

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

DECEMBER 2018

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@KKP.CO.UK](mailto:MAIL@KKP.CO.UK) [www.kkp.co.uk](http://www.kkp.co.uk)



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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CFA	County Football Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
ET	England Touch
FA	Football Association
FC	Football club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HE	Higher Education
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LCC	Lancaster City Council
LCFA	Lancashire County Football Association
LCF	Lancashire Cricket Foundation
MES	Match equivalent session
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non-turf pitch
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby union football club
S106	Section 106
TGR	Team generation rate
WR	World Rugby

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Lancaster City Council (LCC) and its partners. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2018 and 2031. This will align with the emerging Lancaster District Open Space Strategy, particularly in relation to playing fields.

A Steering Group has led and will continue to lead the PPOSS to ensure the delivery and implementation of its recommendations and actions. It is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

The following types of pitch sports and outdoor sports facilities were agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the Assessment and Strategy.

### *Pitch sports:*

- ✦ Football pitches
- ✦ Rugby union pitches
- ✦ Rugby league pitches
- ✦ Cricket pitches
- ✦ Third generation artificial grass (3G) pitches
- ✦ Artificial grass pitches (including use for hockey)
- ✦ Lacrosse
- ✦ American football
- ✦ Gaelic sports (not played within Lancaster District)
- ✦ Ultimate (Frisbee)

Pitch sports have been assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy (2013).

### *Outdoor sports:*

- ✦ Outdoor bowling greens
- ✦ Outdoor tennis courts
- ✦ Athletics tracks
- ✦ Outdoor netball courts

Outdoor sports have been assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). Non-pitch outdoor sports require a different methodology to assess demand and supply to that used for pitch sports.

A Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields and outdoor sports facilities to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements. Planning policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning, local policies and sport development criteria can be implemented efficiently and effectively. The strategy is capable of the following in Lancaster District:

- ✦ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch providers, including the public, private and third sectors;
- ✦ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the local area, picking up particular local demand issues;
- ✦ Addressing issues of population growth, and or major growth/regeneration areas;

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- ✦ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision;
- ✦ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision;
- ✦ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study;
- ✦ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

The partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities can be protected and enhanced. Many of the objectives and actions will need to be delivered and implemented by sports organisations and education establishments in addition to the Council.

## Strategy structure

The Strategy has been developed as a result of the research and analysis of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision and usage within Lancaster District to provide:

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

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects across Lancaster District which should be implemented over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding may come forward in the future (see Appendix Four: Funding Plan<sup>1</sup>).

## 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 PPOSS being signed off by the Steering Group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPOSS; and the information on which it is based, to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document, and kept up to date, the time frame can be extended to five years.

The PPOSS 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 PPOSS. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that Sport England funding streams will be subject to change throughout 2017/18

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## Study area

Lancaster District is bordered to the south east by Ribble Valley and to the south west by the Fylde Coast authority of Wyre. It forms part of the Lancashire County boundary with Yorkshire, bordering Craven to the East. To the north the District borders the more rural authority of South Lakeland, whilst to the west lies the West coast of England and the Irish Sea.

The strategy covers the entire area of Lancaster District; however, the data gathered has been presented in such a way as to be further analysed by smaller Analysis Areas. There are also a number of sports teams from outside the specified area that use pitches within Lancaster District and sports teams from inside Lancaster District that use facilities outside of the area. This cross-boundary movement has been taken into consideration when producing this assessment report.

Lancaster District has been divided into three analysis areas as follows (with resident population<sup>2</sup>):

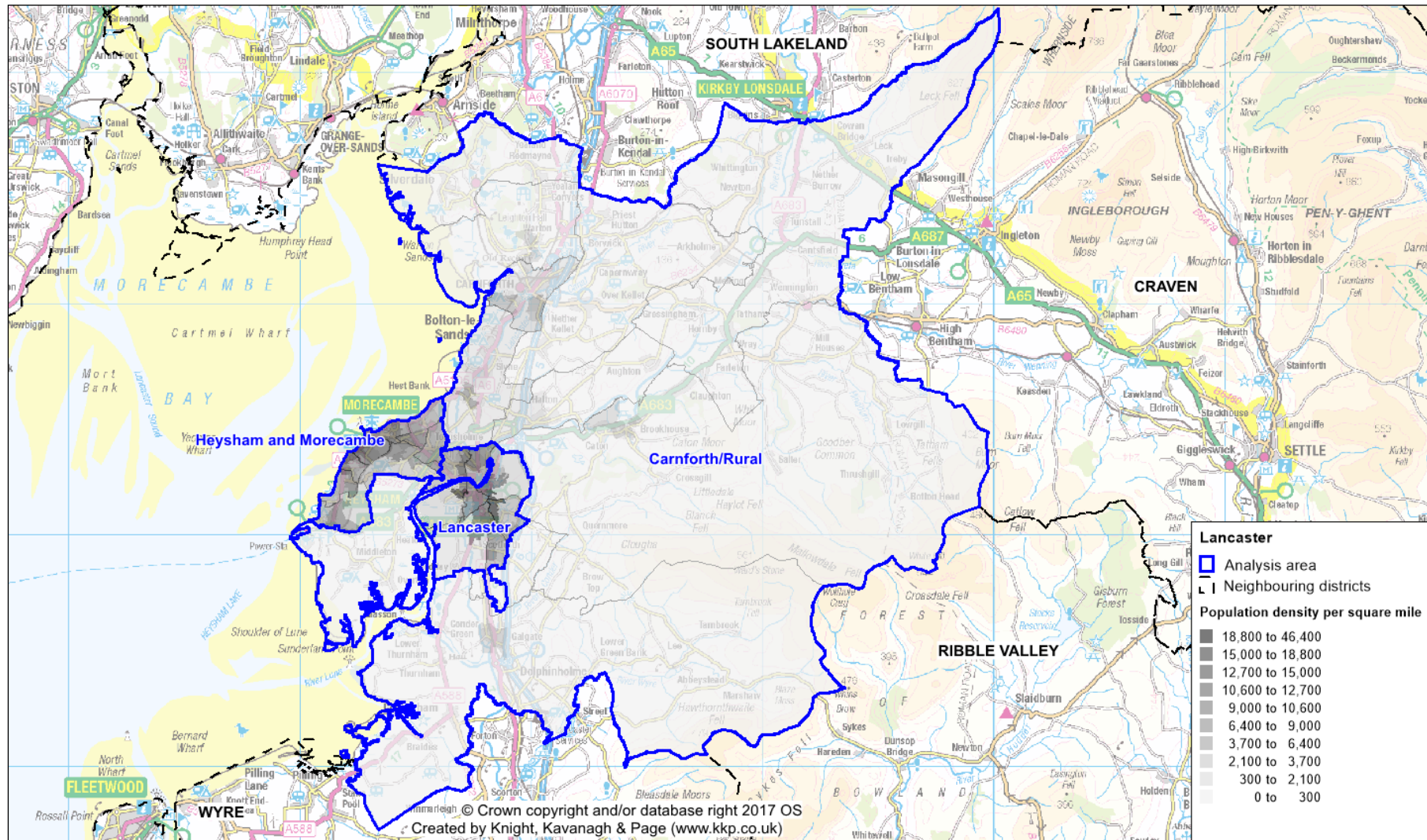
- ◆ Carnforth & Rural (40,684)
- ◆ Heysham & Morecambe (50,158)
- ◆ Lancaster (52,675)

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<sup>2</sup> Data Source: ONS Mid-2016 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

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Figure 1.1: Map of the study area with PPS analysis areas





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Whilst the analysis areas should be used for the basis of reporting, the strategy also addresses the sport specific geography of Lancaster District. Some sports and leagues cross these boundaries; and pitch facilities in one area may also be suitable for clubs in another area. This cross-boundary movement has therefore been taken into consideration when producing this strategy.

## *Population growth*

The current resident population in Lancaster District is 143,517<sup>3</sup>. By 2031 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the Lancaster District Local Plan period) the District's population is projected to increase to 152,990<sup>4</sup> representing an increase of 9,473 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 6.6%) according to ONS data.

Team generation rates were used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area and are set out in the Assessment Report.

## *Housing growth*

The emerging Local Plan identifies a requirement to deliver between 13,000-14,000 new homes in the District to 2031, at an approximate rate of circa 540 new homes a year. Significant residential development at strategic allocations may generate sufficient additional demand to require the creation of additional sports facilities (explored further through Housing Growth Scenarios within the subsequent PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan).

## *New schools*

With significant housing development in the District comes an identified need for the creation of additional primary schools, as well as a new secondary school to service the Bailrigg Garden Village Broad Location for Growth.

Where new primary or secondary schools are required to support the proposed allocations, layout and design where yet to be determined should consider potential to be able to accommodate community access where deemed appropriate and required.

## **Context**

The primary purpose of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities meet the local needs of existing and future residents across Lancaster District. This Strategy has been produced in accordance with Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013) and the National Planning Policy Framework; and provides robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision throughout Lancaster District.

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<sup>3</sup>Source: ONS Mid-2016 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

<sup>4</sup> Data Source: ONS 2014-based projections 2014-2031



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One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) discussed in Paragraph 91 is for policies and decisions to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places. They should promote social interaction and provide sufficient accessible community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. This forms part of Section 8 of the NPPF (Promoting Healthy & Safe Communities) which deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

The Lancaster District Local Plan needs to be based upon a robust evidence base. Paragraph 96 of the NPPF requires “planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision.” Paragraph 97 of the NPPF requires assessments to be used to inform the protection of “open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”.

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

The PPOSS will be able to support several functions and agencies, both with regards to the Council in terms of planning and strategic management of its assets including capital investment, as well as partners working with the Council with regards to development of sport, physical activity and health across the district and the effect facilities have on the ability to do so successfully. The PPOSS will help to support in the following four areas of work:

### Corporate and strategic:

- It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. The PPOSS will act as a tool for Lancaster City Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for pitch sports in the future.
- It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities a playing pitch strategy 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 PPOSS will provide important evidence to support and underpin the Lancaster District Local Plan.
- It will support policies on green infrastructure, recreation, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being.
- It will also provide evidence for Developer Contributions and potential Community Infrastructure Levy.

### Operational:

- It can help improve the management of assets, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- The Action Plan will identify sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.
- It provides an assessment of all pitches (in use and lapsed) to understand how they are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

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Sports development:

- It helps identify which sites have community use and whether or not 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 clearer information to residents and other users of sports pitches about pitch availability. 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.

## Definitions

### ***Match equivalent sessions (MES)***

Pitches have a limit as to 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 likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but it may, for example, include training sessions.

Based upon how they tend to be played, this unit for football, rugby union and rugby league pitches relate to a typical week within the season for each sport. However, for cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions (MES) over the course of a season.

### ***Pitch capacity***

The capacity of pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing each sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. Pitch quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage.

As a guide, each NGB has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity):

*Table 1.1: Capacity in match equivalent sessions of football, rugby league and cricket pitches*

Sport	Pitch type	Number of matches per week		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3	2	1
	Youth pitches	4	2	1
	Mini pitches	6	4	2
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	N/A	N/A

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Table 1.2: Pitch quality rating of rugby union pitches

Rugby union pitches		Maintenance rating		
Drainage rating		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

## Shortfalls

Please note that shortfalls are expressed in match equivalent sessions rather than as pitches because it is possible that shortfalls could be accommodated in various ways (e.g. through pitch improvements) and not just by providing more pitches. For a full Glossary of terms please refer to Appendix Four.

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## Headline findings

Both spare capacity and shortfalls are quantified in match equivalent sessions per week (or per season for cricket). For further clarification, refer to the Assessment report.

Table 1.3: Headline findings for each sport, broken down by analysis area (where applicable)

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (MES <sup>5</sup> )	Future picture (2031 <sup>6</sup> )
Football (grass pitches)	Carnforth & Rural	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 0.5 youth 9v9 MES per week One mini 7v7 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>7.5 adult MES per week.</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity</i>	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> One mini 7v7 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>8.5 adult MES per week.</b> <b>1.5 youth 11v11 MES per week.</b> <b>One youth 9v9 MES per week.</b> <i>All remaining pitch types at capacity</i>
	Heysham & Morecambe	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 0.5 adult MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>One mini 7v7 MES per week</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity</i>	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 0.5 adult MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>2.5 youth 11v11 MES per week</b> <b>0.5 youth 9v9 MES per week</b> <b>One mini 7v7 MES per week</b> <i>All remaining pitch types at capacity</i>
	Lancaster	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 0.5 youth 11v11 MES per week One mini 5v5 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>1.5 adult MES per week</b> <b>0.5 youth 9v9 MES per week</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity</i>	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> One mini 5v5 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>1.5 adult MES per week</b> <b>0.5 youth 9v9 MES per week</b> <i>All remaining pitch types at capacity</i>
	District wide	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 0.5 youth 11v11 MES per week One mini 5v5 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>8.5 adult MES per week</b> <i>Youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches are at capacity</i>	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> One mini 5v5 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>9.5 adult MES per week</b> <b>Four youth 11v11 MES per week</b> <b>Two youth 9v9 MES per week</b> <i>Mini 7v7 pitches at capacity</i>

<sup>5</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>6</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (MES <sup>7</sup> )	Future picture (2031 <sup>8</sup> )
Football (3G pitches) <sup>9</sup>	Carnforth & Rural	<b>Shortfall of one full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.</b>	<b>Shortfall of one full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.</b>
	Heysham & Morecambe	Sufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand	Sufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand
	Lancaster	<b>Shortfall of one full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.</b>	<b>Shortfall of one full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.</b>
	District wide	<b>Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.</b>	<b>Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.</b>
Rugby union (senior pitches)	Carnforth & Rural	<i>Pitches are at capacity</i>	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 MES per week.</b>
	Heysham & Morecambe	<i>Pitches are at capacity</i>	<i>Pitches are at capacity</i>
	Lancaster	<b>Shortfall of ten MES per week.</b>	<b>Shortfall of ten MES per week.</b>
	District wide	<b>Shortfall of ten MES per week.</b>	<b>Shortfall of 10.5 MES per week.</b>
Rugby league (senior pitches)	District wide	<b>Shortfalls of 6.75 MES per week.</b>	<b>Shortfalls of 8.5 MES per week.</b>
Cricket	Carnforth & Rural	Spare capacity of 62 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 12 MES per season on junior wickets.	Spare capacity of 54 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of ten MES per season on junior wickets.
	Heysham & Morecambe	Spare capacity of 27 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 15 MES per season on junior wickets.	Spare capacity of 17 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 13 MES per season on junior wickets.
	Lancaster	<b>Shortfall of eight MES per season on senior wickets</b> Spare capacity of ten MES per season on junior wickets.	<b>Shortfall of 13 MES per season on senior wickets</b> Spare capacity of six MES per season on junior wickets.
	District wide	Spare capacity of 81 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 37 MES per season on junior wickets.	Spare capacity of 58 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 29 MES per season on junior wickets.

<sup>7</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>8</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

<sup>9</sup> Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (MES <sup>10</sup> )	Future picture (2031 <sup>11</sup> )
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	District wide	Current supply of hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of hockey demand both at peak time and midweek training demand. <b>Critical need for qualitative improvement at Central Lancaster High School and secure tenure for all clubs.</b>	Current supply of hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of hockey demand both at peak time and midweek training demand. <b>Critical need for qualitative improvement at Central Lancaster High School and secure tenure for all clubs.</b>
Tennis courts	District wide	Demand can be met by existing supply; <b>however, there is an undersupply of year round playable community courts and an unproven understanding of court utilisation across the current supply.</b>	Demand can be met by existing supply; <b>however, there is an undersupply of year round playable community courts and an unproven understanding of court utilisation across the current supply.</b>
Bowling greens	District wide	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply.	Demand can be met by existing level of supply.
Athletics tracks	District wide	Demand for track training can be catered for; <b>however, there is requirement for improving facilities for field events.</b>	Demand for track training can be catered for; <b>however, there is requirement for improving facilities for field events.</b>
Outdoor netball courts	District wide	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply.	Demand can be met by existing level of supply.
Lacrosse pitches	District wide	University based demand for lacrosse is able to be met by existing natural grass and artificial turf pitch provision.	University based demand for lacrosse can be met by existing natural grass and artificial turf pitch provision.
American football pitches	District wide	<b>Qualitative improvements required to alleviate impact of multi-sport use at Trimpell Sports &amp; Social Club. Long-term strategy for multi-sport use of the site required.</b>	<b>Qualitative improvements required to alleviate impact of multi-sport use at Trimpell Sports &amp; Social Club. Long-term strategy for multi-sport use of the site required.</b>

<sup>10</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>11</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

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## Conclusions

The existing position for all pitch sports is either; demand is currently being met, or there is a shortfall. For football, all analysis areas evidence shortfalls at one or more pitch formats, with these shortfalls increasing. They also evidence new shortfalls at some formats through future demand increases. The Carnforth & Rural Area notably evidences the greatest shortfalls for both natural grass and 3G pitch provision for football.

There are crucial present and future shortfalls for full sized 3G pitches for football team training and cricket, as well as for rugby union and rugby league in the particular analysis areas in which these sports are played at community level within the district.

As such, there is a need to protect all existing playing pitch provision until demand is met. Some shortfalls can be reduced through maximised access to future provision, for example, certification and use of 3G pitches for competitive football, rugby union or rugby league match play would create extra capacity to reduce grass pitch shortfalls as well as the shortfalls evidenced for 3G pitches for football team training.



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## Recommended short term actions (12-18 months)

Table 1.4: Recommended short term actions

Site ID	Site/organisation name	Analysis area	Action	Indicative cost <sup>12</sup>
23	Far Moor	Lancaster	Improve pitch quality and develop new ancillary provision for mini and youth football. New toilets and multi-functional space may represent a better solution rather than full changing provision.	Medium
27	Globe Arena	Heysham & Morecambe	Determine preferred option for the future of the site and sports facilities. If agreed preferable, any facilities lost to development must be mitigated in areas where the PPOSS evidences 3G pitch shortfalls.	Low
17	Central Lancaster High School	Lancaster	Resurface the sand based AGP imminently as the pitch is such poor quality it is not able to be safely used. To be retained as a hockey suitable surface and community access to be secured for community hockey clubs.	High
17	Central Lancaster High School	Lancaster	Pursue development of a new full sized 3G pitch on land shared by the two schools, with access and a secured community use model established for outside of school hours including weekends.	High
42	Lancaster Royal Grammar School Grass Pitches (Memorial Playing Field)			
84	Westgate Cricket Club	Lancaster	Pending planning application case for meeting Sport England Exception E1 regarding proposed loss of playing field provision cannot be made in light of evidenced shortfalls, nor can the proposed 3G serve adequately mitigate the proposed loss. Should development be permitted: a) and result in the total or partial loss of playing field land, mitigate loss of provision to equal or better quantity and quality ensuring that reprovision is able to meet Sport England planning policy, <b>OR</b> b) on playing field land adjacent to the two cricket pitches but resulting in no physical loss of pitch provision, undertake ballstrike risk assessment at both cricket club sites to formally evidence the impact and potential constraints caused by proposed residential development in close proximity.	Low
116	Bare Cricket Club			
81	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club			

<sup>12</sup> Low - less than £50k; Medium - £50k-£250k; High £250k and above

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Site ID	Site/organisation name	Analysis area	Action	Indicative cost <sup>12</sup>
65	Salt Ayre Leisure Centre	Lancaster	Improve quality of field event facilities, ancillary track and field equipment and storage facilities.	Low
99	Highfield (The Gregson Community Association)	Lancaster	Explore feasibility to install floodlighting to eliminate overplay through increased capacity.	Low-Medium
13	Carnforth Rangers FC (Quarry Park)	Carnforth & Rural	Identify a new site for the mitigation of facilities to be lost to proposed residential development. Consideration should be given to re-provision of a better suited offer than what currently exists onsite, for example the creation of 3G pitch provision given the relative level of mini, youth and total training demand expressed by the Club.	High

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## PART 2: VISION

The strategy seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of the vision as follows:

*'An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports pitches and other outdoor sports facilities that supports increasing the health and wellbeing of residents through increased sports participation by all residents, at all levels of play, from grassroots to elite'.*

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

- ◀ 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.
- ◀ Ensure that, where possible, community use at education sites is obtained to benefit the wider population.

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## PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see Figure 1 below). Delivery of the Strategy is the responsibility of and relies on, the Steering Group.

It is recommended that the following are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy and Sport England's requirements.

### Aim 1

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

### Aim 2

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

### Aim 3

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

Figure 1: Sport England planning objectives - Protect, Enhance and Provide



Source: Sport England 2015

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations detailed below are not solely for the Council to action, nor do they imply an expectation that the Council will or can afford to make the necessary investments required. Rather, the purpose of the recommendations is to guide investment for any relevant bodies, including but not limited to Sport England and the NGBs for the sports the recommendations refer to.

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

### Football pitches

**Current supply of football pitch provision is insufficient with current shortfalls evident for adult pitches. However, much of the use contributing to present shortfalls is due to mini soccer and youth teams playing on adult pitches.**

**When considering future demand, there will be shortfalls for adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches.**

**These shortfalls could be serviced in part through greater use of 3G pitches where sanctioned to accommodate match play.**

### Summary – grass

- There are 130 pitches across 77 sites, with 113 pitches across 68 sites reported to be available for community use on some level. There are 17 pitches across nine sites unavailable for community use.
- There are three FA or FIFA certified 3G pitches, all full sized and floodlit, on which competitive football matches can be played, namely Bay Leadership Academy, LMC Sport and Fitness and Morecambe Community High School.
- Most available pitches in Lancaster District (40%) are adult sized which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches at some sites. This is not ideal for youth players and is not in line with the recent FA Youth Review.
- Just 13 available pitches are youth 11v11 sized representing 11% of the available supply which is low in relation to the District, though proportionate to the number of youth teams (22 teams at U13, U14 and U15 – 11% of all teams) which should be playing matches on this sized pitch.
- The pitch quality ratings determined through a combination of non-technical assessments and user feedback show most pitches available for community use are rated as standard quality (53%), with 43% rated as poor and only four pitches as good, equating to just 4%.
- Changing facilities are a key issue at several football sites, with many ancillary facilities requiring modernisation including at Far Moor, Ryelands Park, York Road Playing Fields and Carnforth Rangers FC.

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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- ◀ Just 25 teams (13% of all teams) are recorded as playing on Council managed pitches and are therefore considered to have secured tenure as part of the Council's maintained sports and leisure provision offering. This equates to 16% of teams excluding those fielded by schools, colleges or universities themselves.
- ◀ Not including teams fielded by the schools, colleges or universities themselves which have a vested interest in access to the respective sites, a total of 41 community club teams (21% of all teams) play at education sites where use is not secured.
- ◀ A total of 199 teams are identified as playing matches within the District. Of these, 34 are community club or education teams (19% of community club or education teams) and 34 intra-mural league student teams were recorded as consistently playing matches on 3G pitches during 2017/18 season. The remaining 131 teams play on grass football pitches.
- ◀ Team generation rates based on population, when applied to individual analysis areas, indicate the likely creation of one men's and four youth boys' 11v11 teams. This generates an additional requirement for 0.5 adult and two youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions per week by 2031.
- ◀ In total, current latent demand amounts to 1.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and 0.5 on youth 9v9 pitches, expressed from Morecambe Ladies & Girls FC and Trimpell & Bare Rangers FC.
- ◀ Several teams report a lack of accessible floodlit training facilities as a key issue, referring specifically to a need for increased access to more 3G pitches.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity amounts to eight match equivalent sessions across six sites and 13 pitches.
- ◀ There are 13 pitches overplayed across ten sites, totalling 15 match equivalent sessions. Overplay generally derives from a combination of poor quality pitches with limited carrying capacity, often used by a number of teams playing various formats of age group football.

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## Scenarios – grass

### *Improving pitch quality*

- Improving poor quality pitches with secure tenure (either through increased maintenance or drainage improvements in order to increase pitch capacity) to standard quality will help to create additional capacity, reducing overplay at sites where evident.
- There are 25 poor quality pitches used by community clubs across 13 sites where tenure is considered to be secure. Improving these pitches from poor to standard quality would generate a potential increase in weekly carrying capacity of 30 match equivalent sessions (MES) per week.
- Of these pitches, eight are overplayed across six sites (Low Road Playing Fields, Millhead Recreation Ground, King Georges Playing Field, Giant Axe, Royal Albert Playing Field and Willow Lane).

*Table 4.1: Improving the quality of overplayed grass football pitches by one increment (poor to standard)*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)	Additional capacity created <sup>13</sup>	New carrying capacity	Result (match equivalent sessions per week)
47	Low Road Playing Fields	Carnforth & Rural	Adult	1	2.5	1	2	1.5
50	Millhead Recreation Ground	Carnforth & Rural	Adult	1	1	1	2	-
35	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	Heysham & Morecambe	Mini 7v7	1	1	2	4	1
26	Giant Axe	Lancaster	Youth 9v9	1	1	1	2	-
63	Royal Albert Playing Field	Lancaster	Adult	2	3.5	2	4	1.5
86	Willow Lane	Lancaster	Adult	2	1.5	2	4	0.5

<sup>13</sup> If capacity was to be increased from poor to standard (in match equivalent sessions per week)



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- ◀ The six sites are overplayed by a total of 10.5 MES per week, however, improving pitch quality from poor to standard would create sufficient additional carrying capacity to reduce overplay by 7.5 MES per week to just 3 MES per week.
- ◀ As seen in the table above, the two sites which would remain overplayed would be Low Road Playing Fields and Royal Albert Playing Field. If pitch quality were to increase to standard and sustained this minimal level of overplay would be manageable across the District.
- ◀ All overplay could be alleviated on Royal Albert Playing Fields by improving the quality of the two overplayed adult pitches from poor quality to good, generating 0.5 match equivalent sessions of potential capacity.
- ◀ Improving the quality of the adult pitch at Low Road Playing Fields from poor to good would not fully eliminate overplay on the site but would reduce this to 0.5 match equivalent sessions which is considered manageable.

## *Improving pitch drainage*

- ◀ Several playing field sites in the District are particularly vulnerable to waterlogging, flooding or located on flood zones. No council managed sites are known to have underlying drainage systems, whilst the lack of equipment to aerate pitches leads to standing water.
- ◀ To improve pitch quality at these sites there is a need to improve the quality of pitch drainage. This is particular at Far Moor, where LFA and the Council are working to understand the technical challenges affecting pitch quality.

## *Providing security of tenure*

- ◀ There is one pitch available for community use, located at Caton Sports Field, where tenure is considered unsecure in Lancaster District. This excludes educational sites, as schools self-determine the amount of community access to their pitches.
- ◀ Providing security of tenure at this site would not increase the amount of peak time spare capacity available in the District as Caton Sports Field is at capacity, however, if this site became unavailable then there would be a need to accommodate two match equivalent sessions of demand elsewhere.

## *Housing growth*

- ◀ Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions (rounded up) that would be required **'If 8,072 new homes are built across Lancaster District during the emerging Local Plan period 2017/18-2030/31'**:

*Table 4.2: Number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if 8,072 new homes are built.*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2030/31)	
	Match equivalent sessions per week	Pitches
Adult football	5.68	6 adult pitches
Youth football	3.45	3 youth pitches
Mini soccer	3.57	4 mini pitches
<b>Total</b>		<b>13 pitches</b>

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- Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions (rounded up) that would be required **'If 3,393 new homes are built across Lancaster District during the next five years to (2018/19-2022/23):**

*Table 4.3: Number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if 3,393 new homes are built.*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2022/23)	
	Match equivalent sessions per week	Pitches
Adult football	2.39	2 adult pitches
Youth football	1.45	1 youth pitch
Mini soccer	1.5	1 mini soccer pitch
<b>Total</b>		<b>4 pitches</b>

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## Recommendations – Grass

- ◀ Existing quantity of football pitches to be protected, except for where low value/single pitch sites are considered suitable to be rationalised on the condition that re-provision of playing field land elsewhere represents a preferable and greater benefit to sport.
- ◀ Seek to develop sustainable, multi-pitch football hubs which include 3G and grass pitches servicing team training, short-formats and non-traditional participation and match play.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and rated as standard or poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality.
- ◀ Look to utilise actual spare capacity expressed on sites in order to cater for current and future demand. This may require improvements to pitch quality and is explored on a site by site basis within the accompanying action plan.
- ◀ With future development of new full sized 3G pitches, secure and maximise community use for match play in order to accommodate future shortfalls.
- ◀ Improve, provide and increase access to changing facilities which serve football pitches and ensure any works are suitable for female and disability at key focus sites for these priorities.
- ◀ At sites where access to pitches on public open space is via licence agreement with the Council, the Council should work in partnership with resident clubs to develop schemes for improvement of facilities and as landowner act as the lead applicant in order to access opportunities for external grant funding.
- ◀ Should new football pitch provision be developed, secure community use through formal agreement and establish a sustainable operating and maintenance model for the site.
- ◀ Determine sites which would benefit most from technical assessment through the FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP).
- ◀ The Council should pursue acquisition of required verti-draining equipment to better and more regularly aerate community sports pitches, the majority of which under City Council management are for football. Lancashire County FA should work with the Council to determine scope to provide small grant funding support to acquire key maintenance equipment.
- ◀ The County FAs and local football clubs should explore opportunities to partner with other local sports clubs to form a localised pitch maintenance network. This may include the likes of cricket, rugby and golf clubs which have a high fine turf maintenance requirement, may have paid employees and downtime during the day midweek to support with maintenance across local community football sites.
- ◀ Ensure suitable and non-hazardous line marking paint is the District wide standard for instatement of pitches and that no pitches are marked by burning lines into the surface using chemicals, negatively impacting on playability increasing potential to cause injury.
- ◀ Ensure adequate provision for increased demand generated by housing developments, secured through appropriately calculated developer contributions.

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## 3G pitches

**There is insufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand based on the FA training model for football.**

**When calculated by Analysis Area, there is a present and future shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting; one each in the Carnforth & Rural and Lancaster Areas.**

**Pricing structure at some sites has been identified as comparatively low and a review of 3G pitch pricing is required to ensure pitches remain sustainable.**

## Summary

- ◀ There are six full sized 3G pitches in Lancaster District, all of which have floodlighting. Five are available for community use in some capacity, whilst the pitch at Globe Arena now lies disused.
- ◀ Lancaster University Sports Centre is available for community hire however is considered to offer limited capacity for external use due to significant in-house student sport programmes and team requirements.
- ◀ There is just one small sized 3G pitch able to support demand located at the Globe Arena, but like the full sized 3G pitch onsite this also now lies disused.
- ◀ There are three full sized FA registered 3G pitches suitable for competitive football play. Heysham Moss gate Community & Sports Centre is used for competitive matches weekly despite not being FA registered as safe for competitive play.
- ◀ There is just one World Complaint and RFU registered 3G pitch sanctioned to accommodate contact rugby union activity, located at Lancaster University Sports Centre. The pitch at LMC Sport & Fitness was previously registered but is no longer.
- ◀ Of the five operational pitches, three are rated as good quality, one as standard and one at Heysham Moss gate Community & Sports Centre rated as poor.
- ◀ None of the pitches currently exceed the recommended lifespan, however both the Globe Arena and LMC Sports & Fitness will meet this lifespan within the next three years and should be considered for resurfacing subject to rate of deterioration and quality for use.
- ◀ There are several parties seeking to acquire the land on which the disused Globe Arena 3G pitches and hard court area are located, with varying proposals for loss to development or retention and bringing back into sporting to use. Should the pitches be retained and brought back into use, technical assessment is required to determine extent of repair and remedial works required to do so.
- ◀ Use of 3G pitches extends beyond football and rugby union, including American football, lacrosse and Ultimate Frisbee at Lancaster University Sports Centre.

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- ◀ The FA training model estimates that there is a need for three full sized 3G pitches to service football training needs in the District. However, when considered at Analysis Area level there is a requirement in the Carnforth & Rural and Lancaster Areas for one additional full sized 3G pitch with floodlighting.
- ◀ Spatial distribution of full sized 3G pitches is disproportionate, with four of the five operational pitches located in the Heysham & Morecambe Area.

## **Scenarios – 3G pitches<sup>14</sup>**

### *Moving all mini teams to play on 3G pitches*

- ◀ There are currently 56 mini (5v5 and 7v7) teams playing competitive football in Lancaster District, regardless of site management type.
- ◀ Based on the FA model for competitive football, five full sized FA/FIFA certified 3G pitches (rounded down from 5.09) would be required to accommodate all mini soccer teams. This is on the basis that both playing formats can be accommodated on one day using staggered kick off times.

### *Use of 3G pitches to accommodate current and future grass pitch shortfalls*

- ◀ In order to accommodate all current grass pitch shortfalls, additional capacity equivalent to a total of eight full sized FA/FIFA certified 3G pitches (rounded up from 7.9) would be required (based on all teams playing at peak times in the assessment). All shortfalls are at youth 9v9, 11v11 and adult formats.
- ◀ Establishing eight new full sized 3G pitches is not realistically deliverable, however accommodating the current shortfalls of youth 9v9 and youth 11v11 pitches on to full sized 3G pitches would require two pitches which could be more deliverable. This should be caveated with the knowledge that there is a drive by the FA to migrate all mini demand on to 3G pitches; rather than youth or adult formats.

### *Transfer of football training demand*

- ◀ Should new 3G pitches be created, there is a likely impact on the future sustainability of hockey suitable AGPs as some football demand is likely to transfer onto 3G pitches as more are provided.
- ◀ Access to this capacity should be sought for hockey use to accommodate and facilitate participation growth including access for Lancaster District based hockey clubs.
- ◀ Conversion of sand based AGPs to 3G should not take place unless consultation with England Hockey identifies the AGP is not required to meet existing or future predicted hockey demand.

### *Conversion of AGPs to 3G surfaces*

- ◀ There is a need to retain three hockey suitable AGPs in the District to service current and future match demand for hockey. However, given that Lancaster & Morecambe HC junior members are training on a small sized AGP there is evidence to support the need for a fourth pitch.
- ◀ The full size, hockey suitable AGP at Central Lancaster High School should be resurfaced and retained for hockey use.
- ◀ No full size, hockey suitable AGPs in Lancaster District should be considered for conversion to 3G.

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<sup>14</sup> Refer to Appendix One: FA 3G Pitch Scenarios for the programming model used.

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- Conversion of sand based AGPs to 3G should not take place unless consultation with England Hockey identifies the AGP is not required to meet existing or future predicted demand.

### **Recommendations – 3G pitches**

- Develop at least two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to reduce evidenced shortfalls, particularly in the Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area.
- Explore opportunities to create multi-pitch football hub sites where 3G provision is able to support grass pitches as a sustainable community offer.
- Ensure new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommendations, so to maximise the opportunities to be used for all formats of competitive play.
- Certify and register all future 3G pitches and ensure they are maintained regularly as required to ensure they are of sufficient quality to meet performance standard testing for FA certification.
- With future development of new full sized 3G pitches, secure and maximise community use for match play in order to accommodate future shortfalls. For example, as a condition of partnership investment or planning conditions.
- Encourage providers to have a mechanism in place which ensures the long-term sustainability of provision, such as an adequate sinking fund for repairs or resurfacing.
- Ensure that all current and future 3G pitches in the District remain economically viable with an appropriate pricing structure.
- Through the creation of new full sized 3G pitches, consider options to deliver a wide variety of opportunities, for example, central venue, midweek flexi and vets leagues, as well as walking football and female development centres.
- Pursue the development of a full size 3G pitch at Central Lancaster High School (Lancaster Analysis Area), access for which should be shared with Lancaster Boys Royal Grammar School.
- Any development of a full size 3G pitch in the Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area is dependent on the future of the 3G provision at the Globe Arena.
- Re-test and re-certify the 3G pitch at LMC Sport & Fitness, obtaining a formal community use agreement for Vale of Lune RUFC, allowing the Club to relocate some training demand.

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## Cricket pitches

**Present and future demand for cricket can sufficiently be accommodated by existing supply of facilities.**

**Supply and demand analysis of natural turf cricket squares in Lancaster District at peak times suggests there is capacity available at senior peak time (Saturday), meaning any future demand can be accommodated on both Saturday and Sunday. Midweek demand both current and future can be sufficiently accommodated.**

## Summary

- ◀ In total, there are 14 natural turf cricket squares in Lancaster District located across 13 sites, two of which, are not available for community use, both located at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy.
- ◀ The natural turf cricket squares that are available for community use are fairly evenly located throughout the District, with the Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area accommodating 42% (five squares) of the supply, Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area and the Lancaster Analysis Area accommodating 25% (three squares) and 33% (four squares) respectively.
- ◀ In total, there are 11 non-turf pitches (NTPs) in Lancaster District. Of which, two are standalone and located at education sites and the remaining are all located at club sites within the existing square.
- ◀ Three natural turf cricket squares (21%) were found to be of good quality and 11 (79%) to be of standard quality. There are no poor quality natural turf squares in the District, although the outfield at Bolton-le-Sands CC does suffer from waterlogging.
- ◀ Eight of the 12 community clubs (67%) in Lancaster District consider the ancillary facilities home venues to be of a good quality, with three (25%) considering ancillary facilities to be of standard or acceptable quality; and one (Lancaster CC) reporting that ancillary facilities on site are of a poor or unacceptable quality.
- ◀ Seven clubs report a need for improved training facilities, with four of these aspiring to have an NTP installed or resurfaced on site, in addition to roll on practice nets which could be used to accommodate training demand.
- ◀ The majority of cricket clubs in Lancaster District are considered to have secured use with seven of the 12 community clubs owning their sites freehold. However, both Bare CC and Westgate CC lease home grounds from a private land owner on three year rolling agreements and there is some concern with the sites being at risk from development. Any development of these could impact on Torrisholme CC which is based on connecting land; Torrisholme CC owning its home venue.
- ◀ There are 13 clubs, 12 of which are affiliated community clubs playing in Lancaster District. Combined, these produce 28 senior and 27 junior cricket teams playing competitive matches, totalling 55 affiliated cricket teams.



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- Team generation rates based on future population when applied District wide, predict an increase of two junior boys' teams, however, when applied to individual analysis areas, only one junior boys' team is predicted, in the Lancaster Analysis Area. Eight clubs in the Lancaster District want to increase the number of teams representing respective clubs, with each of these expressing ambitions to increase the number of junior teams.
- In Lancaster District seven clubs operate as All Star centres; Lancaster, Westgate, Torrisholme, Morecambe, Heysham, Bolton-le-Sands and Silverdale cricket clubs.
- An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for natural turf squares for senior cricket is Saturday (22 teams), though there is also demand for Sunday (four teams) and midweek cricket (three teams). Peak time for junior natural turf wickets is considered to be midweek.
- Of those sites with existing community use, there are nine sites which show potential spare capacity on senior natural turf squares within the Lancaster District, totalling 194 match sessions per season. However, only three sites have actual spare capacity at senior peak time (Saturday).
- Eight sites are considered to have actual spare capacity on junior natural turf wickets during peak time (midweek), totalling 46 match equivalent sessions per season.
- Senior wickets at Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club are considered overplayed by eight match equivalent session; whilst the junior wickets at Torrisholme Cricket Club are also overplayed by nine match equivalent sessions.
- Analysis suggests there is a shortfall on senior wickets in the Lancaster Analysis Area; which is exacerbated when future demand is considered.

### Scenarios

#### *Alleviating overplay*

- Two sites are overplayed by a total of 17 match equivalent sessions per season and have no capacity to accommodate additional play. Nine of these match equivalent sessions are on junior wickets.
- As a guide, those sites which display overplay of less than 10 matches per season, such as both Torrisholme Cricket Club and Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club are generally able to sustain this with appropriate and rigorous maintenance. However, no further play is recommended.
- If clubs preferred to remove all overplay then either an additional junior wicket would need to be established at Torrisholme Cricket Club to create the additional capacity, coupled with the quality of wickets increasing from standard to good; or some junior demand would have to utilise the NTPs on site which are in line with the grass square. Utilisation of NTPs for match play would be subject to league rules permitting them for match play use.
- Given the minimum boundary distance required for a senior wicket; there is no capacity on site to establish a new senior wicket at Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club. Therefore, the recommendation would be to either improving the quality of existing wickets from standard to good quality, increasing pitch capacity from 28 match equivalent sessions per season to 35 match equivalent sessions per season. However, this would retain one match equivalent session of overplay per season. Therefore some demand would still need to be relocated away from the site, namely that from Lancaster University CC, would could be accommodated elsewhere within the District.

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## Housing growth

- Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions (rounded up) that would be required **'If 8,072 new homes are built across Lancaster during the emerging Local Plan period 2017/18-2030/31'**:

Table 4.4: Number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if 8,072 new homes are built.

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2030/31)	
	Match equivalent sessions per season	Pitches
Cricket	62.56 per season	One senior cricket pitch

- Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions (rounded up) that would be required **'If 3,393 new homes are built across Lancaster during the next five years to (2018/19-2022/23)'**:

Table 4.5: Number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if 3,393 new homes are built.

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2022/23)	
	Match equivalent sessions per season	Pitches
Cricket	26.3 per season	One new senior cricket pitch

## Ball strike/site development

- It should be noted that the ECB states that where there is either new cricket provision being put in place or more commonly development which may prejudice the use of the sporting facility there would be a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development.
- As such the ECB recommends that the clubs/organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken. Further information can be provided by the ECB.

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## Recommendations – Cricket

- ✦ Existing quantity of cricket pitches to be protected or be fully mitigated to meet National Planning Policy.
  - ✦ Encourage clubs to seek opportunities for funding to improve poor quality ancillary facilities.
  - ✦ With regard to proposed development at Bare CC and Westgate CC:
    - a) Should development be permitted and result in the total or partial loss of playing field land, mitigate loss of provision to equal or better quantity and quality ensuring that re-provision is able to meet Sport England planning policy.
    - b) Should development be permitted on playing field land adjacent to the two cricket pitches but resulting in no physical loss of pitch provision, undertake ballstrike risk assessment at both cricket club sites to formally evidence the impact and potential constraints caused by proposed residential development in close proximity.
- It should be noted that a minimum of two years is required to bring a new site into use for cricket; and this should be considered to ensure that there is no loss of cricket provision in the interim.
- ✦ Look to sustain minimal levels of overplay at Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club and Torrisholme Cricket Club through dedicated levels of enhanced maintenance and monitor future levels of demand.
  - ✦ Consider increased utilisation of the NTPs at Torrisholme Cricket Club for junior demand to eliminate overplay at the site.
  - ✦ Maintain and improve pitch quality through rigorous and regular maintenance, remedial and preparatory work, ensuring that clubs have sufficient access to the required equipment to do so
  - ✦ Deliver the All Stars Cricket and women & girls programmes and seek to increase junior and female participation as a result.
  - ✦ Consider opportunities to increase NTP provision in parks and public spaces should recreational and short format demand be identified.
  - ✦ Consider relocating Lancaster University CC demand from Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club to a site with sufficient spare capacity; eliminating overplay at the aforementioned site.

## Rugby league

**Current supply of rugby league pitches is not sufficient to cater for the level of demand expressed in Lancaster District at present. This is further exacerbated when considering anticipated future demand.**

## Summary

- ✦ The audit identifies a total of one grass rugby league pitch in Lancaster District. Located at Trimpell Sports & Social Club (Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area). The pitch is of senior size and available for community use.
- ✦ The rugby league pitch at Trimpell Sports & Social Club is rented by Heysham Atoms RLFC on an annual basis but as it forms part of the wider sports and social club its use is considered secure.
- ✦ Lancaster University also has a rugby league team that utilises a rugby union pitch (at Lancaster University Sports Centre) for both match and training demand.

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- ◀ The one dedicated rugby league pitch in Lancaster District is of standard quality, with Heysham Atoms RLFC highlighting that the pitch has decreased in quality over recent seasons given the high level of use of the pitch year round by rugby league, American football and football.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities at Trimpell Sports & Social Club are considered poor quality, requiring interior refurbishment to improve quality. The Club also highlights demand for an additional number of changing rooms.
- ◀ There is a total of six competitive rugby league teams playing in Lancaster District provided by one community club (Heysham Atoms RLFC) and an education team (Lancaster University). Of the community teams, there are two men's teams, one junior boys' team and three primary teams.
- ◀ Heysham Atoms RLFC trains on its match pitch a total of four match equivalent sessions per week, with the senior men's team contributing half of this use alone.
- ◀ Team generation rates based on future population does not forecast the likely creation of any new rugby league teams, however, Heysham Atoms RLFC intends to increase the number of teams it fields which if successful would total an increase of 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week worth of usage.
- ◀ The pitch at Trimpell Sports & Social Club is overplayed by a total of 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week. This is predominantly a result of training and competitive demand taking place on the pitch. Further to the rugby league use, the pitch is also overmarked with a football pitch and used in the winter. It is also used by an American football team further adding to the level of overplay expressed above.
- ◀ The shortfall is exacerbated when future demand is considered, increasing to a shortfall of 8.5 MES per week.
- ◀ Improving pitch quality will increase capacity in the District, but this alone would not be sufficient to eliminate overplay. Access to additional match pitches or an RFL Community Standard 3G pitch for training and match demand would eliminate overplay in the District.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Alleviating overplay*

- ◀ The only rugby league pitch in Lancaster is currently overplayed by 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week. This is due to it servicing the entire competitive and training demand from Heysham Atoms RLFC, as well as Morecambe Bay Storm (American football club).
- ◀ Improving the standard quality pitch (either through increased maintenance or drainage improvements in order to increase pitch capacity) to good quality will help to create additional capacity, reducing overplay at the site.

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Table 4.6: Improving the quality of overplayed rugby league pitches by one increment (standard to good)

Site name	Pitch type	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Current total	Additional capacity created	New carrying capacity	Result (match equivalent sessions per week)
Trimpell Sports & Social Club	Senior	Standard	1	6.75	1	3	5.75

- As seen in the table above, this would create additional capacity of one match equivalent session per week and reduce overplay to 5.75 match equivalent sessions, however, the pitch would remain overplayed.
- If a dedicated training area was provided for Heysham Atoms RLFC, off the match pitch, this would reduce overplay by four match equivalent sessions per week. However, to fully alleviate overplay, then a minimum of three good quality senior pitches is required; given the current supply accommodates match and training demand from both rugby league and American football clubs.

### Housing growth

- Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions (rounded up) that would be required **'If 8,072 new homes are built across Lancaster during the emerging Local Plan period 2017/18-2030/31'**:

Table 4.7: Number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if 8,072 new homes are built.

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2030/31)	
	Match equivalent sessions per week	Pitches
Rugby league	0.37	No new pitches

- Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions (rounded up) that would be required **'If 3,393 new homes are built across Lancaster during the next five years to (2018/19-2022/23)'**:

Table 4.8: Number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if 3,393 new homes are built.

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2022/23)	
	Match equivalent sessions per week	Pitches
Rugby league	0.15	No new pitches

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## Recommendations – Rugby league

- ◀ Protect quality of existing rugby league pitch provision.
- ◀ Seek to improve pitch quality at Trimpell Sports & Social Club through improved and more regular maintenance and remediation.
- ◀ Support the development of new rugby league pitch provision, for example a second senior pitch Trimpell Sports & Social Club.
- ◀ Establish a dedicated training area on site to remove all rugby league training demand from the match pitch.
- ◀ Support Heysham Atoms RLFC in regard to membership retention and potential growth.
- ◀ Assist Heysham Atoms RLFC in improving the quality of ancillary facilities at Trimpell Sports & Social Club.
- ◀ Support Heysham Atoms RLFC to obtain a community use agreement of a 3G pitch to enable some training demand to be relocated off-site, reducing overplay.
- ◀ Encourage greater use of 3G pitches by both rugby league and American football clubs.

## Rugby union pitches

**Current supply is not sufficient to cater for the level of demand expressed in Lancaster District at present, totalling a need for a further ten match equivalent sessions on senior pitches.**

## Summary

- ◀ In total, there are 19 rugby union pitches in Lancaster District across seven sites, all of which are senior sized. All pitches, apart from those at Lancaster University Sports Centre, are available for community use in some capacity. It should be noted that one of the rugby union pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre is dually used for rugby league.
- ◀ At present, there is one certified World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Lancaster District, located at Lancaster University Sports Centre. There is a second WR compliant pitch at LMC Sport and Fitness, however the certification expired in February 2018 and a retest to renew certification is required. Until this takes place any full contact activity on this pitch would not be covered by insurance and therefore should be avoided.
- ◀ Most (74%) natural turf rugby union provision is located in the Lancaster Analysis Area where there are 14 pitches, 11 of which are available for community use. The remaining provision is divided between the Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area (10%) and the Heysham and Morecombe Analysis Area (16%), with pitches in the latter area available for community use but unused.
- ◀ The majority of pitches are rated as standard quality (13 pitches or 68%). All of the remaining six pitches are of poor quality, with no good quality pitches in Lancaster District.
- ◀ Vale of Lune RUFC and Lancaster University both have secure tenure of respective home grounds, owning land freehold; whilst Carnforth RFC rents a pitch at Carnforth High School and University of Cumbria rent Vale of Lune RUFC, both on a match by match basis and therefore not considered secure tenure.



# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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- Of the four clubs in Lancaster District, three train on match pitches with the remaining club, Lancaster University, use a WR compliant 3G pitch.
- Ancillary facilities across Lancaster District vary in quality with those at Vale of Lune RUFC considered good quality despite recent vandalism damaging seats in the Club's stand. This being said, floodlighting in Lancaster District is considered insufficient to support training demand for both Vale of Lune RUFC and Carnforth RFC.
- There are two community rugby union clubs playing in Lancaster District, providing a total of 21 teams. There are seven senior teams, of which, there is a single women's team representing Vale of Lune RUFC; one colts boys' team, four junior boys' teams and six mini squads. There are also three junior girls' team, an U13s, U15s and U18s fielded by Vale of Lune RUFC. Remaining female participation is generally playing within mixed teams at mini age groups.
- In addition, the two universities within the District, Lancaster University and University of Cumbria, supply a combined 5 senior teams, all competing in the BUCS leagues on Wednesday afternoons.
- TGRs do not forecast any additional future demand, when applied on an Analysis Area basis.
- There are four senior pitches, all at Vale of Lune RUFC, which are overplayed totalling ten match equivalent sessions.
- Vale of Lune RUFC does have ambitions to establish a WR compliant 3G pitch on site, funded via the sale of some land, without the requirement for additional third-party funding, however, the sale and development of this land would result in an overall net loss of playing field space which would need to be mitigated to an equivalent or greater quantity and quality. The 3G AGP alone cannot mitigate the loss.
- Carnforth RUFC withdrew from the league structure at the start of the 2017/18 season and now plays occasional friendlies throughout the season. The Club plans to enter the merit league for the 2018/19 season which will provide the Club with consistent competitive fixtures.
- Rugby in local secondary schools is growing, with three schools (Heysham High School, Carnforth High School and Central Lancaster High School) all in the third year of the All Schools programme. Demand in the schools has grown and adds to the strong presence of the sport currently in place within the Lancaster Royal Grammar School.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Improving pitch quality*

- As shown overleaf, improving maintenance from poor (M0) to standard (M1) or standard (M1) to good (M2) at sites with secure tenure would create additional capacity of four match equivalent sessions (MES) per week.
- This would create an additional three match equivalent sessions per week potential spare capacity for use, as well as reducing overplay on one pitch to nine match equivalent sessions per week.
- Establishing additional capacity on the three non-floodlit pitches at Vale of Lune RUFC would allow two match equivalent sessions of match demand, currently being accommodated on the floodlit pitch, to be relocated, on site; further reducing overplay of the floodlit pitch to seven match equivalent sessions per week.



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Table 4.9: Improving the quality of maintenance of rugby union pitches at Vale of Lune RUFC by one increment (M1 to M2)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Floodlit	Usage (MES per week)	Site capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)	Improved quality	Capacity effect (MES per week)
81	Vale of Lune RUFC	Lancaster	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D1	1	Yes	12	2	10	M2/D1	9
							3	No	6	6	-	M2/D1	3

- Alternatively, improving both maintenance and drainage by one increment would create additional capacity of five match equivalent sessions per week. Should match demand also be relocated on site, away from the floodlit pitch, this would reduce overplay of the floodlit pitch to 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week; whilst also leaving 1.75 match equivalent sessions of potential capacity on the three non-floodlit pitches.
- Sufficient capacity to accommodate current levels of demand at Vale of Lune RUFC cannot be created through qualitative improvements to pitch maintenance and drainage alone. If all pitches were increased to the maximum rating of M2/D3, with a high level of maintenance and pipe & slit drainage installed; then demand on site would continue to outweigh capacity. As shown in the table below.
- Installing floodlighting on additional pitches would not fully eliminate overplay on site, with the potential capacity created insufficient to fully alleviate overplay; however, this would allow overplay to be evenly distributed across the site.

Table 4.10: Improving the quality of rugby union pitches at Vale of Lune RUFC to the maximum quality (M2/D3)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Floodlit	Usage (MES per week)	Site capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)	Improved quality	Capacity effect (MES per week)
81	Vale of Lune RUFC	Lancaster	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D1	1	Yes	12	2	10	M2/D3	8.5
							3	No	6	6	-	M2/D3	4.5

- To prevent an overplay in the Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area when future demand is considered, qualitative improvements are required at Carnforth High School; the home venue of Carnforth RFC. Improving current pitch quality (M0/D1) through maintenance improvements (M1/D1), would be sufficient to prevent this future shortfall.

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## *Installing additional floodlighting with pitch improvements*

- As shown, increasing pitch quality through maintenance and drainage improvements is not sufficient to eliminate overplay from the one floodlit pitch at Vale of Lune RUFC.
- Installing additional floodlighting on the remaining three pitches would allow midweek training demand to be distributed across the site, reducing the concentration of overplay from one senior pitch.
- Increasing pitch quality to the maximum rating (M2/D3) would give each pitch capacity for 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week, totalling 14 match equivalent sessions across the site.
- Current demand across the site stands at 18 match equivalent sessions per week; meaning that there is a shortfall of four match equivalent sessions at Vale of Lune RUFC.
- If all pitches were floodlit and demand could be evenly distributed across the site; then each rugby union pitch at Vale of Lune RUFC would be overplayed by one match equivalent session each, with an inability to increase grass pitch quality further.
- This evidences that even increasing capacity of existing pitches to their full potential through natural turf improvement and floodlighting to extend usable hours, the site is not able to cater for levels of demand and access to additional pitch provision would be required nonetheless.

## *Loss of unsecure pitches*

- Carnforth RFC currently utilises one senior pitch at Carnforth High School. The Club rents the use of the pitches and does not have a formal community use agreement. The pitches are used by the Club's only team on an ad-hoc basis.
- The Club plans to increase its level of activity in the future; therefore if access to the site was lost there would be a need to accommodate 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on a senior pitch.
- There is a need to formalise a community use agreement for Carnforth RUFC in order secure access to the pitch. In addition, secure tenure may also allow for the Club and School to access relevant funding to improve pitch quality.

## *Housing growth*

- Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions (rounded up) that would be required **'If 8,072 new homes are built across Lancaster during the emerging Local Plan period 2017/18-2030/31'**:

*Table 4.11: Number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if 8,072 new homes are built.*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2030/31)	
	Match equivalent sessions per week	Pitches
Rugby union	1.37	1 senior pitch

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions (rounded up) that would be required **'If 3,393 new homes are built across Lancaster during the next five years to (2018/19-2022/23):**

Table 4.12: Number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if 3,393 new homes are built.

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2022/23)	
	Match equivalent sessions per week	Pitches
Rugby union	0.58	1 new senior pitch

## Recommendations – Rugby union

- Existing quantity of rugby union pitches to be protected or be fully mitigated to meet National Planning Policy.
- Assist Vale of Lune RUFC in improving the maintenance regime; and drainage systems in place, on the pitches at Vale of Lune RUFC in order to increase capacity and alleviate levels of identified overplay.
- In addition, look to secure formal community use of the pitches at Carnforth High School for Carnforth RUFC and improve their quality to prevent future capacity shortfalls.
- Both Vale of Lune RUFC and Carnforth RUFC require additional floodlighting to support growth and to sustain participation; increasing the pitches/areas able to accommodate midweek training demand.
- Seek to obtain a community use agreement at Lancaster University Sports Centre for Vale of Lune RUFC, to enable the Club to relocate training demand off the match pitches; reducing overplay.
- As part of potential development of full size floodlit 3G pitches, consider if appropriate any opportunities for cross-sport 3G pitch certification, including World Rugby certification for training use or match play.
- Assist Carnforth RUFC in its increased match activity by assisting the Club to obtain a community use agreement at Carnforth High School.
- Continue to develop strong relationships between rugby clubs, in particular Vale of Lune RUFC and schools through curricular and extracurricular programmes in order to increase levels of mini and junior participation.
- Re-test and re-certify the 3G pitch at LMC Sport & Fitness, obtaining a formal community use agreement for Vale of Lune RUFC, allowing the Club to relocate some training demand.

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## Hockey pitches (AGPs)

**Current supply of community available, hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate current and future levels of match demand.**

**There is a requirement for at least four hockey suitable AGPs with full floodlighting and availability in the peak periods which there presently is in the District, though there is a need to resurface Central Lancaster High School to bring it back into operation for community users.**

**However, the two key sites for community hockey have met or exceeded the recommended surface lifespan. The main priority for hockey in the District is to resurface the AGPs at the two University sites, which are the key sites for hockey**

## Summary

- There are currently six full sized hockey suitable AGPs in Lancaster District, three of which are available for community use. The pitches at Lancaster Girls Grammar School and HMP Lancaster Farms are neither floodlit nor available for community use, whilst Central Lancaster High School is of such poor quality that external community use has been ceased until it can be improved.
- All six full sized hockey suitable AGPs are located in the Lancaster Analysis Area.
- Additionally, there are two smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs; a sand filled pitch located at Carnforth High School (Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area) and a sand dressed pitch at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy (Lancaster); both are floodlit and available for community use.
- The majority of full sized AGPs (three – 50%) are rated as good quality. Two are rated as poor quality and one as standard quality.
- The AGPs located at Central Lancaster High School, Lancaster University Sports Centre and HMP Lancaster Farms are all beyond recommended lifespans. It should also be noted that all other full-size hockey suitable AGPs will also exceed the recommended lifespan within the next five years.
- Consideration should be given to the refurbishment of Lancaster University Sports Centre and University of Cumbria Sports Centre AGPs which accommodate all hockey demand in the District and deteriorating quality will affect continued usage for hockey.
- There are 33 hockey teams, provided across three community clubs and two student-only university clubs using three AGPs in Lancaster District. There is a total of 471 hockey participants in the District, 177 of which are juniors.
- When the EH Growth Rate is applied to current membership numbers there is a predicted increase of 22 members forecast; eight of which will be adults.
- Two of the three available, hockey suitable AGPs in Lancaster District are considered to have capacity for additional use at weekends; the pitch at University of Cumbria Sports Centre being at capacity. Resurfacing of the Central Lancaster High School pitch would create further available capacity for community hockey.

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## Scenarios

### *Loss of access to education sites*

- All 25 community hockey teams (342 members) from Lancaster, Lancaster Nomads and Lancaster & Morecambe hockey clubs currently use the AGPs at Lancaster University Sports Centre and University of Cumbria Sports Centre, whilst all other available AGPs are also located at education sites.
- Should use of these pitches be lost either due to unsecure tenure or quality becoming unsafe for use, then there are no other AGPs in Lancaster District which offer secure tenure.
- Consequently, securing community use agreements at both university sites for all clubs is considered key.

### *Transfer of football training demand*

- Should new 3G pitches be created, there is a likely impact on the future sustainability of hockey suitable AGPs as some football demand is likely to transfer onto 3G pitches as more are provided.
- Access to this capacity should be sought for hockey use to accommodate and facilitate participation growth including access for clubs. This could potentially see Lancaster & Morecambe HC junior demand relocating from the small sized, hockey suitable AGP, at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy to a full size hockey suitable AGP elsewhere in the District.

### *Conversion of AGPs to 3G surfaces*

- There is need to retain four hockey suitable AGPs in the District to service current and future demand for hockey. Whilst three pitches is sufficient to service match play demand, there is a need for four on the basis of a lack of capacity in the Lancaster Area which sees Lancaster & Morecambe HC juniors training on a small sized AGP due to a lack of capacity of University of Cumbria.
- The full sized AGP at Central Lancaster High School should be resurfaced and retained for hockey use, therefore being able to provide this additional capacity required.
- No full sized, hockey suitable AGPs in Lancaster District should be considered for conversion to 3G.
- Conversion of sand based AGPs to 3G should not take place unless consultation with England Hockey identifies the AGP is not required to meet existing or future predicted demand.

### *Housing growth*

- Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions (rounded up) that would be required **'If 8,072 new homes are built across Lancaster during the emerging Local Plan period 2017/18-2030/31'**:

*Table 4.13: Number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if 8,072 new homes are built.*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2030/31)	
	Match equivalent sessions per week	Pitches
Hockey	2.04	No new AGPs

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- Using Sport England's New Development Pitch Demand Calculator the table below indicates the number of match equivalent sessions (rounded up) that would be required **'If 3,393 new homes are built across Lancaster during the next five years to (2018/19-2022/23):**

Table 4.14: Number of match equivalent sessions that would be required if 3,393 new homes are built.

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2023/24)	
	Match equivalent sessions per week	Pitches
Hockey	0.86	No new AGPs

## Recommendations – Hockey

- Protect all full sized hockey suitable AGPs in Lancaster District as hockey suitable surfaces.
- Resurface the hockey suitable AGPs at Lancaster University Sports Centre and University of Cumbria Sports Centre, given that the pitches have either met or exceeded recommended lifespans. The three pitches, across the two sites, currently accommodate all community hockey match demand in the District.
- Explore funding opportunities to resurface the AGP at Central Lancaster High School as a key priority, in order that it is retained as a hockey suitable surface. In addition, secure community use for hockey as a condition of funding.
- Work to formally secure community use of the AGPs at Lancaster University Sports Centre and University of Cumbria Sports Centre for hockey through usage agreements.
- Retain the AGP at Lancaster Girls Grammar School as it supports school activity.
- Maximise use of capacity freed up from anticipated transfer of football training demand to anticipated new 3G pitches in order to grow hockey participation.
- Increase participation driven through community clubs and schools.
- Encourage providers to put in place a mechanism for sustainability such as a sinking fund, (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface repair or replacement when required) in place to maintain AGP pitch quality in the long-term.

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## ***Bowling greens***

**In summary the overall picture in Lancaster District is that there is sufficient supply of bowling greens to cater for current and future demand.**

### ***Summary***

- ◀ There are 30 crown green bowling greens in Lancaster District provided across 27 sites, of which, three sites (Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields, Bare Village Club and Highfield Recreation Ground) provide two bowling greens each.
- ◀ Most provision is located in Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area with 15 bowling greens provided which is half of the total supply.
- ◀ Eight bowling greens have been lost over the last few years due to either sites closing or where sites with multiple greens have been reduced to just one green.
- ◀ The majority of existing greens in Lancaster District are managed by sports clubs (19 greens or 63%). The remaining greens are either managed by LCC, the parish/town council or another organisation.
- ◀ The majority of bowling greens in Lancaster District (27) are assessed as good quality with two greens assessed as standard quality and one as poor quality. It should be noted that the poor-quality green (Westfield Memorial Village) is assessed as such as it is not serviced by any ancillary facilities, the green itself scores as good quality.
- ◀ Although most clubs concur that green quality is standard or good, the most significant issues reported by clubs relate to maintenance both in terms of cost or having a lack of control over maintenance carried out.
- ◀ Clubs generally report that ancillary facilities are of an adequate standard. However, pavilions at Cumberland View Hotel, Highfield Recreation Ground and Cross Keys Hotel are identified as poor, with the latter two having plans to make improvements.
- ◀ Car parking at Luneside & Rosebank Bowling & Recreation Club is reported to be a major problem at peak times.
- ◀ There are 26 clubs using bowling greens in Lancaster District and participation is generally good, however, none of the responding clubs have over 100 members. The largest clubs are Bowling Green and Parkside with 88 members and Bare BC with 81 members.
- ◀ Although most greens have recorded club use on them, three sites have no formal club use recorded, Westfield Memorial Village, Millhead Recreation Ground, Bay Horse Hotel. However, it is thought that all have good levels of informal play and play available.
- ◀ Across Lancaster District five clubs report aspirations to grow membership although only Bowling Green BC is able to quantify this.
- ◀ Where full membership is known there are no identified sites that are overplayed in Lancaster District. However, four sites are currently being played to their recommended capacity and are likely to be unable to sustain many more members. Further to this, three sites have minimal spare capacity, namely Hest Bank Recreation Ground, Station Hotel and Warton & District Bowling Club.



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## **Recommendations – Bowling greens**

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of greens.
- ◀ Improve green quality from standard to good at Galgate Recreation Field and Palatine Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities at Highfield Recreation Ground and Cross Keys Hotel.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◀ Determine the future use of Westfield Memorial Village, Millhead Recreation Ground and Bay Horse Hotel greens.

## ***Tennis courts***

**In summary there are sufficient club courts in Lancaster District to accommodate current and future levels of demand. This being said some clubs do still express aspirations for new provision or floodlighting/cover courts and therefore further feasibility work is required to fully establish demand. Further to this, one club site is operating over the recommended LTA capacity.**

## ***Summary***

- ◀ There is a total of 80 tennis courts identified in Lancaster District located across 21 sites including sports clubs, parks and schools. Of these, 36 (45%) are categorised as being available for community use across 11 sites.
- ◀ The least amount of provision is located in Heysham & Morecambe (one court). Further to this, there are also no affiliated tennis clubs playing in the Area, which is likely to be a result of a lack of accessible courts.
- ◀ The majority of courts are owned/managed by clubs (36%). Of education courts, only 12 courts are available to hire for community use which are all located at Lancaster University Sports Centre.
- ◀ There are 40 floodlit courts in Lancaster District. However, some club sites are not floodlit and the sites may benefit from this being considered i.e. Highfield TC.
- ◀ Of provision that is available for community use, 20 (56%) are assessed as good quality, 12 (33%) are assessed as standard quality and four courts (11%) are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Bolton Le Sands TC report that its macadam courts are poor quality and Bowerham Lawn TC is looking at funding options to refurbish its courts.
- ◀ Three tennis clubs report that the quality of their ancillary facilities is poor (Highfield, Slyne with Hest and Lancaster). The remaining two responding clubs (Bowerham and Bolton Le Sands) both report standard quality ancillary facilities.
- ◀ There are six tennis clubs in Lancaster District. Of those that responded to the survey (five), they collectively consist of 533 members.
- ◀ Lancaster TC is the largest club as it services 139 members, but closely followed by Highfield TC which has 126 members and Bowerham Lawn TC which has 123. Lancaster TC and Bowerham Lawn TC both also have good junior membership levels.

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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- ◀ All responding clubs state that membership has either remained static or increased over the last three years.
- ◀ The only club that is able to quantify future demand is Slyne with Hest TC which reported it plans to create one senior and three junior teams. If more hours were available in the future Slyne with Hest TC also reports it would create one additional men's team and two junior teams. In addition, Lancaster TC suggests that more availability may lead to creation of an additional senior team.
- ◀ Highfield TC is operating over the recommended LTA capacity (by 46 members); however, it is deemed sustainable if the two courts are able to be floodlit and the good quality sustained.
- ◀ Bolton Le Sands TC and Lunesdale Lawn TC are likely to be being played to capacity when accounting for any casual/recreation play. This is a particular issue at Bolton Le Sands TC where the quality of the courts is deemed to be poor by the Club; and the two courts are not floodlit.

### **Recommendations – Tennis courts**

- ◀ Pursue the strategic development of tennis facilities and participation in Lancaster District through a holistic approach including the six tennis clubs, the LTA's Transforming British Tennis Together funding initiative and Council.
- ◀ Develop a network of sustainable, fit for purpose and accessible community courts across the District.
- ◀ Seek to sustain the good quality courts in the District, whilst concurrently seeking to increase the quality of standard and poor courts via improved maintenance and/or resurfacing.
- ◀ Seek to improve accessibility to Council courts through strategic investment into floodlighting and implementation of the LTA Clubspark system.
- ◀ Establish floodlighting at Highfield TC (two courts) to reduce overplay to a sustainable level.
- ◀ Assist community clubs in the refurbishment of courts once they begin to deteriorate in quality.
- ◀ Further investigation in to the programming of courts and future demand at Slyne-With-Hest TC should be undertaken to understand the Club's requirement for additional provision in the future.

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## *Athletics facilities*

**Current supply of track and field athletics facilities is sufficient to cater for current demand and future growth.**

**There is however a need to improve the poor quality of facilities for field events in order for user clubs to drive participation growth and quality of provision for competition.**

## *Summary*

- There is one athletics track in Lancaster City located at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre (Lancaster Area).
- The track was developed in 1993, resurfaced circa 2012/13 and is rated as standard quality.
- Both resident club Lancaster & Morecambe AC and England Athletics report that many of the field event facilities are of poor quality and require improvement.
- The track is owned and managed by the City Council, with maintenance undertaken by the onsite leisure centre.
- Tenure for the Club as resident user is considered secure. All other user access is via rental and continued access is not considered to be at threat.
- Lancaster & Morecambe AC is the only community track and field athletics club based in the District. Kendal Amateur AC does however import demand from South Lakeland for a weekly track session.
- Lancaster Runners provides a more flexible running offer and a semi-formal pathway from participation initiatives and events into club membership. The wider running market is reported to be growing and expected to continue to do so in future.
- There is a well-attended Parkrun event in Williamson Park on Saturday mornings, averaging around 300 participants.

## **Recommendations – Athletics facilities**

- As a priority, improve facilities for field events to enable Salt Ayre Leisure Centre to hold full UKA certification.
- Sustain the quality of the track by continuing with the existing maintenance regime.
- Support Lancaster & Morecambe Athletics Club with plans to increase membership and community engagement.
- Explore establishing a junior Parkrun event within the District given that one does not currently exist and that opportunities for juniors is limited outside of traditional club settings.
- Support the running clubs and running events taking place as well as exploring the implementation of initiatives not currently serviced to increase participation in recreational running.
- Improve the ancillary facilities available to Lancaster & Morecambe AC at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre.

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## *American football*

**Supply of facilities for American football cannot sufficiently cater for current levels of demand based on present levels of maintenance, access and total sporting use.**

**Additional use of the rugby league pitch at Trimpell Sports & Social Club for American football exacerbates the level of exhibited overplay deriving from rugby league demand alone.**

**Natural turf pitches used for American football are dually used for other sports and robust maintenance regimes must be employed and overall use by all sports monitored to ensure that sufficient capacity and quality exists to continue to sustain dual usage.**

## *Summary*

- ◀ There are two American football clubs each with one team. One is a community club (Morecambe Bay Storm) and one is university based (Lancaster Bombers).
- ◀ All matches are played on natural turf pitches used for other sports at Trimpell Sports & Social Club (rugby league) and Lancaster University (rugby union).

### **Recommendations – American football**

- ◀ Improve pitch quality at Trimpell Sports & Social Club to reduce current levels of overplay.
- ◀ Establish a dedicated American football pitch in the District that can then be accessed by both Lancaster Bombers and Morecambe Bay Storm.

## *Lacrosse*

**Supply of facilities for lacrosse can sufficiently cater for current levels of demand on either artificial or natural turf pitches, whilst future growth and generation of additional teams can be met through increased use of the grass pitch onsite.**

## *Summary*

- ◀ Only Lancaster University fields lacrosse teams. There are no community clubs. The University has one men's and one women's team.
- ◀ All match play and training is accommodated onsite. Matches are played on the AGP or grass pitch when programming requires, with training held on the AGP or 3G pitch.

### **Recommendations – Lacrosse**

- ◀ Protect the grass pitch and sustain its quality for current and future demand.
- ◀ Continue to accommodate lacrosse demand in programming for both the AGPs and 3G pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre.

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## *Netball courts*

**There is sufficient quantity of outdoor netball provision in Lancaster District to meet current demand.**

**However, there is a requirement to improve quality at key venues (Morecambe High School and Ripley St Thomas CE Academy) and to work with providers to increase level and security of access given clubs and leagues have no influence over existing assets.**

## *Summary*

- ◀ In total, there are 26 outdoor macadam netball courts across eight sites. 14 of these courts are floodlit.
- ◀ All are education sites, including secondary schools, colleges and Lancaster University, therefore all leagues and clubs access facilities through rental.
- ◀ There are four artificial turf courts marked on the AGP at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy, otherwise all other courts are hard macadam surfaces.
- ◀ Of the 26 courts, eight are rated as good quality and three as standard, however the majority are rated as poor (15 courts – 58%).
- ◀ All netball demand for matches (and some training by a few clubs) is located at three key sites; LMC Sports & Fitness (Lancaster & Morecambe College), Morecambe Community High School and Ripley St Thomas CE Academy.
- ◀ The leagues report LMC Sports & Fitness to be the better of these venues, with matches relocated to there from the other two due to the impact of surface quality issues exacerbated by wet weather.
- ◀ Netball demand is mostly accommodated within the two leagues based within the District. Both leagues have over 20 teams but do not anticipate significant future growth.
- ◀ England Netball reports that the development of club opportunities for juniors and a junior league is a development priority for the District.
- ◀ The Lancaster & Morecambe Netball League would like to establish a youth league but reports availability of indoor facilities to be a key challenge.

### **Recommendations – Netball courts**

- ◀ Protect courts and seek to improve poor court quality through resurfacing or improved maintenance.
- ◀ Ensure any future development of Council tennis courts takes into consideration netball demand.
- ◀ Look to continue and expand the use of courts for EN initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball.
- ◀ Explore the availability of indoor facilities to enable a Lancaster & Morecambe Junior Netball League; potentially at Lancaster & Morecambe College which has a planning application to cover existing tennis/netball courts.

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## *Ultimate frisbee*

**Current facilities available and accessible for university Ultimate can sufficiently cater for the level of demand on either artificial or natural turf pitches, on the basis that grass pitch quality is sustained through a continued high quality maintenance regime.**

## **Summary**

- ◀ Only Lancaster University fields an Ultimate Frisbee team and there are no community clubs. The University has one team playing on Wednesday afternoons in the BUCS leagues.
- ◀ All match play and training is accommodated onsite at the University campus. Matches and training takes place on the grass football or rugby union pitches, whilst some training also takes place on the 3G pitch.

## **Recommendations – Ultimate frisbee**

- ◀ Sustain grass pitch quality to continue to support Ultimate frisbee activity in the District.

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## PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed from the key issues cutting across all playing pitch and outdoor sports and categorised under each of the Strategy Aims. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

### Aim 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitch facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs

#### Recommendations:

- a. Protect playing field sites through 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 – Protect playing field sites through local planning policy

The PPOSS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPOSS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.

Paragraph 97 of the Framework 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.

**Lapsed and disused** – playing field sites that formerly accommodated playing pitches but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use.

- ◀ **Disused** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. These sites fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.



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Table 5.1: Disused sites in Lancaster District

Site name	Analysis area	Sport(s)	Status (last used)	Comments
The Bowerham Hotel	Lancaster	Bowling	<b>Disused</b>	Proposal to develop upon the green which is no longer maintained for use.
Glasson Dock Bowling Club	Carnforth & Rural	Bowling	<b>Disused</b>	Linked to neighbouring Victoria Inn which was purchased to be refurbished, however plans have since changed, with the owners considering development. Local residents fighting to retain what is a listed building.
Lancaster Moor Hospital Cricket Club	Lancaster	Cricket Bowling	<b>Disused</b>	Pavilion has since been demolished and the bowling green is to be lost to residential development. Site now maintained as public open space with S106 contribution secured and allocated to Far Moor.
Skerton Community High School	Lancaster	Football Cricket Tennis/ Netball	<b>Disused</b>	County Council site. Two pitches, previous cricket square and three courts. Playing field land still exists but site now not accessible. Plans for future use are unknown.
Acre Moss Lane	Heysham & Morecambe	Football	<b>Disused</b>	County Council site. Former Westend Primary School playing field leased to Northgate FC which dug up the field to install drainage works but left the site dug up. Now left in unusable condition.

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

It is recommended that the Council allocates all disused/lapsed sites as playing field in the first instance until such time as the Council, NGB/Community group or a developer expresses an interest in the site. It is also recommended that the following priority order of options is adopted with regards to addressing disused/lapsed sites:

- 1) Firstly, explore the feasibility of bringing the site back into use. A feasibility study may show either:
  - a) The site can be brought back into sustainable use where funding is available and use is secured by the Council and relevant NGBs/Community Groups; or
  - b) The site is not in a sustainable location and in which case no amount of money will make it desirable.
- 2) The site could become public open space to meet a need identified in the Open Space Study; or
- 3) Redevelop the site for an alternative use but use the capital receipt to invest in existing sites in the locality

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

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

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

**Development management** - the PPOSS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England as statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field will use the PPOSS to help assess that planning application against paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and their Playing Fields Policy<sup>15</sup>.

Sport England's playing field policy exception E1 only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPOSS 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 robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.'

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

Policy Exception E4:

'The area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field:

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

Further to this, all playing fields should be protected or replaced up until the point where all satisfied demand has been met within the study area or each individual sports catchment areas within a sub area.

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<sup>15</sup><https://www.sportengland.org/media/12940/final-playing-fields-policy-and-guidance-document.pdf>

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Local authorities wanting to dispose of school playing field land need consent under Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, but consent is now also required for disposal of any land used by a school or academy under Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010.

It should be noted that consent under Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act does not necessarily mean subsequent planning approval will be granted. Therefore, any application for planning permission must meet the requirements of the relevant policy, in this case paragraph 97 of the Framework, Local Plan Policy and Sport England Policy. Indeed, applicants are advised to engage Sport England before submitting applications. Robust implementation of the statutory obligation will ensure protection of school playing fields for use by pupils (and sometimes the community as a whole) to ensure receipt is ploughed back into sports education.

## **Recommendation b – Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through a range of solutions and partnership agreements**

A number of education sites are being used in the Lancaster District for competitive play, predominately for football and hockey. In all cases use of pitches has not been classified as unsecure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and further work should be carried out to ensure an appropriate Community Use Agreement (CUA) is in place (including access to changing provision where required).

NGBs can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may not have direct influence.

Sport England has also produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use and can be found at:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/>

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council, NGBs or the County Sports Partnership (CSP) to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an income through their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>16</sup>. Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, whether through volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

The Council already externalises the management and maintenance of some sports pitches, particularly football pitches, through exclusive use licence agreements in place with resident clubs. However, most of these sites also function as public open space or parks and as such must be retained accessible for public use. The Council is thus unable to transfer full liability of these spaces to private clubs or organisations without a loss of public open space, whilst the licence agreements are not sufficient to meet the criteria required of most large capital grant funding streams. Consequently, the role of the Council as landowner is key in leveraging capital investment into improvement of facilities and pitches at these sites and **the Council should work in partnership with resident clubs and organisations as lead applicant to secure external partnership funding towards the improvement of these public sites.**

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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Furthermore, whilst it cannot lease public open greenspaces to private bodies, the Council should consider opportunities to offer long-term leasehold of ancillary facilities such as changing pavilions to resident clubs, as it presently does at York Road Playing Field, Willow Lane and King George's Playing Fields. There are several sites which have poor quality (or no) ancillary facilities, for example Far Moor which has none. The Council should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted to the clubs playing on these sites (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so the clubs are in a position to apply for external funding to improve the ancillary facilities.

There could be examples in Lancaster where long-term leases could be put into place for the continued use of a site. Each club should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered, which takes into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability.

To facilitate this, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds to allow this.

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

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

The Council can further recognise the value of NGB club accreditation by adopting a policy of prioritising the clubs that are to have access to these better quality facilities. This may be achieved by inviting clubs to apply for season long leases on a particular site as an initial trial. In the case of football particularly, the County FA is able to support clubs with developing a sustainable operating model, revenue generation, upskill of workforce and maintenance knowledge in preparation to taking on full long-term responsibility.

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

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

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In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields.

## **Community asset transfer**

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

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

## **Recommendation c – Maximise community use of education sites where there is a need to do so**

Given the mix of providers in Lancaster, there is a need for the Council and NGBs to work with other partners to help maximise use of outdoor sports facilities and in particular grass pitches, AGPs and 3G pitches.

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 barrier to access but also physical access and resistance from schools to open up provision due to staffing, site security or to protect quality of facilities for school use.

A number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and the local clubs. All full sized AGPs in operation are located at education sites and play a critical role for hockey but also significantly as floodlit facilities for football team training. The two universities are a key contributor to the stock of facilities in the Lancaster Area and the Council and partners should retain and strengthen links with each to facilitate community use, especially for hockey with all present club activity based at university sites. The Council and other key partners must work with schools and colleges to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address any underlying problems.

Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use.

It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to grass pitches for community use is limited. In some instances, grass pitches are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before community use can be established.

As detailed earlier, Sport England has also produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use and can be found at: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/>

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Although there are a growing number of academies and college sites nationally, which Councils have no control over the running of, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, the relevant NGB has a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver the strategy and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision, particularly for football pitches.

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## **Aim 2**

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

### **Recommendation:**

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

### **Recommendation d – Improve quality**

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality and these are explored below. One way for improving quality on football sites is via the FA's pitch improvement programme.

#### *The FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)*

The key principles behind the service are to provide football clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas and discounts on machinery and materials to support improving the clubs' playing surface. The programme should be utilised in order to help any clubs that take on the management and maintenance of sites or which are currently managing and maintaining their own pitch site.

As subsidy is removed for pitch maintenance, the PIP is an essential toolkit in supporting self-management/maintenance of sites, particularly on adult sites that have historically been maintained by the Council.

### **Addressing quality issues**

Generally, where pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, review/improve maintenance regimes to ensure they are of an appropriate quality to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring existing maintenance of good quality pitches continues is also important.

The Council highlights that it does not have access to verti-drain equipment required for effective maintenance of outdoor sports pitches, particularly football pitches and bowling greens, a large proportion of which are maintained by the Council. A key priority should be to obtain a verti-drainer which will allow the Council to greater aerate playing fields, improving their ability to drain water, particularly effective at sites which fall within flood zones. Small grant partnership support is available via the Football Foundation and will also allow the Council to offer an aeration service to a number of sites managed by the likes of clubs or schools.



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Based on 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, provided in electronic format). The strategic approach to these 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 the Quality Assessments, this Strategy will refer to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as Good, Standard or Poor quality. Some good or standard quality sites have poor quality elements i.e. changing rooms or a specific pitch.

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, a good maintenance regime coupled with good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc. 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. For rugby union, a good pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained.

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

Poor quality refers to pitches that have, for example, poor levels of maintenance coupled with inadequate grass cover, uneven surface and damage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old dated interior. For rugby union, drainage is natural and inadequate.

Please refer to the Sport England/NGB quality assessments. Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this.

In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old dated interior. Some facilities may not be suitable for the sole or part user group, for example suitable to host women's and girl's teams and need for separation between adults and juniors or male and female at peak times.

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 such as those mentioned above should be given priority for improvement.

In order to prioritise investment into key sites **it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to the Area, to provide a steer on future investment.**

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

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## Addressing overplay

To improve the overall quality of the playing pitches stock; it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing pitch quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a weekly match limit to each. Each NGB recommends a number of matches that a good quality grass pitch should take:

*Table 5.2: Carrying capacity of grass pitches depending on quality.*

Sport	Pitch type	Number of match equivalent sessions per week		
		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 <sup>17</sup>	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	None
	One non-turf wicket	60 per season	60 per season	

There are also some sites that are poor quality but are not overplayed. These sites should not be overlooked, as often poor quality sites have less demand than other sites but demand could increase if the quality was to increase. Improving pitch quality should not be considered in isolation from maintenance regimes.

Whilst it works both ways in so much as poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being over played, potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular.

There is also a need to balance pitch improvements alongside the transfer of play to alternative pitch sites. Therefore, work with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity.

## Increasing pitch maintenance

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

<sup>17</sup> The RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme afforded to a site.

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For example, the FA and ECB in partnership have recently introduced a Pitch Advisor Scheme and have been working in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a Grass Pitch Maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots football clubs with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide football clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas, with the simple aim of improving the club's playing surface.

Maintenance of grass pitches at self-managed football pitch sites is deemed to be basic and for football generally covers grass cutting and seeding only, resulting in several pitches being assessed as poor quality. Where self-managed pitches are recommended for improvement within the action plan, carrying out additional regular work such as aerating, sand dressing, fertilising and/or weed killing will all improve quality. An improvement in post-season remedial work is also recommended. It is recommended that self-managing clubs and the Council work with Lancashire FA to fully determine the most appropriate pitch improvements on a site by site basis.

Lancashire FA has begun to explore opportunities in developing localised maintenance support networks partnering with other sports clubs/sites. This is based on the rationale that in Lancaster District most other natural turf pitch sports such as cricket and rugby union (also for consideration golf clubs) are asset owning, likely to already have equipment and storage facilities. Golf clubs particularly have a high fine turf maintenance requirement and paid employees able to potentially carry out maintenance or top-up works at local community football sites at off-peak times such as during the day midweek. There may be potential for the development of very local maintenance networks, possible opportunities for small grant support for football pitch maintenance equipment stored at non-football sites, as well as the potential to develop a model which if successful could possibly be held as a case study for replication across similar local authorities. Developing these local networks may be particularly effective in more rural areas where demand is relatively lesser and sport sites can benefit from collective sharing of resource.

In relation to cricket, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards that are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. Please note that PQS assessments are also available for other sports; whilst the Lancashire Groundsman's Association offers maintenance tips to local clubs, as well as an onsite assessment service including a subsequent report advising recommended maintenance actions for specific sites.

## **Improving changing provision**

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in the District, including some local authority sites owned sites on license to local clubs. It is recommended that a holistic view is taken in regard to improvements and provision on site.

Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements, whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance. For example, this is the case at Far Moor where good quality toilets and social/storage spaces are required rather than full changing rooms, to more appropriately service the reconfiguration of adult pitches onsite for mini and youth football.

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

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

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

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

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 Playing Pitch Steering Group.

Some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly. It is important, however, that the Council therefore 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.

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

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

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## Aim 3

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

### Recommendations:

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

### Recommendation g - Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations.

It is important that the current levels of grass pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports, the future demand for provision identified in Lancaster can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- ◆ Improving pitch quality in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.
- ◆ The reconfiguration of pitches where there is an oversupply to another pitch type or size.
- ◆ Securing long-term community use at school sites.
- ◆ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

While maximising the use of existing pitches offers scope to address the quantitative deficiencies for most sports, new or additional pitches may be required to meet the levels of demand identified both now and in the future.

There may be an opportunity to use some senior pitches to provide senior, junior or mini pitches (through different line markings/coning areas of the pitch). However, further work should be undertaken on this as an action for the Council/NGBs. Furthermore, the re-designation of adult pitches that are not currently used to another pitch size or type may lead to a deficiency of adult pitches in the medium to longer term as younger players move up the ages. It is likely that for some sports, particularly football, that the provision of new pitches and facilities will be required in the future to support the predicted future demand.

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 predicts 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-designate for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

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

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	As a result of the FA Youth Development Review pitch demands are changing. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).	Consider re-allocating leases to Community Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams. Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities. Work with clubs in relation to their pitch demands as a result of the FA Youth Development Review.
	Demand for senior football is likely to be sustained based on current trends and the move to small sided football. County FA focus to maintain growth of youth football through to adults.	Sustain current stock but consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required.
	An increase in women and girls football following £2.4m investment from Sport England between 2014 and 2016 to increase the number of women and girls taking part in football sessions. Additionally, one of the major goals of The FA's 'Game Changer' strategy for Women's and Girls' football (2017-2020) is to double participation from the current 6,000 teams to 12,000.	A need to provide segregated ancillary facilities and the potential need for more pitches.
Cricket	Demand is likely to remain static for grass wickets for adult participation. The ECB targets participation increases at junior level through the Allstars Cricket Programme which may have a subsequent future impact on requirement for grass and non-turf cricket provision.	Isolated pockets of demand for access to additional facilities where pitches are operating at capacity. A need to encourage greater use of non-turf wickets particularly for junior use to help meet shortfalls.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
Rugby union	Locally, the RFU wants to ensure access to pitches in the Area that satisfies existing demand and predicted growth. It is also an aim to protect and improve pitch quality, as well as ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights.	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, support facility development where appropriate and increase the number of floodlit pitches where necessary.
Rugby league	RFL is working towards growing rugby league participation including through growth at junior clubs, Play Touch RL and 9 aside RL.	Review the need for dedicated rugby league pitches in the next three years. Seek 3G pitch venues for Play Touch and grass pitches for 9 aside.



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Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
AGPs	<p>Demand for 3G pitches for competitive football will increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches to service competitive football, particularly mini and youth will result in some reduced demand for grass pitches.</p> <p>Provision of 3G pitches which are World Rugby compliant will help to reduce overplay as a result of training on rugby pitches.</p>	<p>Ensure that access to new AGP provision across Lancaster District is maximised and that community use agreements are in place.</p> <p>Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface:  <a href="https://www.sportengland.org/media/4275/selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-rev2-2010.pdf">https://www.sportengland.org/media/4275/selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-rev2-2010.pdf</a></p>
Hockey	Potential increase of participation particularly junior teams.	Sinking funds in place to improve quality and ensure continued use of provision for current and future hockey demand.
Tennis	The LTA has a key priority for the strategic development and growth of tennis at both a club and wider community level such as local parks.	<p>Increases in participation can be accommodated through providing additional courts that are floodlit.</p> <p>An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as digital access systems.</p>
Bowls	No expected net increase in membership, although an increasing elderly population could change this.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.
Athletics	Membership is expected to remain static.	Ensure membership stays above 200 to ensure that track facilities are sustainable.
Netball	Membership of clubs is expected to increase.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing courts, however, providing more courts that are floodlit would be beneficial.
Lacrosse	Potential increase in participation, particularly at Universities	Access to natural grass and artificial turf pitches (both AGP and 3G) required. Competition for capacity with other sports.
American football	Participation increasing nationally in both community and university settings.	<p>Balance multi-sport use of pitches not specialised for American football (such as rugby union or 3G pitches) which may consequently require additional ongoing maintenance to support.</p> <p>Potential competition for 3G capacity with other sports and need to adapt existing 3G pitches for American football.</p>



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## *Active aging*

Within its Towards an Active Nation Strategy<sup>18</sup>, Sport England identifies a priority to reduce inactivity amongst particular populations, one demographic being older adults. The Strategy evidences that 42% per cent of people aged 55 and over are inactive compared to 26% of the adult population<sup>19</sup>. As such, this research shows that as people get older, they are far more likely to be inactive and do less than 30 minutes of physical activity each week. Through its Active Aging Fund, which opened in December 2016, Sport England is investing ten million pounds in projects and schemes to get older people more active and increase opportunity in order to reduce levels of inactivity. The investment also includes attaining learning outcomes throughout, in order to better understand how older adults can be supported in physical activity and how behavioural and lifestyle changes can be made more likely to be sustained.

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

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

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

Some sites (or adjacent land) in Lancaster District also have the potential to accommodate more pitches which may be a solution to meeting shortfalls identified. This is explored within the action plan.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/media/10629/sport-england-towards-an-active-nation.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/media/11410/active-ageing-prospectus.pdf>

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## PART 6: ACTION PLAN

### Introduction

The site-by-site action plans seek to address key issues identified in the accompanying 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 resource changes in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. The recommendations below explain the hierarchy of priorities on the list. It is imperative that action plans for priority projects should be developed through the implementation of the strategy.

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

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

To allow for facility developments to be prioritised and programmed within a phased approach a tiered model for the improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities is useful.

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

*Table 6.1: The recommended tiered site criteria*

Hub sites	Key sites	Local sites	Reserve sites
Strategically located. Priority sites for NGB.	Strategically located within the Analysis Area.	Serves the local community. Likely to include education sites.	Serves the local community.
Accommodates three or more good quality grass pitches and at least one AGP/3G pitch. May offer potential for development as a football hub.	Accommodates two or more good quality grass pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.	Likely to be single-pitch site.
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.	Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.
Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in-house maintenance contract.	Basic level of maintenance i.e. grass cutting.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate concurrent senior and junior use (if required).	No requirement for access changing to accommodation.

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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**Hub sites** are of Districtwide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi sport. These have been identified on the basis of high impact on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

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

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/planning\\_tools\\_and\\_guidance/sports\\_hubs.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/sports_hubs.aspx)

**Where development of Hub Sites includes provision of 3G pitches for football it is recommended that further modelling/feasibility work is carried out to ensure sustainability of new 3G pitches to accommodate competitive fixtures.** However, as a priority consultation should be carried out with leagues/clubs to gauge acceptance/buy in of moving competitive play to 3G pitches in the future.

**Key sites** although these sites are more community focused, some are still likely to service a wider Analysis Area (or slightly wider). However, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e. a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both Hub sites and Key Centres 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 which are generally one and two pitch sites and may be Council owned, hired to clubs for a season or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. However, they are also likely to be private club sites serving one particular sport.

The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. NGBs would expect the facility to be transferred in an adequate condition that the club can maintain. In the longer term, the Club should be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the facilities.

**Reserve sites** could be used as overspill for neighbouring sites and/or for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They are most likely to be single-pitch sites with no ancillary facilities or school sites where there is no current demand for community use.

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## 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.
- ◀ Availability of funding for hub site development.
- ◀ Impact on all sports that use a site regardless of the sport that is the subject of enhancements.

## Action plan columns

### Partners

The column indicating Partners refers to the main organisation that the Council will liaise with in helping to deliver the actions. The next stage in the development of the action plan will be to agree a Lead Partner to help deliver the actions.

### Site hierarchy tier and priority level

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

**It is recommended that as the Steering Group reviews and updates the action plan that medium and low priority sites are then identified** as the next level of sites for attention. As a guide, it is recommended that:

Key centres are a **medium** priority and have Analysis Area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

**Low** priority sites generally have locally specific importance and have been identified on a site by site basis as issues appertaining to individual sites but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## Costs

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

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

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at <https://www.sportengland.org/media/13346/facility-costs-q2-18.pdf>

## 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 timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based. Timescales are recommended within the following three categories:

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

## Aim

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

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## CARNFORTH & RURAL ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future picture (2031) <sup>20</sup>
Football (grass pitches)	Carnforth & Rural	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 0.5 youth 9v9 MES per week One mini 7v7 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>7.5 adult MES per week.</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity</i>	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> One mini 7v7 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>8.5 adult MES per week.</b> <b>1.5 youth 11v11 MES per week.</b> <b>One youth 9v9 MES per week.</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity</i>
	District wide	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 0.5 youth 11v11 MES per week One mini 5v5 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>8.5 adult MES per week.</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity.</i>	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> One mini 5v5 MES per week. <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>11 adult MES per week.</b> <b>4.5 youth 11v11 MES per week.</b> <b>One youth 9v9 MES per week.</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity.</i>
Football (3G pitches)	Carnforth & Rural	<b>Shortfall of one full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.</b>	<b>Shortfall of one full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.</b>
	District wide	Sufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand	Sufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand
Cricket	Carnforth & Rural	Spare capacity of 72 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 24 MES per season on junior wickets.	Spare capacity of 64 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 20 MES per season on junior wickets.
	District wide	Spare capacity of 107 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 86 MES per season on junior wickets.	Spare capacity of 88 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 68 MES per season on junior wickets.
Rugby league	District wide	<b>Shortfalls of 6.75 MES per week.</b>	<b>Shortfalls of 8.5 MES per week.</b>
Rugby union	Carnforth & Rural	<i>Pitches are at capacity</i>	<b>Shortfalls of 0.5 MES per week.</b>
	District wide	<b>Shortfalls of ten MES per week.</b>	<b>Shortfalls of 10.5 MES per week.</b>

<sup>20</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future picture (2031) <sup>21</sup>
Hockey	District wide	Current supply of hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of hockey demand both at peak time and midweek training demand.  <b>Critical need for qualitative improvement at Central Lancaster High School and secure tenure for all clubs.</b>	Current supply of hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of hockey demand both at peak time and midweek training demand.  <b>Critical need for qualitative improvement at Central Lancaster High School and secure tenure for all clubs.</b>
Bowling greens	District wide	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply.	Demand can be met by existing level of supply.
Tennis courts	District wide	Demand can be met by existing supply; <b>however, there is an undersupply of year round playable community courts and an unproven understanding of court utilisation across the current supply.</b>	Demand can be met by existing supply; <b>however, there is an undersupply of year round playable community courts and an unproven understanding of court utilisation across the current supply.</b>
Athletics	District wide	Demand for track training can be catered for; <b>however, there is requirement for improving facilities for field events.</b>	Demand for track training can be catered for; <b>however, there is requirement for improving facilities for field events.</b>
Netball	District wide	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply.	Demand can be met by existing level of supply.

<sup>21</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.



## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>22</sup>	Cost <sup>23</sup>	Aim
1	Archbishop Hutton's Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of standard quality which is available for community use. The site does have one MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to an unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through regular maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
2	Arkholme Village Hall	Football	Parish Council	One youth 11v11 pitch of poor quality which is available for community use. It is currently played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality through increased maintenance to accommodate the future demand shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches in the area.	LFA Parish Council	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
5	Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch of poor quality which is available for community use. It currently has no spare capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and remedial work.	LFA Parish Council	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Two standard quality macadam courts without floodlighting which are available for community use. There is minimal capacity available on the courts.	Sustain court quality by continuing with the existing maintenance regime. Should demand from Bolton Le Sands TC increase then floodlighting may be required on one or both courts.	LTA Parish Council Club		Low	Long	Low	
		Crown Green Bowls		Two good quality crown greens used by Bolton Le Sands BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Parish Council Club		Low	Long	Low	
6	Bolton-Le-Sands Church of England Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of standard quality which is available for community use. The site does have one MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to an unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use, ensuring that this does not adversely affect quality for school demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
7	Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of eight standard quality wickets, one of which is junior size. The site is available for community use; there is no spare capacity at peak time on senior wickets, but there is actual spare capacity on junior wickets at peak time for this demand (midweek). There are no official changing facilities available on site, whilst car parking is also limited.	Improve square quality through and enhanced maintenance, remedial and preparatory regime. Explore the feasibility of adding changing facilities on site.	ECB Club	Local	Low	Long	Medium	Protect Enhance Provide
9	Capernwray Hall	Football	Trust	One youth 11v11 pitch of poor quality which is available for community use. It is currently played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality through increased maintenance to accommodate the future demand shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches in the area.	LFA Trust	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance

<sup>22</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>23</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>22</sup>	Cost <sup>23</sup>	Aim
10	Carnforth Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 12 natural wickets, all senior size; and one artificial wicket. All wickets are good quality The site currently has no available capacity at senior peak time.	Sustain the quality of the square by continuing with the existing maintenance regime.	ECB Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
11	Carnforth High School	Football	Education	One adult, a youth 9v9 and a youth 11v11 pitch which are all standard quality and are available for community use. Both youth pitches currently have spare capacity of one MES each which has been discounted due to an unsecure tenure. The adult pitch is currently overplayed by two MES per week and is utilised by mini teams. Changing provision is unavailable to users of the site on Sunday mornings.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and remedial work. Explore potential to transfer mini soccer demand for adult pitches to reduce overplay. This may include new 3G pitch which may be developed in light of 3G shortfall. Provide access to toilet and changing facilities to Carnforth Rangers on Sunday mornings. Secure community use for Carnforth Rangers FC through formal agreement.	LFA School	Key	Low	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
		Sand AGP		One small size, sand-filled, floodlit, hockey suitable AGP of poor quality, also marked for tennis in summer. The pitch was built in 2007 and serves as a key facility for football for Carnforth Rangers FC, Millhead FC and Warton Warriors FC as well as the Sportsreach five-a-side football league.	As a priority, explore funding options to refurbish the pitch, possibly converting the pitch to 3G, given its heavy football usage. Encourage the provider to establish a mechanism for long-term sustainability such as a sinking fund.	LFA EH School		Low	Medium	Medium	
		Rugby Union		Two poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitches which are available for community use and are rented by Carnforth RFC on a match by match basis. The pitches are subject to the School's curricular demand. The site is currently played to capacity but Carnforth RFC have an unsecure agreement with the school.	Improve pitch quality through increased maintenance in order to address future shortfalls of senior rugby union provision. Explore formalising a community use agreement for Carnforth RUFC to give security of tenure.	RFU School		Medium	Medium	Low	
		Tennis		Five tarmac tennis courts which are poor quality and are not floodlit. The courts are not available for community use, but are overmarked with three netball courts, which are available for community use.	Improve court quality through resurfacing and improved maintenance. Make the courts available for community use throughout the summer season.	LTA School		Medium	Medium	Low	
		Netball		Three poor quality, macadam, netball courts, two of which are floodlit. All courts are available for community, as well as being subject to curricular demand.	Improve court quality through resurfacing and improved maintenance. Continue to make the courts available for community use.	EN School		Medium	Long	Low	
12	Carnforth North Road Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of standard quality which is available for community use. The site does have one MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to an unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>22</sup>	Cost <sup>23</sup>	Aim
13	Carnforth Rangers FC (Quarry Park)	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch of standard quality which is available for community use. It is currently played to capacity. Serviced by poor quality ancillary provision including changing rooms, clubhouse and concrete spectator stand. Access track is poor along dirt path. The site is currently being proposed for residential development and the Club is urgently seeking land upon which a re-provided offer can be delivered.	Identify a new site for the mitigation of facilities to be lost to proposed residential development. Consideration should be given to re-provision of a better suited offer than what currently exists onsite, for example the creation of 3G pitch provision given the relative level of mini, youth and total training demand expressed by the Club. Explore opportunity to develop any new site as a multi-sport hub, pooling contributions from other planned housing development in the area.	LFA Council Club	Local	High	Short	High	Protect Provide
14	Caton Community Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of standard quality which is available for community use. The site does have one MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
15	Caton Sports Field	Football	Private	One adult pitch of standard quality which is available for community use but is currently played to capacity. The tenure is deemed to be unsecure due to a rolling annual rental agreement with Caton Terriers FC.	Improve pitch quality through increased maintenance in order to address shortfalls of adult football pitches in the area. Explore formalising a community use agreement for Caton Terriers FC to access provision.	LFA Club	Local	Medium	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
16	Cawthorne's Endowed School	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 of standard quality which is available for community use. The site does have one MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
18	Christ Church C.E. Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of standard quality which is available for community use. The site does have one MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
19	Claughton Brickworks	Football	Sports Club	One mini 7v7 and one youth 9v9 pitch which are both of standard quality and available for community use. Both pitches also have spare capacity to accommodate additional use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	LFA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
20	Cockerham Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	Two mini 7v7 pitches of poor quality which are available for community use. These pitches have spare capacity which is not currently being utilised due to the poor quality. The pitch is being utilised by mini demand.	Improve pitch quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work in order to accommodate current demand. Relocate mini demand to an appropriately sized pitch in the locale to reduce overplay.	LFA Parish Council	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>22</sup>	Cost <sup>23</sup>	Aim
22	Ellel St Johns C of E Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of standard quality which is available for community use. The site does have one MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
24	Focus School - Hornby Campus	Football	Education	One adult pitch and a youth 11v11 pitch. Both pitches are of poor quality and are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality by increasing the current maintenance programme. Make the pitches available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
25	Galgate Recreation Field	Cricket	Parish Council	One square consisting of eight natural senior wickets and one artificial wicket. The site is of good quality. There is some actual spare capacity available during the peak period for senior play (Saturday). The site is the home venue of Galgate CC which rents the ancillary provision from the Parish Council and reports a need for fixed bay nets, a roll-on cage, another NTP and a bowling machine.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and return as current use. Support Galgate CC to stop the Club's decreasing membership. Explore the Club's requirement for additional training facilities.	ECB Parish Council	Key	Low	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
		Football		Two adult pitches of standard quality which are available for community use. The pitches are currently overplayed by 1.5 MES per week. The pitch is utilised by mini demand.	Improve pitch quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work in order to alleviate levels of overplay on the site. Relocate mini demand to an appropriately sized pitch in the locality to reduce overplay.	LFA Parish Council		Low	Medium	Low	
		Crown Green Bowls		One standard quality crown green which is currently played to capacity by Galgate BC.	Improve green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Parish Council Club		Low	Long	Low	
29	Hest Bank Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	One youth 9v9 pitch of poor quality which is currently played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work in order to alleviate levels of overplay in the area.	LFA Parish Council	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Two good quality macadam courts with floodlighting. The courts are available for community use and are currently used by Slyne with Hest TC.	Sustain court quality to continue to accommodate current usage and encourage recreational use.	LTA Parish Council		Low	Long	Low	
		Crown Green Bowls		One good quality crown green which is currently used by Slyne with Hest BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Parish Council Club		Low	Long	Low	

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>22</sup>	Cost <sup>23</sup>	Aim
33	Hornby St Margaret's C of E Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch of poor quality which is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhance maintenance. Make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
45	Leck St Peters Church of England Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of standard quality which is available for community use. The site does have one MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Improve pitch quality through enhance maintenance. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
47	Low Road Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is available for community use and is currently overplayed by 2.5 MES per week. This pitch is utilised by mini teams; as well as for walking football activity. Section 106 contribution secured and allocated to the site for improvement.	Improve pitch quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work to reduce the overplay of adult pitches in the area. Explore the feasibility of moving Halton JFC to better accommodate mini and junior soccer and prevent overplay of this pitch.	LFA Parish Council	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
48	Melling St Wilfrid C of E Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of poor quality which is available for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhance maintenance. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
49	Middleton Park	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch of poor quality which is available for community use. It is currently played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work to reduce the overplay of adult pitches in the area.	LFA Parish Council	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
50	Millhead Recreation Ground	Football	Trust	One poor quality adult pitch which is available for community use and currently overplayed by one MES per week. The pitch is utilised by mini teams.	Improve pitch quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work to remove the overplay at the site. Relocate mini demand to an appropriately sized pitch in the locale to reduce overplay.	LFA Trust	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
		Crown Green Bowls		One good quality bowling green which is available for community use.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Trust		Low			
56	Nether Kellet Community Primary School	Football	Education	Two youth 9v9 pitches of standard quality which are available for community use. The site does have two MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect



## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
57	Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch of poor quality which is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance. Make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
59	Overton St Helens C of E Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of poor quality which is available for community use but is at capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
61	Quernmore CE Controlled Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of poor quality which is available for community use but is at capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
66	Silverdale Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square consisting of ten natural turf wickets and one artificial wicket. One of the grass wickets is junior sized. The site is available for community use and is currently used by Silverdale CC. There is actual spare capacity available during the peak period for junior match demand but none during the senior peak period (Saturday). The Club reports that there is a lack of heating in its ancillary facilities; and that it requires an additional NTP for training.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance and remedial work. Improve ancillary provision and explore the Club's requirement for an additional NTP or whether greater utilisation of the existing pitch is required.	ECB Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
67	Silverdale St Johns Church of England Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of poor quality which is available for community use but is considered unsecure.	Improve the maintenance regime to increase pitch quality. Continue to make the pitches available for community use provided that this does not adversely impact quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
69	Slyne With Hest Football Club	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch of standard quality which is available for community use. It is currently used by Slyne with Hest FC and is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. Mini demand is accommodated on the pitch.	Improve pitch quality in order to cater for the current demand without causing overplay of the site. Relocate the mini demand to an appropriate pitch in the locality to eliminate overplay from the site.	LFA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance

<sup>24</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>25</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
70	Slyne-With-Hest St Luke's C of E Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch of poor quality which is unavailable for community use.	Improve the maintenance regime to increase pitch quality. Consider making the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
74	St Wilfrid's C of E Primary School	Football	Education	Two youth 9v9 pitches of standard quality which are available for community use. The site has two MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitches available for community use provided that this does not adversely impact quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
75	Tatham Fells C of E Voluntary Controlled School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 pitch of standard quality which is available for community use but the site is considered unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely impact quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
82	Warton Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square consisting of 12 natural grass wickets and one artificial wicket. Two of the grass wickets are of junior size. It is available for community use and is currently used by Warton CC. The site has actual spare capacity during the peak periods for both senior and junior demand.	Sustain square quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Assist the Club to re-establish its junior section.	ECB Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
83	Wennington Hall School	Football	Education	An adult pitch of standard quality and a youth 11v11 of standard quality. Both pitches are available for community use but are considered unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely impact quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
87	Wilsons Endowed C of E Primary School	Football	Education	One adult pitch of standard quality which is available for community use. The site is considered unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely impact quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
88	Wray With Botton (Endowed) Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 pitch of standard quality which is available for community use but the site is considered unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely impact quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect



## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
89	Yealand Church of England Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 pitch of standard quality which is available for community use but the site is considered unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely impact quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Tennis		One standard quality macadam court which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality to continue accommodate school demand. Consider making the court available for community use to service recreational demand.	LTA School		Low	Long	Low	
92	Bay Horse Hotel	Crown Green Bowls	Private	One good quality crown green which is currently available for pay & play usage.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
95	Cross Keys Hotel	Crown Green Bowls	Private	One good quality crown green which is currently used by Carnforth and District BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
97	Dolphinholme	Tennis	Parish Council	One poor quality macadam court without floodlighting which is available for community use.	Improve court quality to encourage additional recreational use.	LTA Parish Council	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
		Crown Green Bowls		One good quality crown green which is currently used by Dolphinholme BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Parish Council Club		Low	Long	Low	
100	Hornby Club	Crown Green Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown green which is currently used by Hornby BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
106	Quernmore Recreation Ground	Tennis	Council	One poor quality macadam court which is floodlit and available for community use. The court is available for recreational demand.	Improve court quality via resurfacing and enhanced maintenance to encourage recreational use.	LTA Council	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
		Crown Green Bowls		One good quality crown green which is currently used by Burrowbeck BC and Quernmore BC. This green is currently played to capacity.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Council Club		Low	Long	Low	
108	Ship Hotel	Crown Green Bowls	Private	One good quality crown green which is currently used by Overton BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
111	Station Hotel	Crown Green Bowls	Private	One good quality crown green which is currently used by Station BC. The green is currently played close to capacity.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
113	Warton & District Bowling Club	Crown Green Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown green which is currently used by Warton BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
115	Silverdale Bowling Club	Crown Green Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown green which is currently used by Silverdale BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>24</sup>	Cost <sup>25</sup>	Aim
120	Cockerham Bowling Club	Crown Green Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality green which is currently used by Cockerham BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
LAP	Overton Football Pitch	Football	Private	<b>Lapsed site</b> - One football pitch was previously marked on this privately owned site, however it has not been used for over five years and is now considered lapsed.	Retain as privately owned green space.	Council	-	Medium	Short	Low	-
DIS	Glasson Dock Bowling Club	Crown Green Bowls	Private	<b>Disused site</b> - Linked to neighbouring Victoria Inn which was purchased to be refurbished, however plans have since changed, with the owners considering development. Local residents fighting to retain what is a listed building.	Should the green be lost to development, secure appropriate contribution to mitigate loss of bowling green provision.	Council	-	Medium	Short	Low	-

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## HEYSHAM & MORECAMBE ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future picture (2031) <sup>26</sup>
Football (grass pitches)	Heysham & Morecambe	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 0.5 adult MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>One mini 7v7 MES per week</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity</i>	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 0.5 adult MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>2.5 youth 11v11 MES per week</b> <b>0.5 youth 9v9 MES per week</b> <b>One mini 7v7 MES per week</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity</i>
	District wide	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 0.5 youth 11v11 MES per week One mini 5v5 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>8.5 adult MES per week.</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity.</i>	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> One mini 5v5 MES per week. <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>11 adult MES per week.</b> <b>4.5 youth 11v11 MES per week.</b> <b>One youth 9v9 MES per week.</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity.</i>
Football (3G pitches)	Heysham & Morecambe	Sufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand	Sufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand
	District wide	Sufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand	Sufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand
Cricket	Heysham & Morecambe	Spare capacity of 27 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 15 MES per season on junior wickets.	Spare capacity of 17 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of six MES per season on junior wickets.
	District wide	Spare capacity of 81 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 37 MES per season on junior wickets.	Spare capacity of 58 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 29 MES per season on junior wickets.
Rugby league	District wide	<b>Shortfalls of 6.75 MES per week.</b>	<b>Shortfalls of 8.5 MES per week.</b>
Rugby union	Heysham & Morecambe	<i>Pitches are at capacity</i>	<i>Pitches are at capacity</i>
	District wide	<b>Shortfalls of ten MES per week.</b>	<b>Shortfalls of 10.5 MES per week.</b>

<sup>26</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future picture (2031) <sup>27</sup>
Hockey	District wide	Current supply of hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of hockey demand both at peak time and midweek training demand.  <b>Critical need for qualitative improvement at Central Lancaster High School and secure tenure for all clubs.</b>	Current supply of hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of hockey demand both at peak time and midweek training demand.  <b>Critical need for qualitative improvement at Central Lancaster High School and secure tenure for all clubs.</b>
Bowling greens	District wide	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply.	Demand can be met by existing level of supply.
Tennis courts	District wide	Demand can be met by existing supply; <b>however, there is an undersupply of year round playable community courts and an unproven understanding of court utilisation across the current supply.</b>	Demand can be met by existing supply; <b>however, there is an undersupply of year round playable community courts and an unproven understanding of court utilisation across the current supply.</b>
Athletics	District wide	Demand for track training can be catered for; <b>however, there is requirement for improving facilities for field events.</b>	Demand for track training can be catered for; <b>however, there is requirement for improving facilities for field events.</b>
Netball	District wide	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply.	Demand can be met by existing level of supply.

<sup>27</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>28</sup>	Cost <sup>29</sup>	Aim
3	Barrows Lane Football Pitch	Football	Council	One adult pitch of standard quality which is available for community use. It currently has no spare capacity at peak times.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and remedial work.	LFA Council	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
21	Douglas Park	Crown Green Bowls	Council	Two disused bowling greens which are unavailable for community use. The greens were last used in 2016.	Consider an alternative use for the area servicing demand from other sports.	BCGBA Council	Reserve	Low	Long	Low	Protect Provide
27	Globe Arena	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch of good quality which is unavailable for community use. Professional club stadia used by Morecambe FC within the Football League.	Retain high quality of maintenance and remedial works for performance level use.	Club LFA Council	Key	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
		3G		One full-size and one 50x30m 3G pitch. Both pitches are disused since the previous operator went out of business and this section of the site was reclaimed by creditors. Several proposals exist to acquire this portion of the site including the hard court area adjacent to the pitches. Possible options include loss to development or retention and reinstatement as community sports provision.	Determine preferred option for the future of the site and sports facilities. If agreed preferable, any facilities lost to development must be mitigated in areas where the PPOSS evidences 3G pitch shortfalls.	LFA Council Club		High	Short-Medium	High	
28	Great Wood Primary School	Football	Education	Two youth 9v9 pitches of standard quality which are available for community use. The site does have two MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitches available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
30	Heysham Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square containing eight natural wickets and one artificial wicket. Two of the grass wickets are junior sized. The site is of good quality and is currently used by Heysham CC. It has no spare capacity at peak times.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect

<sup>28</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>29</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>30</sup>	Cost <sup>31</sup>	Aim
31	Bay Leadership Academy (formerly Heysham High School)	Cricket	Education	An NTP which is not available for community use. The pitch is solely subject to curricular activity.	Retain the pitch for school demand. Sustain its quality through continued maintenance.	ECB School	Hub	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
		Football		Two adult pitches and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of poor quality. These pitches are played to capacity through curricular use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School		Low	Long	Low	
		3G		One medium pile floodlit 3G pitch of good quality. The pitch also features on the FA register. It is currently available to the community for 31 hours of the week.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that FA certification is retained through appropriate maintenance and re-testing. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future refurbishment.	LFA School		Low	Long	Low	
		Rugby Union		Two poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitches, neither of which is floodlit. The pitches are available for community use but are currently only subject to curricular and extra-curricular activity. The site is at capacity.	Improve pitch quality by increasing the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	RFU School		Low	Long	Low	
		Tennis		Three poor quality macadam courts which are available for community use and are without floodlighting.	Improve court quality to better cater for school and recreational use.	LTA School		Low	Long	Low	
		Netball		Three poor quality macadam courts which are available for community use and are without floodlighting.	Improve court quality to better cater for school and recreational use.	EN School		Low	Long	Low	
32	Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre	3G	Community	One medium pile floodlit 3G pitch of poor quality. It is currently available to the community for 29 hours of the week. It is currently used by Morecambe Hawk JFC for match play, despite no longer featuring on the FA register. It has also previously been used by Vale of Lune RUFC in the winter. LFA reports price of hire is not in line with expected 3G business models and that future sustainability is a concern. Section 106 contribution secured and allocated to the site for improvement.	Improve pitch quality to accommodate current usage and re-register for the FA register in order to safely accommodate match play. LFA to consult with the operator regarding pricing policy in order to be competitive and sustainable. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	LFA Community	Key	Medium	Short	Medium	Protect Enhance
35	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	Football	Sports Club	One mini 7v7, one youth 9v9, one youth 11v11 and one adult pitch. All of the pitches are of poor quality. The mini 7v7 pitch is currently overplayed by one MES per week. The two youth pitches are currently played to capacity and the adult pitch has some spare capacity which has been retained to preserve pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work in order to alleviate levels of overplay on the adult pitch and the area as a whole. Consider installing a formal drainage system on the site to reduce occasions of waterlogging.	LFA Club Council	Key	High	Long	High	Protect Enhance

<sup>30</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>31</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>30</sup>	Cost <sup>31</sup>	Aim
40	Lancaster Road Primary School	Football	Education	Two youth 9v9 pitches of standard quality which are available for community use. The site does have two MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitches available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
46	LMC Sport and Fitness	Football	Education	Three poor quality adult pitches which are available for community use. The pitches currently have one MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due the site being unsecure.	Improve pitch quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work to address the overplay of adult pitches in the area. Formalise a community use agreement to secure tenure on the site.	LFA School	Hub	Medium	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
		3G		One medium pile 3G pitch of standard quality which was refurbished in 2011. The pitch is floodlit and available for community use. The site is currently used by Trimpell & Bare Rangers and Morecambe FC's youth and development teams.	Sustain pitch quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work to better sustain current usage. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	LFA School		Low	Medium	Low	
		Tennis/ Netball		Four tennis courts overmarked with three netball courts. Good quality macadam surface and floodlit. Currently used by the Lancaster & Morecambe Netball League on Monday evenings. A planning application has been submitted to install a structure to cover the courts which will facilitate year-round use.	Pursue coverage of the courts to provide greater year-round capacity for netball and tennis. Formally secure community use of the netball facilities for Lancaster & Morecambe Netball League.	LTA EN School		Low	Short-Medium	Medium	
52	Morecambe & Heysham Grosvenor Park Primary School	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use. The site does have one MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due the site being unsecure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance



## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>32</sup>	Cost <sup>33</sup>	Aim
53	Morecambe Community High School	Football	Education	Three poor quality adult pitches which are available for community use and are currently played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
		3G		One medium pile 3G of standard quality which was built in 2014. The pitch is available for community use, floodlit and features on the FA register.	Improve quality and retain for current use. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Explore the potential of accommodating some junior football demand on site to reduce overplay of grass pitches in the area.	LFA School		Low	Long	Low	
		Rugby Union		A poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch which is available for community use but is currently unused. The pitches are subject to the School's curricular demand and is at capacity.	Improve pitch quality by increasing the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	RFU School		Low	Long	Low	
		Tennis		Five standard quality macadam courts which are floodlit but unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality to continue to accommodate curricular demand. Make the courts available for community use to encourage recreational tennis.	LTA School		Low	Long	Low	
		Netball		Three floodlit, standard quality, macadam courts which are available for community use. These courts had previously been used by the Lancaster & Morecambe Netball League but this has been moved away as the courts were too slippery when wet.	Sustain court quality to continue to accommodate current curricular demand. Continue to make the courts available for community use.	EN School		Low	Long	Low	
54	Morecambe Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square consisting of two artificial wickets and 15 natural grass wickets. The ground is currently home to Morecambe CC and Lancaster University CC. The site has no capacity at senior peak time.	Sustain square quality through dedicated levels of maintenance and remedial work.	ECB Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
55	Morecambe Road School	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch of poor quality which is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance

<sup>32</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>33</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>32</sup>	Cost <sup>33</sup>	Aim
60	Peel Avenue Playing Fields	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is available for community use and is currently unused.	Improve pitch quality in order to accommodate adult football demand and reduce overplay of adult pitches in the area. Consider remarking the pitch for an alternative format to reduce shortfalls of football or other sports in the District.	LFA Council	Local	Medium	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
72	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of standard quality which is available for community use. The site does have one MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
73	St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	Two youth 9v9 pitches of standard quality which are available for community use. The site has two MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
76	Trimpell Sports & Social Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square consisting of 12 natural grass wickets, three of which are junior sized. The site is currently used by Trimpell CC. There is actual spare capacity at peak periods for both senior and junior match demand.	Sustain quality for current use and future demand by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
		Football		Two adult pitches of poor quality which are available for community use but are currently played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality in order to accommodate additional demand to remove overplay from other sites in the area.	LFA Club		Low	Long	Low	
		Rugby League/ American football		One standard quality senior pitch which is available for community use. It is currently used by Heysham Atoms RLFC and for American football and consequently overplayed by 6.75 MES per week. Ancillary provision onsite is considered poor quality, requiring refurbishment.	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the maintenance regime. Provide a dedicated training area on site to remove both rugby league and American football training from the pitch. Explore the feasibility of replacing / refurbishing the ancillary and changing facilities on site. Look to provide additional rugby league provision in the District.	RFL Club		Medium	Medium	Medium	
		Crown Green Bowls		One good quality green which is available for community use. The site is the home venue of Trimpell BC	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club		Low	Long	Low	

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>32</sup>	Cost <sup>33</sup>	Aim
77	Torrisholme Community Primary School	Football	Education	Two mini 7v7 pitches of standard quality which are available for community use. These pitches have spare capacity which is not currently being utilised due to the poor quality.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitches available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
79	Trumacar Community Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of poor quality which is available for community use but this has been discounted due the site being unsecure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
85	Westgate Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 pitch of standard quality which is available for community use but this has been discounted due the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to support school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
91	Bare Village	Crown Green Bowls	Parish Council	Two good quality crown greens which are currently used by Bare BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Parish Council Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
96	Cumberland View Hotel	Crown Green Bowls	Private	One good quality crown green which is currently used by Cumberland View Hotel BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
98	Happy Mount Park	Tennis	Council	One tarmac tennis court which is available for community use and floodlit. The court is standard quality; is available for pay-and-play; but is not the home venue of a tennis club.	Sustain court quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Retain the tennis court for recreational demand given that it is the only one in the Analysis Area available for community use.	LTA Council	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Provide
		Crown Green Bowls		One good quality crown green which is currently available for pay & play usage. The site is the home venue of Torrisholme Jubilee BC, which aspires to improve ancillary facilities on site with a cabin style clubhouse.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Council		Low	Long	Low	
107	Regent Park	Crown Green Bowls	Council	There were previously three bowling greens at this site but this has now been reduced to one good quality green. The final green is currently used by Morecambe Bay Mixed BC.	Sustain and improve green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Council Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
DIS	Acre Moss Lane	Football	County Council	<b>Disused site</b> - Former Westend Primary School playing field leased to Northgate FC which dug up the field to install drainage works but left the site dug up. Now left in unusable condition.	Investigate further current liability and management for the site. Restore the site for use as operational community playing field.	LFA County Council	Local	High	Medium	Low	Enhance

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## LANCASTER ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future picture (2031) <sup>34</sup>
Football (grass pitches)	Lancaster	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 0.5 youth 11v11 MES per week One mini 5v5 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>1.5 adult MES per week</b> <b>0.5 youth 9v9 MES per week</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity</i>	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> One mini 5v5 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>1.5 adult MES per week</b> <b>0.5 youth 9v9 MES per week</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity</i>
	District wide	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 0.5 youth 11v11 MES per week One mini 5v5 MES per week <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>8.5 adult MES per week.</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity.</i>	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> One mini 5v5 MES per week. <b>Shortfalls:</b> <b>11 adult MES per week.</b> <b>4.5 youth 11v11 MES per week.</b> <b>One youth 9v9 MES per week.</b> <i>All remaining pitch types are at capacity.</i>
Football (3G pitches)	Lancaster	<b>Shortfall of one full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.</b>	<b>Shortfall of one full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.</b>
	District wide	Sufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand	Sufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand
Cricket	Lancaster	<b>Shortfall of eight MES per season on senior wickets</b> Spare capacity of ten MES per season on junior wickets.	<b>Shortfall of 13 MES per season on senior wickets</b> Spare capacity of six MES per season on junior wickets.
	District wide	Spare capacity of 81 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 37 MES per season on junior wickets.	Spare capacity of 58 MES per season on senior wickets. Spare capacity of 29 MES per season on junior wickets.
Rugby league	District wide	<b>Shortfalls of 6.75 MES per week.</b>	<b>Shortfalls of 8.5 MES per week.</b>
Rugby union	Lancaster	<b>Shortfalls of ten MES per week.</b>	<b>Shortfalls of ten MES per week.</b>
	District wide	<b>Shortfalls of ten MES per week.</b>	<b>Shortfalls of 10.5 MES per week.</b>

<sup>34</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future picture (2031) <sup>35</sup>
Hockey	District wide	Current supply of hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of hockey demand both at peak time and midweek training demand.  <b>Critical need for qualitative improvement at Central Lancaster High School and secure tenure for all clubs.</b>	Current supply of hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of hockey demand both at peak time and midweek training demand.  <b>Critical need for qualitative improvement at Central Lancaster High School and secure tenure for all clubs.</b>
Bowling greens	District wide	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply.	Demand can be met by existing level of supply.
Tennis courts	District wide	Demand can be met by existing supply; <b>however, there is an undersupply of year round playable community courts and an unproven understanding of court utilisation across the current supply.</b>	Demand can be met by existing supply; <b>however, there is an undersupply of year round playable community courts and an unproven understanding of court utilisation across the current supply.</b>
Athletics	District wide	Demand for track training can be catered for; <b>however, there is requirement for improving facilities for field events.</b>	Demand for track training can be catered for; <b>however, there is requirement for improving facilities for field events.</b>
Netball	District wide	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply.	Demand can be met by existing level of supply.

<sup>35</sup> Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>36</sup>	Cost <sup>37</sup>	Aim
4	Barton Road Playing Fields	Football	County Council	<b>Disused</b> – one adult football pitch previously marked, last known to be used in 2016. Can accommodate in excess of two adult football pitches or equivalent, potentially more if configured for junior formats. Now serves as public open space with adjoining community centre. County Council application pending resulting in proposed loss of community open space, with intention to fence off public access so that it becomes school playing fields for Moorside Primary School. In part has designated village green status as a result of a community led campaign to retain public access across the site.	Secure community use of the site through formal agreement as part of associated planning conditions to secure the site from general public access. This is in light of grass pitch shortfalls in the Lancaster Area, including for adult football pitches.	LFA Sport England County Council	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
8	Bowerham Community Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch of standard quality which is available for community use. The site has three MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
17	Central Lancaster High School	Football (3G)	Education	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch. Both pitches are of standard quality and are available for community use but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Key	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
				The School has aspirations for the development of a full sized 3G pitch and is in early discussions with LFA. There is potential to do so on land shared by the School and Lancaster Royal Grammar School (Memorial Playing Field).	Pursue development of a full sized 3G pitch with floodlighting on shared use land, to have shared access between the two schools. Establish a community use model that facilitates access for local external groups during the peak period to both the 3G pitch and the AGP when resurfaced, including access to toilet facilities as a minimum.			High	Short-Medium	High	
		Sand AGP		One full-size, sand-filled, floodlit, hockey suitable AGP of poor quality. The site is currently unavailable for community use due to poor quality.	Resurface imminently as the pitch is such poor quality it is not able to be used safely. To be retained as a hockey suitable surface and community access to be formally secured for community hockey clubs. Encourage the provider to establish a mechanism for long-term sustainability such as a sinking fund.	EH School		High	Medium	Medium	

<sup>36</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>37</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above



## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>36</sup>	Cost <sup>37</sup>	Aim
17	Central Lancaster High School	Rugby Union	Education	A poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch which is available for community use but is currently unused. The pitches are subject to the School's curricular demand.	Improve pitch quality by increasing the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	RFU School	Key	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis		Two poor quality macadam courts which are without floodlighting and unavailable for community use.	Improve court quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use.	LTA School		Low	Long	Low	
		Netball		Two poor quality macadam courts which are without floodlighting and unavailable for community use.	Improve court quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use.	EN School		Low	Long	Low	
23	Far Moor	Football	Council	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of poor quality. Both mini pitches currently have spare capacity which is being protected due to the poor pitch quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is currently played to capacity. The changing provision on site requires refurbishment/replacement due to its poor condition. Mitigation funds from the development at Lancaster Moor Hospital Cricket Club have been allocated to the site for qualitative improvements and installation of drainage is being explored. Section 106 contribution secured and allocated to the site for improvement.	Improve pitch quality through more regular and better quality maintenance and remedial work. Develop new ancillary provision for mini and youth football. New toilets and multi-functional space may represent a better solution rather than full changing provision.	LFA Council	Key	High	Short-Medium	Medium	Protect Enhance Provide
26	Giant Axe	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch of good quality which is available for community use and a youth 11v11 and youth 9v9, both of poor quality. The adult pitch has spare capacity although this has been protected to ensure performance at Step 3 level. The youth 11v11 pitch also has spare capacity although this has been discounted due to poor quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is currently overmarked and overplayed.	Improve pitch quality of both youth pitches through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work in order to allow actual spare capacity on site to be used. Sustain the quality of the adult pitch by continuing the existing maintenance and programming schedule.	LFA Club	Key	Medium	Short	Low	Protect Enhance
34	King George V Playing Fields (Lancaster)	Football	Council	Two adult pitches of poor quality which are currently played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and remedial work in order to increase site capacity.	LFA Council	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
36	Lancaster Christ Church C of E Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of standard quality which is available for community use. The site does have one MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect



## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>38</sup>	Cost <sup>39</sup>	Aim
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Football	Sports Club	One mini 5v5, one youth 9v9 and one youth 11v11. All pitches are of good quality and currently have spare capacity, although, the youth 11v11 is played to capacity at peak times.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing the current maintenance regime.	LFA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One square of standard quality, consisting of 12 natural grass wickets. Five of the wickets are junior sized. The site is currently used by Lancaster CC and Lancaster University CC. The senior wickets on site are overplayed by one match equivalent session. This is considered sustainable but should be monitored.	Improve pitch quality by increasing the current maintenance regime. Monitor the level of overplay on the senior wickets ensuring that it does not increase, or that the pitch quality does not begin to decline. Consider relocating the University demand to an alternative site which has capacity to eliminate overplay.	ECB Club		Medium	Long	Low	
		Tennis		Three good quality astro turf courts and one mini tennis court. All courts are floodlit and available for community use. The site is currently used by Lancaster TC. The Club reports that the site requires improved changing provision.	Sustain court quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Improve the changing facilities on site to enhance tennis participation.	LTA Club		Low	Long	Low	
		Crown Green Bowls		One good quality crown green which is currently used by Lune Road BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club		Low	Long	Low	
38	Lancaster Girls Grammar School	Sand AGP	Education	One standard quality, sand-dressed AGP which is without floodlighting and is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through regular maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use. Retain the pitch as a hockey suitable AGP to support curricular activity. Consider installing floodlighting to enable midweek community use. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	EH School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
38	Lancaster Girls Grammar School	Tennis	Education	12 good quality astro turf courts which are floodlit but unavailable for community use.	Sustain and improve court quality to continue to accommodate school usage. Consider installing floodlighting to enable midweek community use. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	LTA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
39	Lancaster Ridge Community Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch of standard quality which is available for community use. The site has three MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect

<sup>38</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>39</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>38</sup>	Cost <sup>39</sup>	Aim
41	Lancaster Royal Grammar School	Rugby Union	Education	Six, standard quality (M1/D1), senior pitches which are all available for community use but are currently unused. The pitches are played to capacity through the School's extensive rugby programme.	Seek to improve the current maintenance regime to increase pitch quality and capacity. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	RFU School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
42	Lancaster Royal Grammar School Grass Pitches (Memorial Playing Field)	Football	Education	Two adult pitches of standard quality which are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use. Continue to make the pitches available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Provide
		3G		Adjacent Central Lancaster High School has aspirations for the development of a full sized 3G pitch and is in early discussions with LFA. There is potential to do so on land at this site where use is shared by both Schools.	Pursue development of a full sized 3G pitch with floodlighting to have shared access between the two schools. Establish a wider community use model from Central Lancaster High School that facilitates access for local external groups during the peak period to the 3G pitch including access to toilet facilities as a minimum.	LFA School		High	Short-Medium	High	
43	Lancaster Ryelands Primary School	Football	Education	Two youth 9v9 pitches of standard quality which are available for community use. The site does have two MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Cricket	University	One standalone NTP which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for current use. Retain the pitch for university activity.	ECB University	Hub	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
		Football		Six good quality adult pitches which are currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain and improve pitch quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of university use.	LFA University		Low	Long	Low	
		3G		One, good quality, World Rugby compliant, floodlit, 3G pitch which is available for community use, however, it is inaccessible due to a lack of capacity. Therefore, it only caters for University training demand.	Sustain pitch quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of university use. Consider providing Vale of Lune RUFC with a community use agreement to enable the Club to relocate some training demand from, its overplayed, home venue to the pitch. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	RFU LFA University Club		Medium	Long	Low	

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>40</sup>	Cost <sup>41</sup>	Aim
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Sand AGP	University	Two full-size, sand dressed, floodlit AGPs which are available for community use. They are currently used by Lancaster University HC, Lancaster HC and Lancaster Nomads HC. One of the AGPs has exceeded its recommended lifespan and the other was refurbished 9 years ago. There is capacity on site for additional match demand during the peak period (Saturday), as well as some spare capacity during peak period for training demand (midweek).	Sustain pitch quality to protect for future hockey use via resurfacing as hockey suitable surfaces. Explore the feasibility of resurfacing both AGPs to maintain good quality hockey pitches in the area. Protect both hockey suitable AGPs from conversion to 3G given the high amount of hockey demand currently accommodated on site. Ensure sinking funds are in place for both pitches for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Provide current users with formal community use agreements to give these clubs security of tenure.	EH University Clubs	Hub	Medium	Long	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby Union /Rugby League		Three, standard quality (M1/D1), senior pitches which are not available for community use, meaning that they are solely subject to demand from University teams. One of the pitches is also a dual use site for Rugby League. No training demand takes place on the grass rugby union pitches; meaning that there is two match equivalent sessions of potential capacity on site; although the unsecure nature of the site along with its unavailability means that there is no actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve the current maintenance regime to increase pitch quality and capacity. Continue to enable training to take place on the WR compliant 3G pitch on site to prevent overplay on the grass pitches. Consider making the pitches available for community use to help reduce overplay of rugby union and rugby league pitches in the District.	RFL RFU University		Medium	Long	Low	
		Tennis		12 good quality macadam courts without floodlight which are available for community use. Four of the courts are also marked for netball usage.	Sustain court quality to continue to accommodate current usage and encourage recreational use.	LTA University		Low	Long	Low	
		Netball		Five good quality netball courts, two of which are floodlit.	Retain rigorous maintenance regime to protect good quality. Consider additional floodlighting in future in line with levels of student demand.	EN University		Low	Long	Low	
		Crown Green Bowls		One good quality Crown bowling green which is currently used by the University's Bowling Club.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA University		Low	Long	Low	
51	Moorside Primary School	Football	Education	Two youth 9v9 pitches of standard quality which are available for community use. The site does have two MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect

<sup>40</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>41</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>40</sup>	Cost <sup>41</sup>	Aim
58	Our Lady's Catholic College	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch which is available for community use. The pitch currently has one MES of spare capacity per week but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts which are without floodlighting and are unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Make the courts available for community use.	LTA School		Low	Long	Low	
62	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	Cricket	Education	This site consists of two squares, each containing 12 natural grass wickets. The squares are currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for current use. Make both squares available for community use.	ECB School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Football		Four standard quality adult pitches which are available for community use and have capacity to accommodate an additional four MES per week. However, this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School		Low	Long	Low	
		Sand AGP		One sand-dressed, small-size, floodlit AGP which is available for community use. The pitch is of standard quality and was built in 2003. It is used for junior training by Lancaster & Morecambe HC.	Sustain and improve pitch quality to protect for future hockey use via resurfacing as hockey suitable surfaces. Encourage the provider to establish a mechanism for long-term sustainability such as a sinking fund. Explore the feasibility of resurfacing the AGP to maintain sufficient hockey pitches in the area.	EH School		Low	Long	Medium	
		Tennis		Five good quality astro turf tennis courts with floodlighting. These courts are unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality to continue to accommodate academy use. Make the courts available for community use.	LTA School		Low	Long	Low	
		Netball		Four artificial turf netball courts of poor quality which are floodlit and available for community use.	Improve the court quality with resurfacing of the AGP. Retain netball use of the pitch, along with hockey.	EN School		Low	Long	Medium	
63	Royal Albert Playing Field	Football	Council	Two adult pitches of poor quality which are currently overplayed by 3.5 MES per week. The pitches are available for community use.	Improve pitch quality by increasing the maintenance regime. Relocate some demand away from the site to reduce overplay.	LFA Council	Local	Medium	Long	Low	Protect Enhance

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>42</sup>	Cost <sup>43</sup>	Aim
64	Ryelands Park Playing Fields	Football	Council	Two adult pitches and one youth 11v11 pitch. Both pitches are of poor quality and are available for community use. Both pitch formats have 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity available during respective peak periods. The Council plans to develop a masterplan for the site which includes the relocation of changing facilities from the historic listed building onsite.	Develop new changing provision situated elsewhere onsite. Improve pitch quality in order to accommodate adult football demand and reduce overplay of adult pitches in the area. Retain the actual spare capacity until pitch quality improves.	LFA Council	Local	Medium	Short-Medium	Medium-High	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		A lapsed NTP which was last used in 2005.	Utilise the pitch for an alternative sport.	Council		Low	Long	Low	
65	Salt Ayre Leisure Centre	Athletics	Council	An eight lane, synthetic, County standard 400m track. The track is of standard quality having been resurfaced in 2013. Although the track has consistent, visible lane markings there are some issues with supporting equipment, i.e. the floodlighting requires improvement. In addition to the track, the site also accommodates field events such as hammer throw, shot put, jumping events and pole vault. Facilities for field events is considered poor quality which is why only part UKA certification was achieved. The site is the home venue of Lancaster & Morecambe AC, with the Club having a clubhouse available on site. This clubhouse is considered good quality.	Improve quality of field event facilities, ancillary track and field equipment and storage facilities. Sustain track quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	EA Council Club	Key	Medium	Short-Medium	Low-Medium	Protect Enhance
		Football		Three adult pitches which are of standard quality and are available for community use. They currently have capacity to accommodate a further three MES of additional peak time use.	Look to maximise the spare capacity available at this site to reduce overplay of other pitches in the area. Sustain pitch quality through more regular enhanced maintenance and remedial work to sustain the current level of use.	LFA Council		Low	Medium	Low	
68	Skerton St Luke's C of E Primary School	Football	Education	Two mini 5v5 pitches of poor quality which are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use. Make the pitches available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect

<sup>42</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>43</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above



## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>44</sup>	Cost <sup>45</sup>	Aim
71	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 of standard quality which is available for community use. The site does have two MES of spare capacity but this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality through continued maintenance and remedial work to better sustain levels of school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect pitch quality for curricular demand.	LFA School	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
78	Torrisholme Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square consisting of 12 natural grass wickets and two artificial wickets. Two junior wickets are junior sized and are overplayed by three MES per season. This is considered sustainable. The pitch is available for community use and is currently used by Torrisholme CC. Given the potential developments on neighbouring sites a ball-strike assessment should be undertaken prior to any potential development.	Enhance the pitch quality by improving the maintenance regime. Monitor overplay on the site, ensuring that it does not increase, or that pitch quality does not decline. Undertake a ball-strike assessment prior to any potential development on a neighbouring site.	ECB Club	Local	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
80	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	Football	University	One adult pitch of standard quality and one youth 9v9 pitch of poor quality. Both pitches are available for community use but are considered unsecure. The adult pitch is currently played to capacity whereas the youth 9v9 pitch is currently overplayed by one MES per week.	Improve pitch quality to increase site capacity. Provide community clubs with formal community use agreements to give said clubs security of tenure.	LFA University	Key	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
		Sand AGP		A good quality, sand-dressed AGP which was refurbished in 2012. It is floodlit and available for community use as the pitch is currently used by University of Cumbria HC and Lancaster & Morecambe HC. Due to league restrictions on starting times, the pitch is at capacity during the peak period (Saturday); and there is no capacity to accommodate additional training demand (midweek), resulting in Lancaster & Morecambe HC juniors utilising the small sized hockey suitable AGP at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy.	Sustain pitch quality to protect for future hockey use via continued maintenance. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Protect the pitch from conversion to 3G given the site's importance to hockey locally. Provide Lancaster & Morecambe HC with a formal community use agreement to give the Club security of tenure.	EH University		Medium	Long	High	
		Tennis		Disused tennis courts which are unusable. The courts were last used in 2016.	Explore options to reinstate use, subject to presence of demand.	University		Low	Long	Low	

<sup>44</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>45</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>46</sup>	Cost <sup>47</sup>	Aim
81	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	Rugby Union	Sports Club	<p>Four senior pitches all considered standard quality (M1/D1). One of the pitches is floodlit and accommodates all midweek training demand. The floodlit, training pitch, is overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions per week; whilst the non-floodlit pitches are all at capacity. The site is the home venue of Vale of Lune RUFC, with University of Cumbria RUFC also utilising the site.</p> <p>A planning application for the development of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in place of the main senior pitch on site with submitted and subsequently withdrawn in 2017.</p>	<p>Protect the playing field from loss to development and retain use for rugby union. If development is taken forward then the loss of playing field must be replaced to an equivalent or greater quantity and quality given the deficiencies in rugby expressed on this site.</p> <p>Increase site capacity and reduce overplay by improving quality and frequency of maintenance and remedial works.</p> <p>Pursue installation of additional floodlighting on senior pitches to increase capacity for training and evening play. Increase capacity through maintenance improvements required to support this.</p> <p>Seek greater access to World Rugby compliant 3G provision for training to alleviate overuse of grass pitches.</p> <p>Explore feasibility to install dedicated drainage systems to increase capacity.</p>	RFU Club	Key	High	Short-Medium	Medium/High	Protect Enhance Provide
84	Westgate Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	<p>One square of standard quality consisting of 11 natural grass wickets and one artificial wicket. One of the grass wickets is junior sized. The site is played to capacity at peak times by Westgate CC and Lancaster University CC.</p> <p>The Club has unsecure tenure via three year rolling lease from private ownership. The site is implicated in plans for proposed residential development of the adjacent portion of playing field land at Vale of Lune RUFC.</p>	<p>Undertake ballstrike risk assessment formally evidence the impact and potential constraints caused by proposed residential development on adjacent playing field land owned by Vale of Lune RUFC.</p> <p>Formally secure long-term tenure for the Club via lease or freehold.</p>	ECB Club	Local	High	Short-Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
86	Willow Lane	Football	Council / Sports Club	<p>Two adult pitches of poor quality which are available for community use but are currently overplayed by 1.5 MES per week.</p> <p>The pitches are utilised by mini teams.</p>	<p>Improve pitch quality in order to cater for the current demand reducing overplay on the site.</p> <p>Relocate mini demand from the site appropriately sized pitches or 3G pitches to reduce overplay.</p>	LFA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance

<sup>46</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>47</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above



## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>48</sup>	Cost <sup>49</sup>	Aim
90	York Road Playing Field	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch which is available for community use and currently played to capacity by Storeys of Lancaster FC. Mini demand from the Club utilises the pitch for match demand. Changing facilities on site are poor quality and require improvement. The pitch is leased from the Council but the Club has use of the ancillary provision on license.	Improve pitch quality in order to accommodate additional demand to remove overplay from other sites in the area. Improve the changing provision on site. Consider providing Storeys of Lancaster FC with a lease for the full site, with a rule outlining the sites requirement as partly serving as public open space. Consider allowing a removal barrier to be placed around the pitch as a deterrent to prevent unofficial use.	LFA Club	Local	Medium	Long	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
99	Highfield Recreation Ground (The Gregson)	Tennis	Charity	Two good quality astro courts without floodlighting. Used by Highfield TC and considered overused by approximately 46 members. Need for access to additional capacity.	Pursue development of floodlighting to allow for year-round play and training and to greater additional capacity sufficient to reduce overplay to sustainable levels.	LTA Club Charity	Local	High	Short-Medium	Medium	Protect Enhance
		Crown Green Bowls		Two good quality crown greens which are currently used by Bowling Green BC and Parkside BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club		Low	Long	Low	
101	Lansil Sports & Social Club	Crown Green Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown green which is currently used by Lansil BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
103	Luneside & Rosebank Bowling & Recreation Club	Crown Green Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown green which is currently used by Luneside & Rosebank BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
105	Palatine Recreation Ground	Tennis	Community Organisation	Two poor quality, tarmac, tennis courts which are available for community use but are not floodlit. The surface of the courts is reported to be standard quality but the other facilities such as the fencing and nets are poor. The courts were disused but have been revived by the local community; and are available for recreational activity.	Enhance court quality by replacing the surrounding fencing and the nets. Sustain the surface quality with regular maintenance.	LTA Community	Local	Low	Short-Medium	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
		Crown Green Bowls	Council	There were previously three bowling greens at this site but this has now been reduced to one standard quality green. There are concerns that this final green may be lost in the future. The green is currently used by Palatine BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage. Should the green be used above the minimum number of participants required for the green to be sustainable then it should be protected for continued use.	BCGBA Club		Low	Long	Low	
109	Skerton Liberal Club	Crown Green Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown green which is currently used by Skerton BC.	Sustain green quality to continue to accommodate current usage.	BCGBA Club	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect

<sup>48</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>49</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>48</sup>	Cost <sup>49</sup>	Aim
114	Westfield Memorial Village	Crown Green Bowls	Charity	One poor quality crown green which is currently available for recreational use. There are no ancillary facilities available on site.	Improve green quality to accommodate required demand. Explore whether there is demand to establish ancillary provision alongside the green to encourage use.	BCGBA	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
116	Bare Cricket Club	Cricket	Private/sports club	One standard quality square which consists of ten natural grass wickets and two artificial wickets. It is currently played to capacity at peak times by Bare CC. Car parking on site is considered inadequate The Club has unsecure tenure via three year rolling lease from private ownership. The site has been shown in plans for proposed residential development of the adjacent portion of playing field land at Vale of Lune RUFC.	Undertake ballstrike risk assessment formally evidence the impact and potential constraints caused by proposed residential development on adjacent playing field land owned by Vale of Lune RUFC. Formally secure long-term tenure for the Club via lease or freehold.	ECB Club	Local	High	Short-Medium	Low	Protect Enhance Provide
120	Lancaster Boys & Girls Club	Football	Sports Club/Charitable Organisation	One mini 7v7 pitch of poor quality which is available for community use but has been discounted as the site is unsecure. Previously used by football teams associated to the club but poor quality of pitch prompted them to seek provision elsewhere and they have since folded. The Club is pursuing a proposal for development of a small sized 3G pitch with floodlighting on the rear of the site where the mini pitch is currently located. A number of partner users have been identified including local schools during the daytime.	LFA and the Council to support the Club in development of an application for grant funding to develop a small sized 3G pitch on the basis of local school need, recreational use by the local church and youth club and lack of securely accessible 3G pitch provision for football team training in the central Lancaster area. Explore potential to support through S106 from nearby social housing development.	LFA Club Council	Local	Medium	Short	High	Protect Enhance Provide
121	HMP Lancaster Farms	Sand AGP	HM Prison Service	One full-size, sand-dressed AGP which is without floodlighting and is unavailable for community use. The AGP was built in 2000 and is of poor quality.	Ensure regular maintenance to cater for current demand.	HM Prison Service	Local	Low	Long	Low	Protect
DIS	The Bowerham Hotel	Crown Green Bowls	Private	Disused green which is no longer maintained. A planning proposal has been submitted resulting in loss of the green. The green is reportedly no longer operational with most club members reportedly having joined Highfield BC	Secure an appropriate developer S106 contribution and mitigate loss of the green through investment into bowling provision at Highfield Recreation ground (The Gregson)	Council	Local	Medium	Short	Low	-
DIS	Lancaster Moor Hospital Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	Pavilion has since been demolished and the bowling green is to be lost to residential development. Site now maintained as public open space with S106 contribution secured allocated to Far Moor.	Continue to maintain the site as public open space and explore opportunities to improve for recreational/non-formal sport if appropriate. In future, should demand require, consider potential to reinstate formal sports pitch provision.	Council	Reserve	Low	Long	Low	Protect
DIS	Lancaster Moor Hospital Cricket Club	Crown Green Bowls									

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

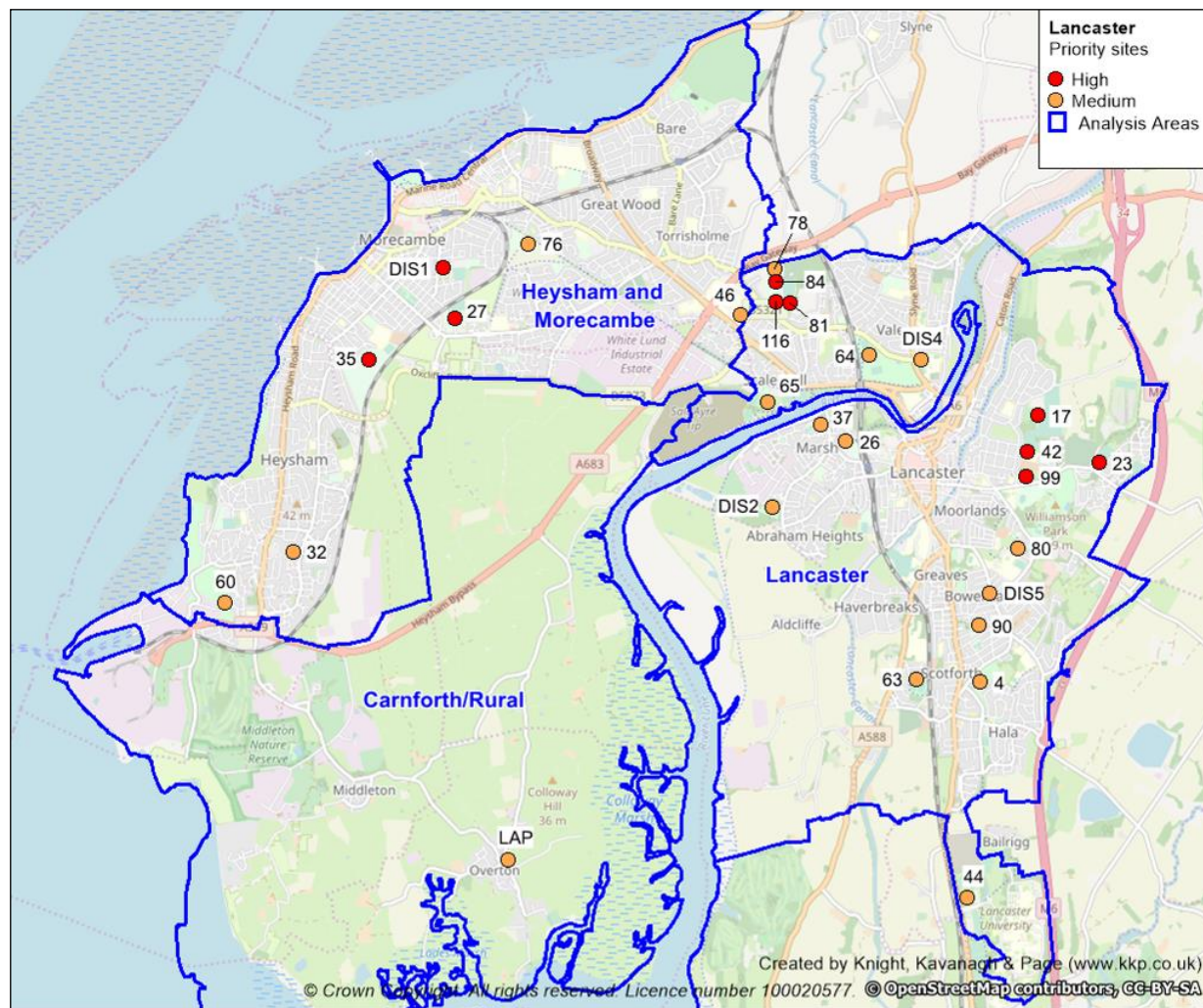
Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>50</sup>	Cost <sup>51</sup>	Aim
DIS	Skerton Community High School	Football, Cricket, Tennis & Netball	County Council	<b>Disused site</b> - there were previously two football pitches, a cricket square; and three courts that were marked for both tennis and netball.  The playing field land remains but is now inaccessible with plans for the future use of the site unknown. It was last used in 2014.	Establish County Council plans for intended future use of the site.  Should this be for non-sporting use, ensure sports provision onsite is re-provided or mitigated accordingly in keeping with National Planning Policy and based on the findings of the PPOSS.	County Council	Local	Medium	Long	Low	Protect
DIS	Freemans Wood	Football	Private	Owned by a private property investment company registered in Bermuda which had submitted an informal planning proposal in 2010 to build housing in Freeman's Wood. Local residents fighting to have Freeman's Wood designated a Village Green under the Commons Act 2006. A Village Green is a type of Common used primarily for recreational purposes and local residents must prove they have done so for at least 20 years.	Protect from development, continuing to maintain the site as public open space. Explore opportunities to improve for recreational/ non-formal sport if appropriate. In future, should demand require, consider potential to reinstate formal sports pitch provision.	Council	Reserve	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
		Cricket									

<sup>50</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>51</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Figure 6.1: Map of sites with identified high or medium priority actions<sup>52</sup>



<sup>52</sup> Refer to the PPS action plan for key to the map. Where sites may have both high and medium priority actions, they are indicated as high on the map.



# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2031 (in line with the emerging Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England New Development Playing Pitch Calculator (NDC) adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates (TGRs) 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 scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. This is also equated to pitches required at peak time for each sport rounded up or down to the nearest whole pitch.

The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.27<sup>53</sup> per dwelling. The indicative figures will be applied to two exclusive scenarios as follows:

- ◀ **Scenario One:** Lancaster City Council Housing requirement of 8,072 forecasted 2018/19-2030/31.
- ◀ **Scenario Two:** Lancaster City Council anticipated housing delivery over the next five years (2018/19-2022/23) of 3,393.

Please note that the scenarios can be updated as required over the Local Plan period throughout the lifespan of the PPOSS 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.

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<sup>53</sup> Based on Council Strategic Housing Market Area Assessment figures (SHMAA)

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## ***Scenario 1: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth requirement over the emerging Lancaster Local Plan period (2018/19-2030/31)***

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth by 2030/31 is 18,324 (8,072 dwellings). This equates to 14.44 match equivalent sessions per week for grass pitch sports, 2.04 on AGPs for hockey and 62.56 per season for cricket.

*Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from housing growth (2017-31)*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2031)	
	Match equivalent sessions (MES) per week <sup>54</sup>	Pitches
Adult football	5.68	6 adult pitches
Youth football	3.45	3 youth pitches
Mini soccer	3.57	4 mini pitches
Rugby union	1.37	1 senior pitch
Rugby league	0.37	No new pitches
Hockey	2.04	No new AGPs
Cricket	62.56 per season	1 senior cricket pitch

To accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £1,954,012<sup>55</sup> and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £327,737<sup>56</sup>.

## ***Scenario 2: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth over the next five years (2018/19-2022/23)***

The expected district wide housing increase over the next five years equates to 3,393 new dwellings based on the housing supply data from Lancaster Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The forecast is made up of residential schemes which are under construction, sites with planning permission where work hasn't yet started as well as additional sites which have the potential to accommodate residential development over the next five years.

The estimated additional population of growth 7,703 (3,393 dwellings) over five years equates to 6.07 match equivalent sessions per week for grass pitch sports, 0.86 on AGPs for hockey and 26.3 per season for cricket.

<sup>54</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>55</sup> Capital cost is based on 2016 second quarter calculations.

<sup>56</sup> Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

*Table 7.2: Likely demand for grass pitch sports from housing growth in the next five years (2018/19-2022/23)*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2018/19-2022/23)	
	Match equivalent sessions (MES) per week	Pitches
Adult football	2.39	2 adult pitches
Youth football	1.45	1 youth pitch
Mini soccer	1.5	1 mini soccer pitch
Rugby union	0.58	1 new senior pitch
Rugby league	0.15	No new pitches
Hockey	0.86	No new AGPs
Cricket	26.3 per season	1 new senior cricket pitch

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £821,423<sup>23</sup> and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £137,773<sup>24</sup>.

### Conclusions

The tables above show that over the next five years, and up to 2031, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. This position is indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to.

Not all schemes are of sufficient scale to generate demand in their own right; however, the cumulative impact of housing across the local authority clearly shows that there will be significant demand generated during the Local Plan period in the next five years.

The Council could consider using CIL (if adopted) to obtain contributions to priority sites, or pooling S106 contributions from housing schemes to invest in priority sites. In either case, the preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs should inform the playing fields that most require investment.



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

### ***Delivery***

The Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Lancaster in the years up to 2031. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Lancaster can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach.

Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS 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 PPOSS document.

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

The process of developing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders, members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

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

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

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

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches will likely 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.

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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Ideally the PPOSS 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 that would have been built up when developing the PPOSS. Taking into account the time taken to develop the PPOSS 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 particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ✦ How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others)
- ✦ How the PPOSS 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 PPOSS 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 PPOSS and playing pitch provision in the area
- ✦ Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress of the delivery of the recommendations and action plan
- ✦ Shares lessons learnt from how the PPOSS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances
- ✦ Ensures the PPOSS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- ✦ Maintains links between all relevant parties with an interest in playing pitch provision in the area;
- ✦ Reviews the need to update the PPOSS 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 PPOSS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

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

## LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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

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

### *Lancaster Local Football Facilities Plan*


The findings of any subsequent changes to the PPOSS should align with the Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) for Lancaster (planned for 2019) which will also serve as a live document requiring concurrent management. The position for formal and affiliated football provision determined and updated through the PPOSS should form the basis for investment into formalised football provision echoed through the LFFP, which will further explore opportunities for investment into informal, recreational, small sided and indoor football as an extension of the PPOSS findings, the result being a wholistic plan for partnership investment into football facilities in Lancaster over the next decade. The PPOSS and LFFP should demonstrate synergy and should inform each other.

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## Checklist

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

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

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<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?		

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## APPENDIX ONE: INCREASING FOOTBALL USE OF 3G PITCHES

During the last decade 3G AGPs have played an increasing role within the national game. They are regarded by the Football Association (FA) as the optimum facility for training by clubs. In recent seasons, they have also become more popular for competitive matches. With this in mind, before developing the recommendations and action plan for this PPOSS, two scenarios have been looked at to help with understanding what demand there may be for full sized floodlit 3G AGPs in Lancaster if increased amounts of play were to take place on them.

To do so, information from the 'Assessment' stage of developing this PPOSS, alongside details from the FA, have been used to help answer the following questions:

How many full sized floodlit 3G AGPs may be required to meet demand within Lancaster if:

- ◀ All teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G AGP to train on once a week?
- ◀ All matches for teams currently playing competitive football on Lancaster City Council owned managed natural grass pitches were played on full sized floodlit 3G AGPs?

The answers to these questions are set out below and are based on full sized floodlit 3G AGPs which have full community use during peak periods<sup>57</sup>. However, the results should be viewed as providing an indication of the 'full sized pitch equivalents' that may be demanded. In practice, the most appropriate ways of meeting any such increase in demand will vary depending on the nature of the local area. For example, in some areas new full sized floodlit AGPs may be appropriate, whereas in others small sided provision to cater for increased training use or securing greater community use/hours of existing provision may be the best way forward.

Given the above, what the answers may mean for the Lancaster District, taking into account the wider findings from the Assessment stage of developing the PPOSS, is also presented below. These details have been used to help inform the development of the PPOSS's recommendations and the action plan in Part 6.

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<sup>57</sup> Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

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## Scenario results

### *i. If all teams playing competitive football had access to a full sized floodlit 3G AGP to train on once a week.*

- As a guide, the FA suggests that one full sized floodlit 3G AGP could potentially accommodate the training demand from 38 teams.
- It is considered that there are currently 165 Lancaster District based teams which require access to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface.

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement <sup>58</sup>	Current number of available 3G pitches	Current shortfall	Future number of teams <sup>59</sup>	Future requirement	Future shortfall
Carnforth & Rural	52	1.24 - 1	0	1	55	1.3 - 1	1
Heysham & Morecambe	58	1.38 - 1	4	-	62	1.47 - 1	-
Lancaster	55	1.3 - 1	0 <sup>60</sup>	1	58	1.38 - 1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

- Using the FA's 1:38 ratio suggests that one additional full sized floodlit 3G AGP is required in each of the Lancaster and Carnforth & Rural areas to meet this increased training use.
- At present, there are four full sized 3G pitches across the District, however all are located in the Heysham & Morecambe Area. These spatial gaps highlight there is a requirement for an additional two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated football training demand; one in each of the other two Analysis Areas.
- Future demand indicates an increase of ten new teams exclusively based on population growth, creating a subsequent total of 175 teams (assuming all were to train and play in Lancaster) by 2031.
- This would not be sufficient to increase the requirement and in turn the shortfall from the current figure of two. Neither current or future requirements are able to be met at present.
- There are more full sized 3G pitches in the Heysham & Morecambe Area than are required based on affiliated team training alone. These pitches may be able to provide capacity for other sports or small sided football but consideration must be given to whether these pitches are sustainable in relation to levels of football training demand.

<sup>58</sup> It should be noted figures have been rounded down where there is existing small sized 3G pitches or full sized sand based pitches which can accommodate football training.

<sup>59</sup> Based on increased demand forecasted from team generation rates and club aspirational demand, both re-applied to the Area where the club is based for training purposes

<sup>60</sup> Lancaster University Sports Centre offers some limited capacity for community use but is not able to provide sufficient capacity for external use significant enough to impact on demand

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### *ii. If all matches for teams playing competitive football on Council managed natural grass pitches were played on full sized floodlit 3G AGPs.*

- ✦ The FA is keen to work with local authorities (LAs) to understand the potential demand for full sized floodlit 3G AGPs should all competitive matches, currently played on Council managed natural grass pitches be transferred to one.
- ✦ Table A.1 takes information from the Assessment stage of this PPOSS to present the number of teams playing on Council managed natural grass pitches (not including school sites or sites formally leased to clubs) and the relevant peak periods.

*Table A.1: Number of teams playing on Council owned natural grass pitches*

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	Number of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	14
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	3
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	4
Youth	7v7	-	-
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	6
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	5
<b>Total</b>			<b>32</b>

- ✦ The FA suggests an approach (see below) for estimating the number of full size floodlit 3G AGPs that teams may demand for competitive matches. Table A.2 presents the results of this approach for the teams set out in Table A.1.

*Table A.2: Number of 3G AGPs that may be required*

Format	Number of teams per time (x)	Number of matches at PEAK TIME (y)= x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
5v5	5	13.5	4	10	0.15625
7v7	6	21.5	8	24	0.375
9v9	4	18	10	20	0.3125
11v11 (Youth)	3	41.5	32	48	0.75
11v11 (Adult)	14	15	32	224	3.5

- ✦ Transferring all matches for teams currently playing competitive football on Council managed natural grass pitches may equate to a demand for five full sized floodlit 3G AGPs (rounded down from 5.09) for all the different formats of the game.
- ✦ To accommodate just mini soccer (both formats) and youth 9v9 football on Sunday mornings there would be a need for one full sized pitch (rounded up from 0.84). This could also accommodate a proportion of adult demand on Saturday afternoons equivalent to four teams or two matches.
- ✦ To accommodate just mini soccer (both formats) on Sunday mornings there would be a need for one full sized pitch (rounded up from 0.53). Alternatively, this could potentially be met by a small sided 3G pitch able to host mini soccer matches.
- ✦ The FA approach for estimating the number of full sized floodlit 3G AGPs that teams may demand for competitive matches is based on:



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- ◀ A team playing a 'home' match every other week - therefore dividing the number of teams by two with the result rounded up to provide a figure for the number of matches a week during the peak period (Table A.2 Column y).
- ◀ A 3G AGP being available for 4 hours<sup>61</sup> a day during the peak period (e.g. 10am to 2pm). Therefore, all demand being programmed over the four hour period.
- ◀ Using a unit measure which can be applied to the different formats of the game to quantify how a pitch can be used during this 4 hour period (Table A.2 Column z). One unit is taken as equating to a quarter of a full size 3G AGP for 15 minutes. Therefore, a full size 3G AGP provides 4 units per 15 minutes and 16 units per hour. Across the four hour period this totals a capacity of 64 units (16 units per hour x 4 hours).
- ◀ As set out in Table A.3 below, each format of the game will require a certain amount of units of a full size 3G AGP per match based on the required pitch size and match duration.

*Table A.3: FA set units of a full sized 3G AGP per match for each format*

Format of the game	Number of pitches that fit on a full size 3G AGP	Number of matches per hour on a full size 3G AGP	Number of matches per 2 hour period on a full size 3G AGP	Number of units per match
<b>5v5</b>	4	4	8	<b>4</b>
<b>7v7</b>	2	2	4	<b>8</b>
<b>9v9</b>	2	2	2	<b>10</b>
<b>11v11 Youth</b>	1	0	1	<b>32</b>
<b>11v11 Adult</b>	1	0	1	<b>32</b>

## Current supply

- ◀ There are six full sized 3G pitches in Lancaster, though only four offer broad community access. One at Globe Arena now lies disused.
- ◀ There is just one small sized 3G pitch at Globe Arena but like the adjacent full sized 3G pitch it now lies inaccessible and disused.
- ◀ Three of the four 3G pitches offering a good level of community access are FA registered to accommodate competitive football match play. Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre was previously certified but this has since expired.

## Scenario ii Conclusion

The requirement for five full sized 3G pitches to accommodate all demand from Council managed natural grass pitches on 3G pitches is potentially achievable with existing supply given that there are four accessible full sized pitches whilst one lies disused which if brought back into operation would meet the requirement. There is however a spatial consideration given that all four of the accessible 3G pitches (and the disused pitch at Globe Arena) are all located within the Heysham & Morecambe Area, whilst the majority of Council managed natural grass pitch sites are within the Lancaster Area. Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre would need to achieve FA registration once again in order to be able to host competitive match play.

<sup>61</sup> The rationale for 4 hours is based on a standard approach for match programming nationally and the ability to facilitate 2 adult games.

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## APPENDIX TWO: 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.

A number of NGB strategies are approaching or beyond their indicated lifespans but should be considered incumbent and applicable until publication of superseding strategies.

### 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: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)***

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

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

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

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

## ***National Planning Policy Framework***

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

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

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

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

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

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

The NPPF is accompanied by Planning Practice Guidance<sup>62</sup> on several different topics which relate to it, including amongst others open space, sport and recreation facilities including public rights of way and local green space.

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<sup>62</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

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

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

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

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

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

£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.

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## *Local Football Facility Plans*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan (2016-2021)

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

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

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

## The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

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

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

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

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

## ***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.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk](http://www.rflfacilitiestrust.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
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes

## ***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



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## ***England Hockey Strategy***

*Our vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.*

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

Our core objectives are as follows:

1. Grow our Participation
2. Deliver International Success
3. Increase our Visibility
4. Enhance our Infrastructure
5. For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

## **Club Participation**

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

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

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## England Hockey Facilities 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.

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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

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



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

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

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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

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

**Vision:** tennis opened up

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

### **Objectives**

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

### **Strategies**

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

## ***British Crown Green Bowling Association***

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

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

# LANCASTER PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## ***England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond***

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

**Vision:** Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

**Mission:** To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

## ***England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)***

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

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This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims “To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England”.

### ***UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)***

Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and the 5 year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA's Athlete/Participant Development Model. In addition to Track and Field provision, UKA recognises the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future “running” facilities.

The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

### **Key outcomes:**

- ◆ Increased participation across all athletics disciplines
- ◆ Increased club membership by providing facilities that support a participation pathway from novice through to club member
- ◆ Increased talent pool
- ◆ Long term improvement in the development of athletes of all ages and abilities
- ◆ Securing the long term future of existing facilities
- ◆ More attractive and inspiring facilities for existing and potential athletes
- ◆ Improving the athletics experience for all participants
- ◆ Improved relationships and interactions between stakeholders, particularly clubs and facility operators



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## APPENDIX THREE: FUNDING PLAN

### Funding opportunities<sup>63</sup>

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

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

<sup>63</sup> Up to date as of April 2018.



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Awarding body	Description
<p>Sport England</p> <p>The current funding streams may change throughout 2017/18 so refer to the website for the latest information:</p> <p><a href="https://www.sportengland.org/funding/">https://www.sportengland.org/funding/</a></p>	<p>Sport England's vision is that everyone in England feels able to take part in sport or activity, regardless of age, background or ability.</p> <p><b>Small Grants</b> – this programme offers funding to projects involving adults and young people aged 14 or over which meet one or more of the aims of their 'Towards an Active Nation' strategy. These aims are: get inactive people more active, develop lasting sporting habits, engender more positive attitudes among young people, develop more diverse volunteers and to improve progression and inclusion among the most talented. Projects with mixed age groups may still be considered if there is a focus on people aged 14 and over.</p> <p><b>Community Asset Fund</b> – this programme is dedicated to enhancing the spaces in your local community that give people the opportunity to be active.</p> <p><b>Major Events Engagement Fund</b> – Sport England's 'Towards an Active Nation' strategy commits them to invest £2m in helping national governing bodies (NGBs) to host major events which evolve their existing business model and derive a greater financial return from their existing customers (players, volunteers or spectators). This funding can also be used to develop programmes that engage with individuals local to the major event, who are currently less likely to take part regularly in sport or physical activity.</p>
<p>Football Foundation</p> <p><a href="http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/">http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</a></p>	<p>This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.</p> <p><b>Premier League &amp; The FA Facilities Fund</b> – this fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations that improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities, sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age or ability and to help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport. Grants are available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Grass pitch drainage/improvements,</li> <li>◆ Pavilions, clubhouses and changing rooms,</li> <li>◆ 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTPs) and multi-use games areas,</li> <li>◆ Fixed floodlights for artificial pitches.</li> </ul>

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Awarding body	Description
<p>Football Foundation  <a href="http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/">http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</a></p>	<p><b>Premier League &amp; The FA Facilities Fund Small Grants Scheme</b> – this scheme awards grants of up to £10,000 for the provision of capital items, or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. This scheme aims to support the growth of football clubs and activity, prevent a decline in football participation and make improvements to facilities to address any health and safety issues. Grants, which cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost, are awarded to support the costs of the following list of projects and items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Replacement of unsafe goalposts,</li> <li>◀ Portable floodlights,</li> <li>◀ Storage containers,</li> <li>◀ Changing pavilion/clubhouse refurbishment and external works (not including routine maintenance works),</li> <li>◀ Grounds maintenance equipment,</li> <li>◀ Pitch improvement works (not including routine maintenance works),</li> <li>◀ Fencing.</li> </ul> <p>The scheme is available to local authorities, educational establishments, grassroots football clubs and professional and semi-professional football clubs and their associated community organisations, to support their community outreach programmes.</p> <p><b>Premier League Primary Stars Kit and Equipment Scheme</b> - this scheme, run in partnership with Nike and delivered by the Football Foundation, gives teachers the opportunity to get their hands on free resources to aid their pupils' learning. Primary school teachers registered at <a href="http://plprimarystars.com">plprimarystars.com</a> can access either a free Nike football strip, or a free equipment pack which can be used across the curriculum.</p>
<p>Rugby Football Foundation (RFF)  <a href="http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113">http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113</a></p>	<p><b>The Grant Match Scheme</b> in particular provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project.</p> <p>Projects eligible for funding include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights.</li> <li>2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors).</li> <li>3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).</li> </ol> <p><b>'Helping Hand Grants'</b> can award funding from £500 to £1,500. The Groundmatch Grant Scheme provides funding from £1,501 to £5,000. RFU Accredited clubs at level 5 and below are eligible to apply.</p> <p>The RFF also offer loan schemes for RFU Accredited clubs at level 3 and below. The first scheme is the Interest Free Loan scheme which can provide up to £100,000 as an interest free loan for capital works. Green Deal Loans up to the value of £20,000 are available to clubs to support them in the installation of facility solutions that reduce utility costs. Repayments are structured to be the equivalent of the projected savings over the agreed 'payback' period.</p>

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Awarding body	Description
<p>The England and Wales Cricket Trust  <a href="https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding">https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding</a></p>	<p><b>The Interest Free Loan Scheme</b> provides finance to clubs for various capital projects such as buildings, equipment purchase, fine turf, land purchase and non-turf. All ECB affiliated cricket clubs are eligible to apply, as well as other organisations that can evidence achievement/delivery of the EWCT's charitable aims. Clubs with a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £50,000 whereas clubs without a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £20,000. A minimum of 10% partnership funding is required from the applicant.</p> <p><b>The Small Grant Scheme</b> aims to support the ECB's national programmes – Get the Game On, All Stars Cricket, Women's Cricket and U19 Club T20. Clubs can apply for funding towards the purchase of relevant products or materials, and associated professional labour costs.</p> <p>Project themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Covers – supporting Get the Game On,</li> <li>◀ Family Friendly Facilities – supporting All Stars Cricket,</li> <li>◀ Improved Changing Facilities for Females – supporting Women's Cricket,</li> <li>◀ Great Events – supporting U19 Club T20.</li> </ul>
<p>EU Life Fund  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</a></p>	<p>LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. LIFE also finances some grants for non-governmental organisations active in the field of the environment because they are key players in the development and implementation of environmental policy.</p>
<p>National Hockey Foundation  <a href="http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/">http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</a></p>	<p>The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: young people and hockey, young people and sport in Milton Keynes, enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level and smaller charities. There is no limit on the amount of funding that an organisation can request. However, the Foundation does not generally award grants for less than £10,000 or more than £75,000.</p>
<p>Rugby Football League  <a href="https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities">https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities</a></p>	<p><b>Rugby League World Cup 2021 Capital Facilities Legacy funding.</b> Small Grants Scheme awards grants of up to £15,000 for the provision of capital items, kit and equipment or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. Large capital grants programme of £15,000 plus focused on supporting the development of new or refurbished local rugby league facilities. The programme is split into four themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming environments</li> <li>2. More players</li> <li>3. Community engagement</li> <li>4. Innovation fund</li> </ol>

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## Funder's requirements

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

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

## Indicative costs

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

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

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

## APPENDIX FOUR: GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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