface a proportion of grass court provision to clay surface to increase year round availability and quality to increase court hours available.</p>	LTA Sports Club		L	M	L	
3	Aspire Centre (Southfields Academy)	3G Pitch	Academy	<p>Full size, floodlit 3G pitch of standard quality. The pitch is certified and FA registered for match play use and used by several clubs for matches. Built in 2011, now in excess of the recommended surface lifespan. Operating at 85% utilisation in peak period.</p>	<p>Monitor pitch quality and resurface the pitch in line with rate of deterioration before quality becomes poor.</p> <p>Ensure the Academy has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.</p> <p>Ensure a rigorous and regular maintenance regime is in place. Maximise use for match play to help address grass pitch shortfalls.</p>	Academy FF/LFA/AFA LTA EN	Local Site	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
		Tennis/ netball		<p>Two hard surface tennis courts overmarked with two netball courts. Floodlit, available for community use and used for netball by Capital Nuns NC and Wandsworth NC.</p>	<p>Sustain and improve quality of courts to ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate continued netball use.</p>						
6	Battersea Ironsides Sports Club	Football	Sports Club	<p>Standard quality adult pitch used for National League System matches. Temporary pitch perimeter barrier used to meet Step 7 ground grading requirements due to the pitch sharing the cricket outfield area. Pitch has some spare capacity for additional use but not at peak time.</p> <p>The Clubhouse is presently closed due to water supply issues.</p>	<p>Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of football pitch quality.</p> <p>Work with contracted and club maintenance providers to improve pitch quality through improved standard and regularity of maintenance.</p> <p>Resolve water supply issues to ensure ancillary provision is accessible.</p>	Sports Club FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU EN	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
6	Battersea Ironsides Sports Club	Cricket	Sports Club	<p>One good quality square, available for community use and used by Battersea Ironsides CC. Square has six adult wickets overplayed by 11 match equivalent sessions per season, two junior wickets overplayed by one session and a non-turf pitch with capacity for additional use, albeit not at peak times when the main square is used. The outfield area is marked for other sports which has reportedly resulted in the outfield having undulations affecting its quality for cricket use.</p> <p>This site has a lack of capacity at peak times for senior cricket, women's and junior cricket which requires use of offsite venues. The Clubhouse is presently closed due to water supply issues.</p>	<p>Sustain quality of square through upholding the level and frequency of maintenance practices.</p> <p>Seek to improve the quality of the outfield area in line with maintenance recommendations for football, to better meet the year round demands of both sports.</p> <p>Make greater use of non-turf pitch provision when possible, for example for junior or senior Sunday matches, in order to better balance use across natural turf and non-turf provision.</p> <p>Resolve water supply issues to ensure ancillary provision is accessible.</p>	<p>Sports Club FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU EN BSUK</p>	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
		3G Pitch		<p>Small size, 3G pitch of standard quality with floodlighting. Available for community use and used by Battersea Ironsides FC as well as some youth training by Battersea Ironsides RFC, albeit not World Rugby compliant. Small sided commercial football leagues use the site at peak times throughout the week, limiting the availability for team training.</p> <p>Not FA registered therefore not sanctioned to be safely used for affiliated match play.</p>	<p>Ensure a rigorous and regular maintenance regime is in place.</p> <p>Seek to maximise use for club training in order to help meeting floodlit training demand for football and rugby union.</p> <p>Pursue performance testing and FA registration to enable use for match play to help meet shortfalls for football.</p> <p>Explore value of shock pad installation and RFU registration to provide compliancy for contact rugby use.</p> <p>Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.</p>						
		Netball		<p>Two netball courts marked out on hard court area. Netball participation programmes also take place here.</p>	<p>Sustain and improve quality of courts to ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate continued netball use.</p>						
		Softball		<p>Softball diamond previously marked on the cricket outfield, withdrawn from use for the 2021 but previously used two night per week by London Softball League teams.</p>	<p>Seek to establish whether the provider plans to reinstate softball activity onsite and if so, maximise access to meet current shortfalls.</p>						



**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
11	Burntwood School	Tennis/netball	School	Four hard surface tennis courts overmarked with three netball courts. Floodlit, available for community use and used for netball by Spencer NC and Wandsworth NC.	Sustain and improve quality of courts to ensure they are of suitable condition to accommodate continued netball use.	School LTA EN EH	Local Site	H	S-M	H	Protect Provide
		Hockey AGP		The School has a triangular shaped playing field which is not regularly formally marked but has a long jump pit and seasonally marked with a grass running track in summer. Previously used by Battersea Ironsides RFC. Spencer HC has previously discussed the prospect of developing a full size AGP onsite and could help fund a pitch working with a partner land asset.	Explore the feasibility to develop a full size AGP onsite.  Some removal of obstructing trees in the centre of the field may be required and the long jump pit may be impacted upon.						
15	Emanuel School	Football	Independent School	Two youth 9v9 pitches of standard quality. Both pitches considered to be played to capacity by the school. Pitches are unavailable for community use. The site is considered to have unsecure tenure for any potentially future community users. The pitches are marked on cricket outfield areas.	Seek to gain access to the site for community use to help meet demand and reduce capacity shortfalls for football, rugby union and cricket. Formalise this community use via agreement where possible. Sustain and improve quality of maintenance regime to improve pitch quality.	School FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU EN LTA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Two natural turf cricket squares, not available for community use. Outfields are overmarked by football and rugby pitches.	Seek to gain access to the site for community use to help meet demand and reduce capacity shortfalls for football, rugby union and cricket. Formalise this community use via agreement where possible.						
		Rugby Union		Two senior rugby union pitches marked on cricket outfield areas. Unavailable for community use. Pitches are unavailable for community use. The site is considered to have unsecure tenure for any potentially future community users. The pitches are marked on cricket outfield areas.	Sustain and improve quality of maintenance regime to improve pitch quality.						
		Netball		Two netball courts marked on hard surface tennis courts. Commercial leagues are run onsite.	Seek to gain access to the site for community use to help meet demand and reduce capacity shortfalls for football, rugby union and cricket. Formalise this community use via agreement where possible.						
		Tennis/netball		Two hard surface tennis courts also marked with two netball courts. Commercial netball leagues run onsite.	Sustain and improve quality of maintenance regime to improve pitch quality						

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
22	Garratt Green	Rugby Union	Council/Trust	<p>Two senior rugby union pitches of poor quality, without floodlighting. Pitches are overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions per week and therefore have no capacity to accommodate additional use.</p> <p>Pitches are managed by the Council via Enable, however the changing rooms are leased to user club Battersea Ironsides RFC via long-term agreement. The Club has plans to remodel the building which is poor quality, however the condition may dictate that the building is adjudged to be unsafe for use in its current form and may require closure or demolition.</p>	<p>Seek RFU/GMA support to undertake technical assessment of pitch quality and to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality.</p> <p>Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.</p> <p>Determine the viability of the existing pavilion building and if deemed unsafe for use, the Council and RFU should work with the Club to develop plans for new provision able to better meet female participation which takes place onsite. Explore feasibility for the development of World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision onsite to help reduce grass pitch shortfalls for rugby union and floodlit training demands for rugby and other sports. This may form part of a wider project with new building provision if deemed required.</p>	Council/Trust RFU FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	M	S-M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
23	Garratt Park	Football	Council/Trust	<p>Adult sized pitch of poor quality, currently overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week. No spare capacity for additional use.</p> <p>Changing rooms are of poor quality with scope for remodelling, with four small rooms room sizes each insufficient to accommodate a whole team and servicing just one pitch.</p> <p>Site previously suggested as a possible location for development of a 9v9 sized 3G pitch however Enable advises that it is highly likely that this would not be deliverable due to biodiversity impact.</p>	<p>Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of football pitch quality.</p> <p>Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.</p> <p>Explore feasibility to remodel pavilion provision as fewer, bigger rooms to better meet demands for pitch use.</p>	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	S-M	L	Protect Enhance

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
30	King Georges Park (Site 1 - North)	Football	Council/Trust	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches, overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week therefore have no capacity for additional use.	Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of football pitch quality.  Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF EH LTA/ Charitable Trust EN BE ETA BSUK	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby union		Battersea Ironsides RFC has approximately 28 mini rugby teams using open space across the site, despite no dedicated mini pitch provision marked for rugby union.	Mark and maintain additional pitches for rugby union across the King Georges Park conurbation (sites 1-3) to help better meet demand for rugby union.						
		Cricket		The site has potential to accommodate a non-turf cricket pitch on the playing field to help meet demand for cricket.	Explore feasibility to introduce cricket to the King Georges Park conurbation (sites 1-3) and to install additional non-turf pitch/square provision to help meet cricket demand for senior, junior and midweek short format league demand.						
		Softball		The site has potential to accommodate one or more diamonds on the playing field to help meet demand for softball.	Explore feasibility to introduce softball to the King Georges Park conurbation (sites 1-3) to help meet softball demand.						
		Tag/Touch Rugby/ Ultimate (frisbee)		Four marked pitches used for both touch/tag rugby and for Ultimate. O2 Touch sessions, In2Touch leagues and Try Tag Rugby leagues operate from this site.	Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay. Explore opportunity to mark additional pitches if required, in line with future increases in demand.						
		Tennis/ hockey	All Star Tennis	Five artificial grass surface and five macadam surface tennis courts, all good quality, 8 are floodlit. Artificial grass surface courts are used for hockey by local schools midweek. Key main site for All Star Tennis which aspires to develop a new building to service courts. The site is mainly programmed for coaching and programme activity, as well as community use.	LTA to work with All Star Tennis on the second phase of its facility development plan across its portfolio, including the development of building provision and potential to develop additional courts at this site.						
		Bowls	Flat bowling green in good quality. No resident club user but pay and play available. Identified by All Star Tennis as having potential for development as tennis provision, potentially for Padel tennis.	Promote pay and play use of the green in the short term to maximise use and utilise capacity to help meet any club demand in the locality. In the medium to long term, explore alternative uses for the green should it not be required to meet club demand for bowling locally.							
		Netball	Four netball courts marked out on the artificial grass surface tennis courts. Some netball participation activity takes place at this site.	Continue to develop netball participation at this site around the tennis programme and maximise day time use by local schools.							

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
31	King Georges Park (Site 2 - Central)	Football	Council/Trust	One youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch both of poor quality. Overplayed by two and 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week respectively. No capacity for additional use due to overplay. No nearby pavilion servicing pitches.	Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of football pitch quality.  Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF BSUK	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		The site previously accommodated one non-turf pitch on the field north of the health centre, in between football pitches. The pitch was removed having been subject to vandalism and misuse. The site has potential to accommodate a non-turf cricket pitch again and a second on the playing field south of the health centre, to help meet demand for cricket. The site has potential to accommodate one of more diamonds for softball. No nearby pavilion servicing pitches.	Explore feasibility to introduce cricket and/or softball to the King Georges Park conurbation (sites 1-3) and to install additional non-turf pitch/square provision to help meet cricket demand for senior, junior and midweek short format league demand.						
32	King Georges Park (Site 3 - South)	Football	Council/Trust	Two adult pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch both of poor quality. Overplayed by three and 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week respectively. No capacity for additional use due to overplay. No nearby pavilion provision servicing pitches.	Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of football pitch quality.  Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF BSUK	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		The site previously accommodated one non-turf pitch on the field north of the health centre, in between football pitches. The pitch was removed having been subject to vandalism and misuse. The site has potential to accommodate a non-turf cricket pitch again, potentially a second on the playing field south of the health centre, to help meet demand for cricket.	Explore feasibility to introduce cricket to the King Georges Park conurbation (sites 1-3). To install additional non-turf pitch/square provision to help meet cricket demand for senior, junior and midweek short format league demand.						
		Softball		The site has potential to accommodate one or more diamonds on the playing field to help meet demand for softball.	Explore feasibility to introduce softball to the King Georges Park conurbation (sites 1-3) to help meet softball demand.						
35	Magdalen Park Bowling Club	Bowling	Sports Club	Flat bowling green of good quality. A second green exists onsite, now lying disused and functioning as a play area for neighbouring nursery.	Sustain quality of the green to ensure it is in suitable condition to continue to meet club demand.	Sports Club BE	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
36	Magdalen Park LTC	Tennis	Sports Club	Four artificial grass surface tennis courts and four clay tennis courts, all floodlit and of good quality. The site is leased from Magdalen College. The Club aspires to improve clubhouse facilities onsite but is not currently seeking to increase membership.	Uphold high quality maintenance regime to sustain good quality courts.  Support the club to improve quality of clubhouse provision.	Sports Club LTA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
56	South London Bowling Club	Bowling	Club	Good quality flat bowling green. The Club reportedly has 31 members and aspires to growth by a little over 10%.	Sustain quality of the green to ensure it is in suitable condition to continue to meet club demand.	Sports Club BE	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
63	The Heathfield Club	Bowling	Club	Standard quality flat bowling green. The Club reportedly has 38 members and aspires to improve the clubhouse conservatory.	Improve quality of the green through improved standard and frequency of maintenance to continue to meet club demand.	BE Sport Clubs	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
71	Trinity Field	Football	Trust	Two adult sized pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of good quality. Pitches are marked on the playing field area shared with cricket outfield. Adult and youth pitches have capacity to accommodate additional use but no availability at peak times. Pitches are used by Sinjun Grammarians FC. Current changing facilities are considered to be poor quality, Trinity Fields Playing Field Trust aspires to develop new building provision to service all sports onsite and for wider community benefit. The Trust aspires to develop and improve facilities across the site, including the prospect of developing a new full size artificial grass pitch, either 3G or for hockey.	Uphold high quality maintenance regime to sustain good quality pitches and managed shared use of outfields.  Maximise capacity available for cricket to meet shortfalls, particularly at non-peak times such as Sundays and midweek for junior, women's and short format cricket.  Consider installation/replacement of non-turf pitch provision to provide greater capacity on natural turf squares. Support the Trust to improve quality of clubhouse provision and for design to suitably meet the requirements of all sports onsite, as well as opportunities to meet wider community needs within a shared use building, e.g. including social and flexible space.  Develop additional net training facilities onsite to increase capacity for training  Development of an artificial grass pitch onsite should not be pursued due to loss of playing field land incurred and impact on cricket provision. There is no location onsite which could accommodate such a facility without prejudice to the use of cricket facilities or direct loss of cricket pitch area.  To engage with Trinity Fields Trust to support disadvantaged groups and organisations to utilise the facilities.	Trust FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF	Key Centre (potential hub)	M-H	S-M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		Two good quality natural turf squares used by Sinjun Grammarians CC. One square has four adult wickets played to capacity and six junior wickets with capacity. The square has a non-turf pitch adjacent which is disused due to poor quality. The second square has six senior and four junior wickets. The site is considered to have capacity to accommodate junior demand and Sunday cricket. Drainage improvement works temporarily affecting use through 2021 season meaning only one square is able to be used and demand is temporarily using other sites. Current changing facilities poor quality, Trinity Fields Playing Field Trust aspires to develop new building provision to service all sports onsite and for wider community benefit. Sinjun Grammarians CC reports a need for increased net provision, further to the two fixed net bays to the northern end of the site.							

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
72	Wandle Recreation Centre	3G Pitch	Council/Trust	<p>Three small size 3G pitches with sports lighting. All are standard quality and available for community use. The pitches are certified and FA registered for competitive use.</p> <p>Small sided commercial football leagues are the main site user at peak times throughout the week, limiting the availability for other community use such as team training. Used for rugby skills training as well as football and touch rugby activity.</p> <p>It has previously been proposed that the site could be remodelled, for the loss of the three pitches and the development of a full size 3G pitch in their place. It has also been suggested that site might hold opportunity to meet National League System Step 5 ground grading requirements that are unable to be met in the Borough.</p>	<p>Ensure a rigorous and regular maintenance regime is in place. Seek to maximise use for club training to help meeting floodlit training demand for football.</p> <p>Maintain FA registration to enable use for match play to help meet shortfalls for football.</p> <p>Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time, is in place for repair and resurfacing when necessary.</p> <p>Explore feasibility to redevelop the site as a community stadium 3G pitch for the Borough, as a central location to meet the facility needs of clubs playing National League System football.</p> <p>Consider potential for this to incorporate shock pad to help meet demand for rugby union training and junior rugby activity.</p>	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA RFU	Key Centre	M-H	M	H	Protect Provide
73	Wandilea Bowling Club	Bowling	Sports Club	One good quality flat bowling green. The site is on a long-term lease from the Council until 2031. Club has 23 members.	Sustain quality of the green to ensure it is in suitable condition to continue to meet club demand.	Sports Club BE	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
74	Wandsworth Common	Football	Council/Trust	<p>Six adult pitches, two youth 9v9 pitches and three mini 7v7 pitches, all of poor quality. Adult pitches are overplayed by 20 match equivalent sessions per week. Youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 15, whilst mini pitches are overplayed by three. No capacity for additional use due to overplay. Used by community clubs and significantly by three local schools.</p> <p>FA Pitch Improvement Programme assessment conducted onsite, identified issues such as waterlogging.</p>	<p>Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay. Undertake future PitchPower assessment to determine the effectiveness of maintenance works and any improvements made.</p> <p>In the long-term, review hybrid pitch pilot projects and consider this site as a potential future hybrid pitch location should this product be supported by NGBs. This may include full pitch development, or in high traffic areas of pitches only, to support the resilience and extend playability of natural turf.</p>	Council/Trust LTA/ Charitable Trust FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU ETA UKU BE	Hub Site	H	S-M	L	Protect Enhance Provide

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
74	Wandsworth Common	Cricket	Council/Trust	<p>Three poor quality squares and three non-turf pitches, one standalone and two recently installed in 2020 adjacent to natural turf squares. New non-turf pitches in the first season of use for 2021.</p> <p>Senior wickets overplayed by 53 match equivalent sessions per season, though new non-turf pitches will now help to better distribute use across provision.</p> <p>There is no spare capacity other than on Sundays on non-turf pitches, with pitches in use every other day of the week by Spencer CC, Carpe Vinum CC and Last Man Stands.</p>	<p>Undertake technical ECB/GMA assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality.</p> <p>Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.</p> <p>Maximise use of non-turf pitches in order to better distribute and balance demand across natural turf and non-turf provision, to reduce overplay of natural turf wickets.</p> <p>Explore opportunity to develop an additional non-turf pitch, so that all three natural turf squares have adjacent non-turf pitch provision.</p>	<p>Council/Trust LTA FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU ETA UKU BE BSUK</p>	Hub Site	H	S-M	L	<p>Protect Enhance Provide</p>
		Rugby Union	<p>One mini pitch of poor quality. Considered to be played to capacity and cannot accommodate additional demand. Used by Battersea Ironsides RFC mini section.</p>	<p>Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity.</p>							
		Softball	<p>One diamond to the south of the site, a second by Bellevue Road having now been withdrawn from use due to public safety concerns. Used by London Softball League four nights per week.</p>	<p>Retain the remaining diamond onsite and maximise use to meet demand for softball.</p> <p>Install suitable safety signage to ensure public park users are aware that formal softball is in progress and risk of ballstrike.</p>							
		Tennis	All Star Tennis	<p>Six macadam tennis courts, none of which, are floodlit. Four courts are standard quality and two are good, the four standard courts requiring repainting. Courts considered to be operating over capacity.</p> <p>All Star Tennis plans to add two more courts to the site to form two banks of four courts, adding sports lighting to all.</p>	<p>Repaint the standard quality courts in the short term to improve quality for play and grip underfoot.</p> <p>Develop additional tennis court provision and explore feasibility to install floodlighting, both of which will increase capacity and hours for access.</p>						
		Bowls		<p>Flat bowling green of standard quality. Available for pay and play, operated by All Star Tennis. All Star Bowls Club set up in 2021. Running weekly sessions with a growing membership currently at 18.</p>	<p>Promote pay and play use of the green in the short term to maximise use and utilise capacity to help meet any club demand in the locality.</p> <p>In the medium to long term, explore alternative uses for the green should it not be required to meet club demand for bowling locally.</p>						

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
80	Spencer Park	Football	Council/Trust	One mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of poor quality. Both mini pitches are played to capacity by club match play demand, whilst the youth 9v9 pitch has some capacity to accommodate additional use but not at peak times.	Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of football pitch quality. Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.	Council/Trust FF/LFA/AFA ETA UKU RFL	Local Site	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Tag/Touch Rugby/ Ultimate (Frisbee)		Commercial small sided touch leagues are run on site. Commercial leagues are run on site. Using marked Touch/Tag rugby pitches.	Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance. Mark additional pitches if required in line with increases in demand.						
81	St Faith's CE Primary School	3G Pitch	School	Small size, floodlit 3G pitch of standard quality. Recorded as available but with no identified community use.	Seek to establish community use to help meet demand and reduce capacity shortfalls for football. Formalise this community use via agreement where possible.	School FF/LFA/AFA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect
NEW	Former Springfield Hospital/Central London Golf Centre	Potential for: Football Cricket Rugby union Hockey Lacrosse	Private	Key residential development site on former hospital and golf course land, to include new publicly accessible open space. Initial consideration was given to development of formal sports pitch provision within the facility mix, though the plan agreed by the Council does not currently include this.	Consider future opportunities for open space developed within the site to be used for informal/recreational sport. Subject to addressing planning constraints this site could be strategically important in the support of developing formal sport.	Council Private	Local Site	M	S-M	L	-



**SITES OUTSIDE OF WANDSWORTH BOROUGH**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
78	Barn Elms Sports Centre <sup>16</sup>	Football	Council/Trust	<p>Seven adult, four mini 7v7 pitches, four mini 5v5 pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches all of poor quality. Cricket provision shares outfield areas on which football and rugby union pitches are marked.</p> <p>Adult pitches are currently overplayed by 14 match equivalent sessions per week and youth 9v9 pitches overplayed by two. Mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches have some capacity to accommodate additional use but not at peak time.</p>	<p>Undertake PitchPower assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of football pitch quality.</p> <p>Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.</p>	<p>Council/Trust Richmond Borough Council FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU RFL LTA EH</p>	Hub Site	H	S-M	H	<p>Protect Enhance Provide</p>
		3G Pitch/ Hockey AGP		<p>The site has potential for the development of artificial grass pitch provision, particularly for a 3G pitch given that the site is mainly used for football and rugby union and has a complimentary built facility offer alongside. The site is nearby to wetland areas and any potential impact would need to be considered.</p>	<p>Explore feasibility to develop one or more artificial grass pitches (3G and/or hockey surface) to further develop the site as a sporting hub better able to meet demand for floodlit training. 3G pitch provision should include World Rugby compliancy and shock pad as a minimum, but optimally should be a senior rugby union pitch build and design.</p> <p>Further assessment of any potential environmental and planning impact is required, as is consideration of modern lighting products and mitigation measures required, if at all.</p>						
		Cricket		<p>Three natural turf squares of standard quality, available for community use. Each has four adult wickets. Cricket provision shares outfield areas on which football and rugby union pitches are marked.</p> <p>Together, the three squares have total capacity to accommodate an additional 23 match equivalent session per season.</p> <p>There are two non-turf pitches onsite which also have capacity to accommodate additional use.</p> <p>The site can accommodate as many as five squares, two lie dormant. The site is used by Bank of England CC.</p>	<p>Maximise use of the site for cricket to help meet current shortfalls. The site is currently under-utilised for cricket.</p> <p>Maximise use of non-turf pitch provision, particularly to facilitate the growth of junior cricket and short format cricket midweek.</p> <p>GMA to undertake assessment of the two dormant squares to understand what level of preparatory works are required to bring them back into regular use and ongoing maintenance to be agreed. Understanding required as to whether all can be used simultaneously. Bring these pitches back into use to help meet shortfalls for cricket.</p> <p>Explore opportunity to develop increased non-turf pitch provision onsite.</p>						

<sup>16</sup> This site is managed by Wandsworth Borough Council which administers decisions relating to operation of the site, however it is situated within LB Richmond and for which Richmond Borough Council is the responsible planning authority.

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
78	Barn Elms Sports Centre <sup>17</sup>	Rugby Union/ Rugby League	Council/Trust	<p>Five senior pitches, all of which, are of poor quality. One is partially floodlit, overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per week, mainly from accommodating training demand.</p> <p>Another four senior and one junior pitch are not floodlit. These adult pitches are overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week and the junior pitch by 0.5. The site is used by Barnes RFC and London Exiles RFC, as well as by London Oratory School.</p> <p>Clubs report that changing rooms are too small.</p> <p>One senior pitch was planned to be marked for rugby league matches by London Chargers RLFC. This is no longer possible and the Club has now had to seek facilities outside of the Borough.</p>	<p>Undertake technical RFU/GMA assessment to develop a programme of technical recommendations to support the improvement of pitch quality.</p> <p>Improve pitch quality through improved quality and frequency of maintenance, in line with technical recommendations, to increase carrying capacity and reduce overplay.</p> <p>Seek to better balance training use of the floodlit pitch through the development of additional floodlit provision onsite, either 3G pitch or additional floodlighting of existing pitches or grass spaces.</p> <p>Explore future potential for rugby league access to the site and barriers to rugby league use.</p>	Council/Trust Richmond Borough Council FF/LFA/AFA ECB/SCF RFU RFL LTA EH EN	Hub Site	H	S-M	L-H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis/ Netball		<p>Ten macadam tennis courts and six artificial grass surface tennis courts, all of standard quality but without sports lighting.</p> <p>Enable is developing plans to improve tennis provision onsite, including covering some of the existing outdoor courts with a permanent structure and others with a semi-permanent cover which can be taken down on a seasonal basis, to increase the year round capacity and court hours.</p> <p>The site is nearby to wetland areas and any potential impact would need to be considered.</p>	<p>Further explore opportunities to develop the site to have a covered/indoor and outdoor tennis offer.</p> <p>Explore feasibility to install floodlighting on courts to increase capacity and hours of use. This may be able to be achieved should a permanent cover be developed over some courts, protecting from any light spill which may be of concern to the nearby wetland areas.</p> <p>Explore potential opportunities to mark courts for netball use and whether any covered court development hold opportunity for the development of the site as a netball hub for the region.</p>						

<sup>17</sup> This site is managed by Wandsworth Borough Council which administers decisions relating to operation of the site, however it is situated within LB Richmond and for which Richmond Borough Council is the responsible planning authority.

## PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2037 (in line with the emerging Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

The scenario below shows the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth over the Local Plan period. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a third generation artificial grass pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an artificial grass pitch (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches.

The indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.3 per dwelling (based on the national average occupancy rate) and uses the accumulative housing figures of all allocations identified in the emerging Wandsworth Borough Local Plan (2021-2037) of 15,151 dwellings. It is expected that population growth generated from this figure will equate to an additional population increase of 34,848.

The scenario below is an example on how the PPC can be used in order to understand the potential additional demand for pitch sports from housing growth in addition to potential associated costs. It is recommended that the Council should use the PPC to test further when individual sites as they come forward or as greater details emerge.

Note that the scenarios can also be updated as required over the Local Plan period throughout the lifespan of the PPS to reflect population projections and projections, changes in the housing requirement and change in the average household size.

The number of pitches required in the following tables has been rounded up or down accordingly, however, capital and revenue costs are based on indicative pitch costs, proportionate to the total match equivalent sessions required rather than just whole pitches required. Though increases in match sessions for some sports are not sufficient to warrant the creation of new pitches, the associated costs have been incorporated and investment into alternative sites could instead be considered to increase capacity to accommodate this new demand.

### **All allocations – 15,151 forecasted dwellings**

The total number of new homes across all allocations identified across the plan period 2021-2037 for 15,151 homes across the Borough.

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 2021-2037 is 34,848 (based on 15,151 dwellings being delivered). This population increase equates to 15.74 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 6.29 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on artificial grass pitch for hockey and 211.06 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Training demand equates to 22.11 hours of use per week for football on third generation artificial grass pitches and hockey equates to 16.83 hours of use per week on artificial grass pitches. There are also 5.92 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch and 0.1 match equivalent session per week of training for rugby league on a grass pitch.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 15,151 forecasted dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand (MES) per week <sup>18</sup>	Training demand <sup>19</sup>
Adult football	4.09	22.11 hours
Youth football	4.45	
Mini soccer	2.52	
Rugby union	4.58	5.92
Rugby league	0.1	0.1
Adult hockey	4.35	13.05 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	1.94	3.78 hours
Cricket	211.06	-

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifecycle costs. The PPC estimates the total capital cost for the anticipated growth across all pitch types would be £5,935,625 which would require an annual lifecycle cost of £871,835 per annum.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new provision				
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>20</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>21</sup>	Changing rooms (numbers)	Changing rooms (capital cost)
Adult football	4 (4.09)	£555,851	£117,285	8 (8.17)	£1,917,686
Youth football	4 (4.45)	£484,588	£101,763	4 (4.51)	£1,057,186
Mini soccer	2 (2.52)	£85,516	£17,958	-	-
Rugby union	4 (4.58)	£872,971	£186,816	9 (9.17)	£2,151,250
Rugby league	0 (0.1)	£16,390	£3,622	0 (0.21)	£49,171
Cricket	5 (4.75)	£1,905,546	£384,920	9 (9.5)	£2,228,520
Sand based artificial grass pitches	1 (1.09)	£1,227,326	£38,047	2 (2.17)	£510,154
Third generation artificial grass pitches	1 (0.58)	£787,437	£21,423	1 (1.16)	£273,031

The calculator also estimates that there will be a need to provide 34.9 changing rooms to support the new pitch provision identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is estimated to be £8,186,997.

<sup>18</sup> As per the Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>19</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit third generation artificial grass pitch or hockey suitable artificial grass pitch

<sup>20</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2019 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

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



# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Conclusion

For the scenario above, the tables above show that through housing growth, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. The level of demand generated for all pitch sports is such that new provision will be required.

There is unlikely to be a requirement for new provision for rugby league, instead, as the demand generated from the housing growth does not equate to a whole pitch for this sport, contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g. to select suitable sites).

The scenario indicates that, over the course of the Local Plan period, housing growth will result in increased demand equating to the need for at least four adult, four youth and two mini football pitches in addition to at least three senior rugby union pitches and five cricket pitches. Demand also equates to the need for one full size hockey suitable AGP and one full size 3G pitch.

Whilst this initially seems substantial, it must be noted that these figures are based upon the whole of Wandsworth Borough and account for 16 years of development. In reality, the requirements will be staggered, with existing provision able to meet some if not all of the needs when developments are considered on a case-by-case basis. This would be achieved through contributions being directed towards improvements rather than new provision.

Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. Where new pitches are required, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to offer long-term sustainability. As such, if numerous developments in an area warrant new pitch provision, consideration should be given to pooling resources to create one larger site, rather than numerous smaller sites.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, contributions should be used to enhance existing provision in the locality through, for example, improving quality or providing new or improved ancillary provision. The Action Plan in this document, as well as consultation with appropriate NGBs, should be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

## Individual allocations & clusters

There are three individual sites and three clusters which either individually or in total are considered to be of sufficient scale to potentially require the development of onsite playing pitch provision to meet new demand generated. Each has 500 dwellings or more.

Table 7.3: Allocations and clusters with 500+ new homes

Site name	Local Plan Ref	Site area (ha)	Net dwellings
ASDA, LIDL and Boots sites, Falcon Lane, SW11	CJ1	3.670	561
Winstanley / York Road Estates, SW11	CJ5	15.874	1,930
Southside Shopping Centre, Wandsworth High Street, SW18	WT20	5.390	1,501

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Site name	Local Plan Ref	Site area (ha)	Net dwellings
<b>Kirtling Street Cluster</b>			
Cable and Wireless, Ballymore Site 6, Unit 2a, Battersea Park Road, SW8	NE1	0.340	82
Securicor Site, 80 Kirtling Street, SW8	NE3	0.460	111
Brooks Court, Kirtling Street, SW8	NE5	0.180	46
Kirtling Wharf, Nine Elms, SW8	NE9	0.690	83
Cringle Dock, Nine Elms, SW8	NE11	1.130	422
<b>Feather's Wharf Cluster</b>			
Feathers Wharf, The Causeway, SW18	WT9	0.790	141
Land at the Causeway, SW18	WT10	1.020	452
<b>Swandon Way Cluster</b>			
Homebase, Swandon Way, SW18	WT12	0.960	385
B&Q, Smugglers Way, SW18	WT13	1.420	517

Table 7.4: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from forecasted dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand (MES) per week <sup>22</sup>	Training demand <sup>23</sup>
<b>ASDA, LIDL and Boots sites, Falcon Lane, SW11 – 1,291 new population</b>		
Adult football	0.15	0.82 hours
Youth football	0.17	
Mini soccer	0.09	
Rugby union	0.17	0.22
Rugby league	0	0
Adult hockey	0.16	0.48 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.07	0.14 hours
Cricket	7.82	-
<b>Winstanley / York Road Estates, SW11 – 4,439 new population</b>		
Adult football	0.52	2.82 hours
Youth football	0.57	
Mini soccer	0.32	
Rugby union	0.58	0.75
Rugby league	0.01	0.01
Adult hockey	0.55	1.66 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.25	0.48 hours
Cricket	26.89	-
<b>Southside Shopping Centre, Wandsworth High Street, SW18 – 3,453 new population</b>		
Adult football	0.4	2.19 hours
Youth football	0.44	
Mini soccer	0.25	
Rugby union	0.45	0.59
Rugby league	0.01	0.01
Adult hockey	0.43	1.29 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.19	0.37 hours
Cricket	20.91	-

<sup>22</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season.

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

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Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand (MES) per week <sup>22</sup>	Training demand <sup>23</sup>
<b>Kirtling Street Cluster – 1,712 new population</b>		
Adult football	0.2	1.09 hours
Youth football	0.22	
Mini soccer	0.12	
Rugby union	0.23	0.29
Rugby league	0.01	0.01
Adult hockey	0.21	0.64 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.1	0.19 hours
Cricket	10.37	-
<b>Feather's Wharf Cluster – 1,364 new population</b>		
Adult football	0.16	0.87 hours
Youth football	0.17	
Mini soccer	0.1	
Rugby union	0.18	0.23
Rugby league	0	0
Adult hockey	0.17	0.51 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.08	0.15 hours
Cricket	8.26	-
<b>Swandon Way Cluster – 2,075 new population</b>		
Adult football	0.24	1.32 hours
Youth football	0.27	
Mini soccer	0.15	
Rugby union	0.27	0.35
Rugby league	0.01	0.01
Adult hockey	0.26	0.78 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.12	0.22 hours
Cricket	12.57	-

Table 7.5: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new provision				
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>24</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>25</sup>	Changing rooms (numbers)	Changing rooms (capital cost)
<b>ASDA, LIDL and Boots sites, Falcon Lane, SW11</b>				<b>1.19</b>	<b>£280,075</b>
Adult football	0 (0.15)	£20,592	£4,345	0 (0.3)	£71,044
Youth football	0 (0.17)	£17,952	£3,770	0 (0.17)	£39,165
Mini soccer	0 (0.09)	£3,168	£665	-	-
Rugby union	0 (0.17)	£32,341	£6,921	0 (0.34)	£79,697
Rugby league	0	£607	£134	0 (0.01)	£1,822
Cricket	0 (0.18)	£70,594	£14,260	0 (0.35)	£82,559
Sand based AGP	0 (0.04)	£45,468	£1,410	0 (0.08)	£18,899
3G pitches	0 (0.02)	£29,172	£794	0 (0.04)	£10,115

<sup>24</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2019 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

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



# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new provision				
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>26</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>27</sup>	Changing rooms (numbers)	Changing rooms (capital cost)
<b>Winstanley / York Road Estates, SW11</b>				<b>4.1</b>	<b>£963,014</b>
Adult football	1 (0.52)	£70,805	£14,940	1 (1.04)	£244,278
Youth football	1 (0.57)	£61,728	£12,963	1 (0.57)	£134,666
Mini soccer	0 (0.32)	£10,893	£2,288	-	-
Rugby union	1 (0.58)	£111,201	£23,797	1 (1.17)	£274,030
Rugby league	0 (0.01)	£2,088	£461	0 (0.03)	£6,264
Cricket	1 (0.61)	£242,732	£49,032	1 (1.21)	£283,873
Sand based AGP	0 (0.14)	£156,339	£4,847	0 (0.28)	£64,984
3G pitches	0 (0.07)	£100,305	£2,729	0 (0.15)	£34,779
<b>Southside Shopping Centre, Wandsworth High Street, SW18</b>				<b>3.19</b>	<b>£749,107</b>
Adult football	0 (0.4)	£55,078	£11,621	1 (1.04)	£244,278
Youth football	0 (0.44)	£48,017	£10,083	1 (0.57)	£134,666
Mini soccer	0 (0.25)	£8,474	£1,779	-	-
Rugby union	0 (0.45)	£86,500	£18,511	0 (0.91)	£213,162
Rugby league	0 (0.01)	£1,624	£359	0 (0.03)	£6,264
Cricket	0 (0.47)	£188,816	£38,141	1 (1.21)	£283,873
Sand based AGP	0 (0.11)	£121,613	£3,770	0 (0.28)	£64,984
3G pitches	0 (0.06)	£78,025	£2,123	0 (0.15)	£34,779
<b>Kirtling Street Cluster</b>				<b>1.58</b>	<b>£371,408</b>
Adult football	0 (0.2)	£27,308	£5,762	0 (0.4)	£94,211
Youth football	0 (0.22)	£23,807	£4,999	0 (0.22)	£51,937
Mini soccer	0 (0.12)	£4,201	£882	-	-
Rugby union	0 (0.23)	£42,887	£9,178	0 (0.45)	£105,686
Rugby league	0 (0.01)	£805	£178	0 (0.01)	£2,416
Cricket	0 (0.23)	£93,615	£18,910	0 (0.47)	£109,482
Sand based AGP	0 (0.05)	£60,296	£1,869	0 (0.11)	£25,063
3G pitches	0 (0.03)	£38,685	£1,052	0 (0.06)	£13,413
<b>Feather's Wharf Cluster</b>				<b>1.26</b>	<b>£295,912</b>
Adult football	0 (0.16)	£21,757	£4,591	0 (0.32)	£75,061
Youth football	0 (0.17)	£18,967	£3,983	0 (0.18)	£41,380
Mini soccer	0 (0.1)	£3,347	£703	-	-
Rugby union	0 (0.18)	£34,169	£7,312	0 (0.36)	£84,203
Rugby league	0	£642	£142	0 (0.01)	£1,925
Cricket	0 (0.19)	£74,586	£15,066	0 (0.37)	£87,227
Sand based AGP	0 (0.04)	£48,039	£1,489	0 (0.09)	£19,968
3G pitches	0 (0.02)	£30,821	£839	0 (0.05)	£10,687

<sup>26</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2019 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>27</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new provision				
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>28</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>29</sup>	Changing rooms (numbers)	Changing rooms (capital cost)
<b>Swandon Way Cluster</b>				<b>1.92</b>	<b>£450,159</b>
Adult football	0 (0.24)	£33,098	£6,984	0 (0.49)	£114,187
Youth football	0 (0.27)	£28,854	£6,059	0 (0.27)	£62,949
Mini soccer	0 (0.15)	£5,092	£1,069	-	-
Rugby union	0 (0.27)	£51,980	£11,124	0 (0.55)	£128,095
Rugby league	0 (0.01)	£976	£216	0 (0.01)	£2,928
Cricket	0 (0.28)	£113,464	£22,920	0 (0.57)	£132,696
Sand based AGP	0 (0.06)	£73,080	£2,265	0 (0.13)	£30,377
3G pitches	0 (0.03)	£46,887	£1,276	0 (0.07)	£16,257

The calculator outputs show that only the allocation at Winstanley/York Road Estates is likely to generate sufficient demand for the creation of new playing pitch provision, for adult football, youth football and cricket. A site masterplan already exists for the site, therefore it is unlikely that additional formal sport provision will come forward beyond what is already being proposed for the site.

However, due to the quantitative shortfall evidenced by the PPS, it is recommended that the Council explores opportunities to develop new playing field sites and that contributions from several developments are pooled to develop new pitch provision.

<sup>28</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2019 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>29</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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

#### ***Delivery***

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

Production of this Strategy is the start of the planning process. Successful Strategy implementation and the benefits to be gained depend upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a mutually bought into, strategic approach. It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, supports engagement with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Borough Council priorities.

Each member of the Steering Group should take the lead to ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the Steering Group should not end with the completion of the PPS document

To help ensure that the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document to which people and agencies regularly turn to for information in respect of how current demand should be met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. To ensure that this is achieved the Steering Group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of PPS development has already led to a number of benefits that assist its application and delivery. These include enhanced partnership work across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthened relationships and understanding between stakeholders, members of the Steering Group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the Steering Group to understand, the key areas to which its influence should be applied and strategy delivered.

Following sign off of the PPS, a short-term Action Plan should be prepared by the Council, in consultation with relevant partners, in order to distil the existing Action Plan and to give the Steering Group a short-term focus. This would then need to be revised through regular meetings.

#### ***Monitoring and updating***

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should be a key component of monitoring its delivery and be an on-going role of the Steering Group.

The Steering Group that takes the PPS forward should be a sub-regional group made up of representatives from the Borough Council as well as other partners such as the NGBs and London Sport. This offers benefits in terms of joint working on strategic and cross-boundary issues and will also be more efficient in terms of administration when compared to each authority having its own individual Steering Group.

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KKP will provide the tools used to produce the PPS to the Borough Council as well as training on how to use such tools, such as the PPS database used to hold all information gathered. This will enable the monitoring and updating process to be carried out.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, Sport England and the NGBs will consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for outdoor sports facilities will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

Ideally the PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up during its development. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

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

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

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

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

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

Meetings could be timed to coincide with annual NGB affiliation processes. This would help to signal changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites should also feed into these meetings.

NGBs will also be able to confirm any further performance quality assessments undertaken within the study area. Discussion with league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings may be useful to attend to pick up on specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

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

It is important that the Borough Council maintains the data contained with the accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental work encompassing, for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

### ***Wandsworth Local Football Facilities Plan***

The findings of and any subsequent changes to the PPS should align with the Local Football Facilities Plan for Wandsworth Borough (which has been created in conjunction with the PPS) which will also serve as a live document requiring concurrent management.


The position for formal and affiliated football provision determined and updated through the PPS should form the basis for investment into formalised football provision echoed through the Local Football Facilities Plan, which will further explore opportunities for investment into informal, recreational, small sided and indoor football as an extension of the PPS findings, the result being a wholistic plan for partnership investment into football facilities in Wandsworth Borough over the next decade. The PPS and Local Football Facilities Plan should demonstrate synergy and should inform each other.

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## Checklist

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

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

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

## APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

### National context

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

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

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

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

### ***Sport England: Uniting the Movement (2021)***

Sport and physical activity have a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

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**Recover and reinvent:** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

**Connecting communities:** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

**Positive experiences for children and young people:** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

**Connecting with health and wellbeing:** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

**Active environments:** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (2019)**

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

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

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

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

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

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



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### ***Active Wandsworth Strategy (2017-2022)***

Enable Leisure and Culture provides leisure and cultural services for the benefit of Wandsworth's local communities. Its focus is to provide health, wellbeing and community to the people of Wandsworth. It has produced the Active Wandsworth Strategy 2017 – 2022 which acts as important guidance for the PPS as it sets out the outcomes, and objectives for sports in Wandsworth and the facilities.

The Active Wandsworth Strategy explains the health and wellbeing priorities set in order to tackle needs identified across the Borough. Its purpose is to demonstrate how partners will deliver on other local plans, such as Wandsworth's Prevention Framework, which states that the environment should be shaped in a way that encourages physical activity as part of everyday life and has a positive effect on health. For example, through increased exercise or active travel which holds direct physiological as well as environmental benefits to health.

The strategy vision is 'Enabling Wandsworth to be the most active borough in London by 2022'. Its four strategic aims are:

- ◀ Motivate:
  - ◀ Increase the capacity of the physical activity and sport workforce.
  - ◀ Support a training and development programme that demonstrates a career pathway for a local workforce.
  
- ◀ Participate:
  - ◀ Enable inactive people to become active.
  - ◀ Encourage activity to be integrated into everyday lives, creating regular activity habits.
  - ◀ Target specific geographical areas of Wandsworth which have high levels of inactivity.
  
- ◀ Facilitate:
  - ◀ Remove the access barriers to increase the use of existing facilities for physical activity.
  - ◀ Provide facilities that are maintained to a high standard, including parks and open spaces.
  - ◀ Influence and increase the opportunity and uptake of active travel in the Borough.
  - ◀ Increase influence over local, regional and national policy makers, ensuring that physical activity and sport is at the forefront of their policy and that there is a collective responsibility to make a difference.
  
- ◀ Advocate:
  - ◀ Increase the number of local partners with a shared responsibility for improving health and wellbeing.
  - ◀ Improve the recognition of the work and plans of the Active Wandsworth Advisory Group by formal bodies, funders and groups.
  - ◀ Increase and improve the marketing and promotion of physical activity and sport in Wandsworth.
  - ◀ Embrace technological advances to ensure that physical activity opportunities are communicated to all Wandsworth residents.
  - ◀ Develop detailed insight and research on the physical activity levels of those living in areas of high deprivation.
  - ◀ Measure the impact of the Active Wandsworth Strategy and physical activity programmes within the Active Wandsworth partnership.

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### ***London Sport – LDN Moving (2021)***

London Sports is the Active Partnership covering London. Active Partnerships are locally based strategic organisations which recognise that activity levels are affected by a complex system of influences and no single organisation or programme creates sustainable change at scale. Via adoption of a collaborative whole system approach, they seek to make active lifestyles the social norm for everyone and address levels of inactivity in society.

London Sport's stated strategy mission is to 'make London the most active City in the World'.

The Strategy is made up of six long-term goals which, when achieved, will make a fundamental difference to physical activity in London and to London itself.

The six goals have been designed to work as a single approach that, taken together, will get closer to making London the most active City in the world. At the heart are two main outcomes: getting inactive and less active adults active and helping young Londoners to develop positive physical activity habits for life. The other four goals are the tools to help make long-term, sustainable change to the ways that people get active now and for years to come.

The six goals are to:

- ◀ Increase physical activity levels among less active adults, reducing inequalities and inactivity.
- ◀ Give all young Londoners the best opportunity to form a positive physical activity habit for life.
- ◀ Improve policy, systems and investment to support active lives.
- ◀ Use tech, data and digital communications to support Londoners to get and stay active.
- ◀ Lead the way in bringing organisations together to create, develop, test, champion and scale innovative ways of supporting active lives.
- ◀ Ensure evidence, data and high quality insight inform the development of policy and practice of supporting active lives.

### ***Greater London Authority: Sport for All of Us (2018)***

Sport for All of Us is the Mayor of London's Strategy for Sport in London, adopted by the London Assembly, within which the Mayor Sadiq Khan states his aim is not only to make London the undisputed sporting capital of the world, continuing to host the biggest and best events, but also to get more Londoners involved by supporting grassroots sport. He states it is vital to nurturing the next generation of sporting talent, keeping Londoners fit and healthy, and building links between our diverse communities.

The work in sport is identified as having two distinct strands. First, the support of major sports events being hosted in London which has a long and proud tradition of staging sports events and in recent years have hosted some of the largest events in sport, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012 amongst others. These events have a significant ability to bring strong economic and social benefits to London, from promoting the City internationally, to offering mass volunteering opportunities for Londoners.

The second focus is on community sport, which has previously had a primary focus on increasing participation. The Mayor intends to broaden this focus to use the power of sport to

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improve social integration in London – a core priority of the Mayor’s wider work. It is proposed that, central to work in community sport will be a new programme, ‘Sport Unites’, a new £8.8 million pound community sports programme. This investment will focus on three themes: Sport for Social Integration, Active Londoners and Workforce & Capacity Building. The programme will also provide investment via the Mayor’s £45m Young Londoners Fund.

### *Theme One: Sport for Social Integration*

The Mayor proposes making this an explicit goal and to bring it to the forefront of his sports programme. His ambition is to make London the first city in the world to maximise the potential of sport to increase social integration. To achieve this, intentions are to:

- ◀ Launch a partnership with Laureus Sport for Good Foundation to carry out three place-based pilots using its ‘Model City’ approach.
- ◀ Fund partnerships through Sport Unites between non-sport and sporting organisations to deliver community sports which improve social integration.
- ◀ Fund initiatives through Sport Unites that target socially isolated people.
- ◀ Fund initiatives through Sport Unites that combine sport with another activity.
- ◀ Support some of London’s most talented young athletes to reach their full potential and act as role models in their communities.

### *Theme Two: Active Londoners*

The investment in this theme aims to provide more opportunities for Londoners to take part in a wide variety of sport and physical activity in their local area. Specifically, the programme intends to fund initiatives that cater for inactive Londoners and provide pathways for people to use sport to pursue their goals at all levels - whether that is simply improving fitness or making the transition into top level sports. To achieve this, intention is to:

- ◀ Provide more affordable, local participation opportunities for Londoners in places where demand outstrips supply.
- ◀ Promote programmes that target inactive Londoners.
- ◀ Invest in pilots which test innovative methods.
- ◀ Invest in organisations that cater for and support Londoners with mental health difficulties.

### *Theme Three: London - Workforce, Tech & Capacity Building*

Developing the community sports workforce and capacity building organisations is vital to ensuring the success of Sport Unites and the wider sport sector in London. Equally, unlocking the full potential of technology helps this. To achieve this, intention is to:

- ◀ Reward and recognise inspirational coaches for their contribution to community sport and give them the support they need.
- ◀ Invest in the Civic Innovation Challenge to develop sport-tech solutions to address physical activity challenges in London.
- ◀ Develop the next generation of paid and volunteer community sport workforce.
- ◀ Consider co-investment in London Sport’s sport tech initiatives developing ideas, prototypes and products.

### ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *Local Football Facility Plans*

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

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the

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

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

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

### ***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

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

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

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

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

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

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

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- ◀ **Grow and nurture the core**
  - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
  - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
  - ◀ Invest in club facilities
  - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
  - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
  
- ◀ **Inspire through elite teams**
  - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
  - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
  - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
  - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
  
- ◀ **Make cricket accessible**
  - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
  - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
  - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
  - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
  - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
  
- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
  - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
  - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
  - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
  
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
  - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
  - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
  - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
  - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
  
- ◀ **Support our communities**
  - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
  - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
  - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
  - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2021)***

The RFU has released its new strategic vision, which is to achieve 'a successful and thriving game across England'. The strategy can be found [here](#).

It identifies four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives', to form priority focuses for the strategy. It believes that these objectives will make the greatest substantive improvements to the game and investment will be aligned to these areas.

#### *Game objectives*

- ◀ **Enjoyment** – Enable positive player experiences on and off the field.
- ◀ **Winning England** – Create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby.
- ◀ **Welfare** – Enhance players welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players.
- ◀ **Flourishing rugby communities** – Support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society.

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### *Driving objectives*

- ◀ **Diversity & inclusion** – Drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society.
- ◀ **Understand** – Build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game.
- ◀ **Connect** – Connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences.
- ◀ **Commercial & operational excellence** – Ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce.

A number of aims, identified as key to the achievement of these main objectives, are particularly relevant to facilities. The provision of good quality and suitable rugby union facilities will help to achieve these aims and in turn objectives:

- ◀ *Enjoyment* – Improve accessibility for women and girls across the game.
- ◀ *Enjoyment* – Make the game inclusive and attractive for 14 to 18 year olds.
- ◀ *Flourishing rugby communities* – Provide support to help clubs maximise the benefit from their facilities and assets.
- ◀ *Diversity & Inclusion* – Improve the diversity of all facets of our game and continue to create an inclusive environment for all.

### **England Hockey Strategy**

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

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

#### **1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

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

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

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

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

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

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## ***The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy***

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

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

The RFL Facilities Trust website [www.rffacilitiestrust.co.uk](http://www.rffacilitiestrust.co.uk) provides further information on:

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

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

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

## ***Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme***

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021's ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development.

The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

## ***England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17***

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

To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.



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

### ***British Tennis Strategy 2019***

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

**Vision:** tennis opened up

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

#### *Objectives*

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often:
  - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
- ◀ Increase the number of children playing once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

#### *Strategies*

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

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### ***Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017***

Although the Plan is out of date, it remains the most up to date available. Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.