



ALLERDALE

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

OCTOBER 2014

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

1-2 Frecheville Court ◀ off Knowsley Street ◀ Bury BL9 0UF
T 0161 764 7040 ◀ F 0161 764 7490 ◀ E mail@kcp.co.uk ◀ www.kkp.co.uk



ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CONTENTS

PART 1: INTRODUCTION.....	1
PART 2: KEY ISSUES TO ADDRESS	2
PART 3: PLAYING PITCH SCENARIOS	4
PART 4: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK	6
PART 5: AIMS	8
PART 6: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES.....	9
PART 7: SPORT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES.....	22
PART 8: ACTION PLAN	25
PART 9: PRIORITIES.....	47
PART 10: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE.....	48
APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT.....	52
APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN.....	58

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Allerdale. 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 2014 and 2019. The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor pitch sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union and league pitches
- ◀ Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) including sand based/filled and 3G surfaces
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Athletics tracks
- ◀ Netball courts

The Strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting playing fields;
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing outdoor sports areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches) across the Borough;
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of outdoor sports across the Borough;
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximise support for outdoor sports facilities;
- ◀ Providing the basis for on-going monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sport.

1.1: Structure

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

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches (including ancillary facilities).
- ◀ A series of strategic objectives which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport objectives which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan (where action is deemed necessary).

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Allerdale, which should be implemented from 2014 to 2019. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding will be identified.

There is a need to build key partnerships between the Borough Council, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Sport England, schools, further education providers, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances, the potential for the Borough Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of Section 106 Agreements). This document will provide clarity about the way forward, and allow key organisations to focus on the key issues that they can directly influence and achieve.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 2: KEY ISSUES TO ADDRESS

Using the key issues identified in the Assessment Report, the following priorities are identified for each sport and provide the context for the development of the aims and objectives within the Strategy.

2.1 Common issues

- ◀ Increasing the quality and availability of changing room provision.
- ◀ Limited access to grass pitches at education sites for community use.
- ◀ Concerns over long term security of tenure.
- ◀ Lack of dedicated training facilities particularly AGP provision to accommodate rugby (union and league) and football training.

2.2 Football pitches

- ◀ Quality of pitches and ancillary facilities to make certain sites more desirable (usable) to clubs.
- ◀ Spare capacity and overplay expressed on football pitches.
- ◀ Latent demand expressed by clubs.
- ◀ Deficiency of 3G pitches (1.5 pitches) to meet current and future demand expressed by the FA and clubs.
- ◀ Growing demand for youth pitches.

2.3 Cricket pitches

- ◀ There is no spare capacity for fine turf pitches in Allerdale to accommodate any further play, either midweek or on a Saturday. Therefore future and latent demand could not be accommodated on the current supply of grass wickets.

2.4 Rugby union pitches

- ◀ Increasing pitch quality and addressing overplayed sites/pitches due to training on match pitches.
- ◀ Lack of dedicated grass training pitches and IRB compliant AGPs.

2.5 Rugby league pitches

- ◀ Increasing pitch quality and addressing overplayed sites/pitches including addressing a lack of dedicated grass training pitches and RFL Community Standard compliant AGPs.

2.6 Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

- ◀ Sustaining/improving the quality of existing provision to meet hockey needs.
- ◀ Consolidating and effectively utilising AGP pitch stock to meet future demand.
- ◀ Addressing the shortfall of 3G AGP pitches in Allerdale for rugby (union and league) and football.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

2.7 Tennis courts

- ◀ Poor quality courts at Cockermouth School, Harrington Lawn Tennis Club, Anthorn Sports Club and Grassmoor Sports Centre.
- ◀ Likely increase in participation and associated future demand for courts.

2.8 Bowling greens

- ◀ Maximising use of bowling greens, particularly for pay and play opportunities.
- ◀ Lack of junior participation to sustain future demand.
- ◀ Ensuring access to bowling greens is maintained, particularly in the rural areas.

2.9 Athletics tracks

- ◀ Ensuring appropriate access to facilities for clubs in Allerdale.

2.10 Netball courts

- ◀ Retaining current usage of outdoor netball courts and increasing the quality of key sites for netball to supplement indoor provision.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 3: PLAYING PITCH SCENARIOS

3.1 Football

Improving pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites. Given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs) alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of AGPs for competitive matches and this is something that the FA is supporting, particularly for mini football. There are 33 mini teams currently playing in Allerdale.

What if all mini football was played on AGPs

In order to test the scenario a programme of play for AGPs has been created based on the current peak time demand for mini pitches in Allerdale. In terms of programming; one full size AGP can accommodate four 5v5 pitches or two 7v7 pitches at any one time.

Mini 5v5 & 7v7 combined programme (Saturday and Sunday)

Time slot	Matches per full size AGP	Total teams/matches
9.00am – 10.00am	4 x mini (5v5)	14/7
10.00am – 11.00am	6 x mini (7v7)	19/10
11.00am – 12.00pm		
12.00pm – 1.30pm		

How many AGPs would be required if all mini teams were moved to 3G?

There are currently 33 mini teams in Allerdale which would require 1.6 (rounded to two) AGPs if all were to play in the same time slots highlighted in the table above.

3.2 Cricket

Scenario testing: utilising spare capacity

There is limited spare capacity for fine turf pitches in Allerdale to accommodate any further play, either midweek or on a Saturday. There is some spare capacity at Blennerhasset Playing Field (27 sessions per season) and Broughton Recreation Ground (19 sessions per season) if required. However, access to changing rooms and the quality of pitches is affecting use and would need to be improved in order to be used further.

Given that latent demand is expressed for junior teams (four), synthetic wickets at Netherhall Community Sports Centre and/or Dovenby Hall (currently unused), could for example, be used to accommodate this, if appropriately located for the clubs in question to travel to (Workington and Cockermouth). In addition, if local school sites were made available e.g. Cockermouth School and/or Stainburn School and Science College (albeit quality issues would need to be resolved) latent and any future demand for last man stands (LMS) could be accommodated.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

3.3 Rugby union

Scenario testing: improving pitch quality and access to additional pitches

Four sites within Allerdale are overplayed by a total of ten match sessions per week. Three sites have either standard or poor quality pitches (as shown below) and Wigton Sports Club (Wigton RUFC) has good quality pitches but is still overplayed by two match sessions per week.

Improving pitch quality (maintenance/drainage) would only go some way to meeting shortfalls as shown below:

Site	No. of pitches	Overplay	Current capacity	Potential capacity	Increase
Eden Street (Silloth RUFC)	1	5	2 (M1/D1) Standard	3.5 (M2/D2)	1.5
Ellis Sports Ground (Workington RFC)	2	4	4 (M1/D1) Standard	7 (M2/D2)	3
Netherhall Rugby Union Football Club	2	1	3 (M1/D0) Poor	3.5 (M2/D2)	0.5

In all instances, improving pitch quality would not address overplay in its entirety and the remaining overplay (6.5 match sessions) is a result of teams training on match pitches. Securing access to floodlit provision either addition grass pitches or an AGP would address the remaining shortfalls.

3.4 Rugby league

There is overplay on eight pitches in Allerdale; totalling 18 match sessions per week (the equivalent of the need for nine pitches). Together with latent demand (2.5 junior pitches and 0.5 senior pitches) the current provision of rugby league pitches in Allerdale is insufficient.

If the quality of pitches that are currently overplayed were improved (poor to standard or standard to good) then more play could be accommodated on these pitches. For example, if the three standard quality pitches (Ellenborough, Maryport and Seaton rugby league clubs) were improved to good quality; overplay identified on these pitches could then be accommodated. Also, if the three overplayed poor quality pitches (Broughton, Flimby and Great Clifton rugby league clubs) were improved from poor to standard quality; overplay on these pitches would be reduced, but not totally eradicated.

Improvement to the quality of pitches alone is not enough to cater for the demand of rugby league pitches in Allerdale. There is the need to provide additional pitches to accommodate the remaining demand.

Six of the seven clubs consulted with in Allerdale report that they train on competitive match pitches which, results in overplay on all of these sites. Therefore, an AGP to RFL Community Standard or RFL Stadium Standard could accommodate training and alleviate overplay on those sites.

PART 4: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

4.1 Context

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

Within the Borough there are a number of significant developments proposed which have driven the need to have an up to date PPS. The following key drivers for the work were identified by the Council and its partners:

- ◀ To establish a clear strategic pathway for improvement, investment and protection of playing pitches.
- ◀ A need to update the previous 1999 Playing Pitch Strategy.
- ◀ To inform planning policy relating to the National Planning Policy Framework and provide an evidence base for responding to planning applications affecting outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A recognised need to improve the quality and capacity of existing provision, regardless of ownership or management to drive participation.
- ◀ To ensure utilisation of outdoor sports facilities on educational sites following secondary school mergers.
- ◀ To take into account the current and planned leisure centre provision in the Borough.
- ◀ A need to assess supply and demand issues with cross-boundary usage of sites in neighbouring local authorities.

4.2 Links to other strategies

Allerdale Borough Council has a vision, as identified in its Core Strategy (2012), for Allerdale's communities by 2028 to provide a diverse and extensive network of green infrastructure and investment into successful regeneration to create prosperous towns supported by sustainable rural communities. There are clear aspirations for the improvement of rural and urban communities in Allerdale and the Council has identified these strategic objectives:

- ◀ To protect and enhance existing social and community infrastructure, such as education, health, cultural and leisure facilities.
- ◀ To enhance green infrastructure by providing a comprehensive network of high quality open space such as parks, gardens, natural green spaces and allotments.

In addition, the Council's Commitment to Local Communities sets out a vision and priorities from 2012 to 2015, which will shape future service provision and decision making. The Council's commitment to local communities includes priorities and targets across five topics:

- ◀ Reducing poverty
- ◀ Economic development
- ◀ Town centres
- ◀ Creating a sustainable business
- ◀ Sports, arts and leisure

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Falling out of the latter is the strategic objective which is most relevant to the development of this report:

‘Everyone has the opportunity to access affordable sports, arts, leisure activities to improve quality of life’

To achieve this, the target areas are for:

- ◀ Festivals and events
- ◀ Accessible and affordable facilities, venues and activities
- ◀ Grass roots community led activities

The key projects and actions for 2014/15 are:

- ◀ New leisure centre for Workington
- ◀ Run a series of sporting events leading up to the opening of the new leisure centre
- ◀ Develop an Allerdale Leisure Strategy leading to improved leisure provision across the borough
- ◀ Secure investment in the Helena Thompson Museum as a heritage attraction

4.3 Vision

Therefore, this study has been developed on the basis of the above strategic drivers in order to ensure that it reflects the Council’s wider ambitions. An agreed vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Allerdale Playing Pitch Strategy:

“Produce a robust and comprehensive Strategy for Allerdale which will provide the essential evidence base for informing decisions on planning and investment in the pursuit to provide affordable provision for all.”

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 5: AIMS

The following Strategy aims are based on the key issues emerging from the Assessment Report. It is recommended that the following are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Strategy:

AIM 1

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

AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 6: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

AIM 1

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

Objectives:

- a. Enhance local planning policy and protect sports facilities.
- 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 outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so.

Objective (a) – Enhance local planning policy and protect sports facilities

Based on the outcomes of the playing pitch strategy enhance local planning policy and emphasise the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 74). Highlight Sport England’s statutory consultee role on planning applications that affect playing field land.

NPPF paragraph 74 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.

Protect the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs. The majority of facilities from the assessment report justify protection. Local plan policies should protect facilities and the scope to legally safeguard long term use of strategically important sites to the community such as the strategic sites and key centres identified in objective (d) should be considered. For example, through the Fields in Trust programme (www.fieldsintrust.org).

Where there is no need to protect facilities and the assessment shows scope for rationalisation, the following should be considered as a first stage when making any decisions about disposal:

- ◀ Is the facility surplus to requirements not only now but also in the future?
- ◀ Could the facility be used for another type of sport for which there is a deficit?

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Can current users be sufficiently accommodated at another appropriate site taking into consideration access, cost and locality?
- ◀ Consideration as to the quality of the facilities (including ancillary facilities).
- ◀ The long term sustainability of the facility.
- ◀ The level of current use and the impact on the spatial distribution of facilities across Allerdale of closing a facility.

It may be appropriate to dispose of some existing playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Strategic Sites) in order to meet the objectives of the Strategy and to develop the hierarchy of sites (see objective d).

The following criteria should be established as the basis for negotiations to mitigate the loss of playing field provision:

- ◀ Ensure that where playing fields are lost through alternative development or closure, that the type of provision of the same or improved standard is provided to meet demand identified.
- ◀ Where pitches are lost due to redevelopment of the site, compensatory re-provision or an equivalent contribution for re-investment into new pitches will be sought as appropriate in an alternative accessible location.
- ◀ Where opportunities exist to additionally increase pitch quality (and therefore pitch capacity to accommodate more matches) this should be a priority (please refer to the action plan to identify quality deficiencies in the appropriate area).
- ◀ All negotiations and mitigation packages should be raised and discussed in partnership with the relevant NGB and Sport England through the Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group.

In terms of mitigation it is important, where possible and appropriate for a particular sport, that this takes place in an area that is accessible to the playing field that is lost to avoid a scenario where a redundant playing field is lost in an area of the District which has deficiencies and is replaced on the other side of the District.

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 dedicated to community use to help address any unmet community needs. Closed school playing fields should be considered in the first instance for becoming community playing fields for meeting the needs identified in the Strategy before being considered for other uses. The following should be considered when assessing the suitability of conversion of former school playing fields for community use:

- ◀ Size
- ◀ Quality
- ◀ Physical accessibility
- ◀ History of community access
- ◀ Availability of ancillary facilities

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Objective (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through a range of solutions and partnership agreements

Local sports clubs should be supported to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example, the Council should continue to support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an income through their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)¹. Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally whether volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

As well as improving the quality of well-used, local authority sites, there are a number of sites which have poor quality (or no) ancillary facilities. It is recommended that security of tenure should 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 is potential for sites in Allerdale to be leased to sports clubs and/or organisations. Each club will be required to meet service and/or strategic objectives set out by the Council. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered, which takes into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations in order that they may be able to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds to allow this.

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' (objective d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a District wide 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>

¹ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The Council can further recognise the value of Clubmark/Charter Standard 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.

Club outcomes for lease agreements

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

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

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 Policy

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/support__advice/asset_transfer.aspx

Objective (c) Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so

Education sites

In order to maximise community use of educational facilities it is recommended to establish a more 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. In Allerdale pricing policies at facilities can be barrier to access at some of the education sites but physical access and resistance from schools, especially academies, to open up 3G provision is also an issue.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and the local clubs. Allerdale 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 underlying problems. Consideration should be given to a centralised booking system for community use of schools and colleges to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use, especially in relation to 3G provision. Even on established community use sites, access to outdoor sports facilities to the community is limited. The Assessment Report identified several issues relating to the use of school facilities:

- ◀ Many sites are underutilised, especially for competitive play for football.
- ◀ Community use is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs.
- ◀ There is no strategic guidance as to which clubs are allocated the use of playing pitch facilities (i.e. in accordance with a strategic need).
- ◀ There are a number of school sites where a community use agreement is in place but it is not clear whether the agreement is being upheld.
- ◀ There are management issues inherent in developing, implementing and managing community use agreements. Advice and guidance can be obtained from Sport England's Schools toolkit and Sports organisations toolkit.
(www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning)

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

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

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/accessing-schools/>

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

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

Although there are a growing number of academies and college sites in Allerdale, which the Council has 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.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Other sites

Given the mix of provider in Allerdale, including for example, parish/town councils and private clubs, there is a need for the Council and NGBs to work with other providers to help maximise use of outdoor sports facilities and in particular grass pitches and AGPs.

Using spare capacity at such sites may help to rectify shortfalls in the current pitch stock and alleviate overplay on other sites within the same analysis area by transferring play, particularly in the shorter terms whilst, for example, quality improvements are made. This may also be a longer term solution on some sites where the use of alternative, adequate secured provision can be achieved.

In terms of non pitch sports, the issue of spare capacity on bowling greens was identified within the Assessment Report. In order to ensure that existing provision is sustained there is a need to maximise the use of bowling greens, which may, for example, include increasing the availability of greens for pay and play in order to raise the profile of the game, increase levels of membership and the revenue generated by sites.

AIM 2

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

Objectives:

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

Objective (d) – Improve pitch quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality, including for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. These are explored in more detail below.

Addressing quality issues

Priority in the short term (given limited resources) should be directed to overplayed, poor quality sites.

This standard, based on an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, should be used to identify deficiencies and hence investment should be prioritised to those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database, provided in electronic format). The Strategy 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. In Allerdale, for example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements i.e. changing rooms or a specific pitch.

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, 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.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, 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.

Poor quality refers to pitches that have, for example, 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.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces:

www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the 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 pitch should take:

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week
Rugby union*	Pipe and Slit Drained and a good level of maintenance (D3/M2)	3.5 per week
	Pipe drained and a good level of maintenance (D2/M2)	3.25 per week
	Natural (adequate) drainage and a good level of maintenance (D1/M2)	3 per week
Rugby league	Senior	3 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season

* Please note that 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.

There are also a number of 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.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.

For example, the FA has recently introduced a Pitch Advisor Scheme and has 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.

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.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 7: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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

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

In order to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this objective 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.

All pitch sport NGBs are keen to prioritise future investment to ensure that the right facilities are provided in the right locations and for the right reasons.

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

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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 through, for example, the PCT.

Sport England research suggests the following:

Economic impact:

- ◀ In 2010, sport and sport-related activity contributed £20.3 billion to the English economy – 1.9% of the England total.
- ◀ The contribution to employment is even greater – sport and sport-related activity is estimated to support over 400,000 full-time equivalent jobs, 2.3% of all jobs in England.

Health impact:

- ◀ Physical activity, including sport, is linked to reduced risk of over 20 illnesses, including cardiovascular disease and some cancers.
- ◀ Taking part in regular sport can save between £1,750 and £6,900 in healthcare costs per person.

Social and cultural impact:

- ◀ Published studies show the positive effects of sport on education include improved attainment, lower absenteeism and drop-out, and increased progression to higher education. For instance, young people's participation in sport improves their numeracy scores by 8 per cent on average above non-participants.
- ◀ Other studies have found that sport programmes aimed at youths at risk of criminal behaviour can enhance self-esteem and reduce reoffending.

Objective (g) – Establish an approach to securing developer contributions

It is important that this strategy informs policies and emerging supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development. The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and its subsequent maintenance. Section 106 contributions or CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches. A number of planning policy objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement or equivalent must be completed specifying the amount which will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the Planning Committee, and timing of the Contribution(s) to be paid.
- ◀ Some contributions may need to be ring fenced for use according to the particular terms of the Planning Obligation, where there is opportunity to improve the appropriate pitches within the local vicinity. However, for some sports such as for example cricket and rugby a "central pot" for developer contributions across the local authority area may be necessary for the particular sport.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance .
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved playing pitches on school sites should be subject to community use agreements. For further guidance please refer to Sport England:
<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/community-use-agreements/>
- ◀ Establish a formula for collating developer contributions for playing pitches which is demand based.

AIM 3

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

Objectives:

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

Objective (h) - 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 objectives (Part 2).

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 Allerdale can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- ◀ Improving pitch quality.
- ◀ The re-designation of pitches for which there is an oversupply.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites.
- ◀ Utilising actual spare capacity identified.

Improving pitch quality

Addressing pitch quality will increase the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches, therefore helping to address shortfalls in provision. As detailed earlier, each NGB recommends a number of matches that a good, standard or poor quality pitch should take.

Re-designation of pitches

There may be a requirement to protect some adult pitches as this provides the flexibility to provide adult, 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 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.

Community use at school sites

Although there are a number of academies and college sites in Allerdale, which the Council has 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.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Spare capacity

There are some sites in Allerdale that express spare capacity at peak time and although this is likely to be due to poor quality, location or changing room issues, these sites could offer a solution to addressing some shortfall in provision. In Allerdale, working with other providers such as town/parish councils and private sports clubs to maximise use of pitches with actual spare capacity is recommended in a joint partnership approach with NGBs.

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

Objective (i) - 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.

PART 7: SPORT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Site specific actions falling out of the sport by sport objectives outlined below are detailed within the action plan.

FOOTBALL OBJECTIVE

Maximise use of sites (both grass and 3G) and seek to focus future investment in pitch improvements and changing room facilities at multi-pitch and hub sites

Grass pitches

- ◀ Prioritise pitch improvement through the regional pitch advisor scheme.
- ◀ As a priority seek to improve pitch quality on overplayed sites (such as Meadow Vale) and to enhance changing room provision at key sites (such as Curwen Park).
- ◀ Ensure there is an appropriate maintenance of grass and artificial pitches particularly to pitches which have been grant funding (i.e., Football Foundation).
- ◀ Transfer play on sites which are played to capacity or overplayed to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Provide pitches and facilities to meet FA standards where needed.
- ◀ Where appropriate, prioritise development and investment in multi-pitch and hub sites.
- ◀ Consider reconfiguring pitch sizes from mini soccer to youth pitches in order to meet current and future demand.
- ◀ Work with priority school sites to maximise access to alleviate overplay on other sites, address latent demand and to develop school-club links.
- ◀ Ensure sustainable assets which may be appropriate for community asset transfer as per FA Facilities Strategy ensuring 'right clubs right sites' approach.
- ◀ Carry out a review of pitch capacity and the associated actions in Wigton in line with developments at The Recreation Field (Abbeytown JFC).

3G pitches

- ◀ Increase access to 3G pitches to meet demand from the Youth Review.
- ◀ Support the improvement of AGP surfaces (both 3G and sand based) that are used for football.
- ◀ Investigate options to install a new 3G AGP in Workington to accommodate demand for football training and matches, thus accommodating latent demand and alleviating overplay.
- ◀ Implement an accurate pricing policy for grassroots football clubs including discounts for FA Charter Standard Clubs.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CRICKET OBJECTIVE

Protect current levels of provision and seek to improve access to all pitches to meet latent demand

- ◀ In partnership with clubs and leagues, support the provision and use of artificial pitches at school sites, private sites and parks to help meet identified deficiencies in provision. Particularly in the areas near to Cockermouth Cricket Club and Workington Cricket Club.
- ◀ Where overplay of pitches occurs ensure groundsman training is in place and as a priority link these sites to the Pitch Advisor Scheme.

RUGBY UNION OBJECTIVE

Work towards meeting identified current and future deficiencies and increase the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities as required.

- ◀ Improve the quality of pitches in order to address overplay of pitches at club sites, particularly Netherhall RFC and Workington RFC.
- ◀ Develop a joint approach to funding to improve Workington RFC as a priority for the growth of women and girls.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs have access to training areas which are either dedicated floodlit grassed areas or through the provision of an International Rugby Board (IRB) AGP in West Cumbria specifically Workington.

RUGBY LEAGUE OBJECTIVE

Work towards meeting identified current and future deficiencies and increase the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities as required.

- ◀ Protect current levels of provision and improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay as the priority.
- ◀ Also seek opportunities for additional pitches in order to address shortfalls.
- ◀ Ensure clubs have access to training areas which are either dedicated floodlit grassed areas or through the provision of an RFL Community Standard AGP in Workington.
- ◀ Ensure future provision of AGPs is in a sustainable location with a strong supporting business model.

HOCKEY OBJECTIVE

Maximise access to existing provision and work towards improving the quality of existing provision.

- ◀ Work with England Hockey to ensure priority hockey sites are protected and their quality is sustained/improved i.e. Cockermouth School.
- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain AGPs quality in the long term.
- ◀ Work with providers to maximise access to AGPs to accommodate both hockey training and competitive play.
- ◀ Further investigate whether existing AGPs can accommodate unmet demand by changing access/management arrangements; or if a new AGP is required. Initial findings suggest a new AGP may be required in the south west of the District. The 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface'1 process should be used to establish this.

OTHER SPORTS OBJECTIVE

Maximise access to existing provision and work towards improving the quality of this provision.

General

- ◀ Seek to establish leases with larger, sustainable, development-minded clubs to fully manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development.
- ◀ Work with clubs to encourage greater junior participation.

Tennis

- ◀ Work with the LTA to maximise utilisation of school tennis courts to meet future demand for tennis as a result of any participation increases.
- ◀ Ensure clubs can access the appropriate standard of courts to allow LTA competitions to be played. And explore opportunities to improve poor quality courts.
- ◀ Explore opportunities at the new Workington Leisure Centre to accommodate latent demand for courts in the area.

Bowls

- ◀ Address spare capacity and maximise the availability of bowling greens for pay and play in order to raise the profile of the game, increase levels of membership and the revenue generated by sites.
- ◀ Support clubs such as Maryport, Workington, Harris Park and Wigton Park which plan to attract younger people through hosting events such as family days as well as establishing links with local primary schools and girl guides.
- ◀ Ensure sites are appropriately secured with fencing etc. in order to help reduce vandalism and unofficial use of greens.

Athletics

- ◀ Work with athletics clubs to ensure access to appropriate provision is secured within reasonable travel distances of Allerdale.

Netball

- ◀ Sustain current supply of netball courts and support development of a satellite club at Nelson Tomlinson School.
- ◀ Increase the quality of key sites for netball to supplement indoor provision.

PART 8: ACTION PLAN

8.1 Introduction

The site-by-site action plan list seeks 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 resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. Objective e below explains 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.

8.2 Prioritising sites

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

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

Sites included within the action plan have been tiered based on criteria set below:

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

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

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Proposed tiered site criteria

Strategic sites	Key centres	Club or education sites	Strategic reserve sites
Strategically placed in the Borough. Priority sites for NGB.	Strategically placed in the local authority context.	Strategically placed in the local context.	Strategically placed in the local context.
Accommodates three or more grass pitches. Including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.	Likely to be single-pitch site with limited demand.
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.
Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Club either has long-term lease/hires the pitch for the entire season or owns the site. Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains with the Council or existing management body.
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 and line marking as required.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	No requirement for access changing to accommodation.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Strategic Sites already seek to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for both senior and junior (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for mini and youth football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for mini and youth football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both youth and mini-football matches could be played on these sites. Initial investment could be required in the short term and identified in the Action Plan.

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites (also known as 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

Key Centres already seek to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for both senior and youth (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for mini and youth football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for mini and youth football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both youth and mini-football matches could be played on these sites. Initial investment could be required in the short term and identified in the Action Plan.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both Strategic sites and Key Centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions. They should be designated as medium priority for investment.

Club/Education Sites refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. Primarily they are sites with more than one pitch. 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. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the pitches or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the facilities.

Pitch quality improvements in most cases relate to installation and/or improving drainage works on sites. The continuing issue of teams training on pitches used by other teams for match play is also significant. This unofficial use of pitches is viewed as having a detrimental impact on quality of provision; ensuring a sufficient level of drainage on pitches as well as provision of artificial grass facilities in order to accommodate training needs is vital.

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

8.3 Management and development

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

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

8.4 Action plan

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

Lead 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 delivers the actions.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ASPATRIA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Aspatria	Actual spare capacity ² (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Latent demand	Unmet demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total ³ (future)
Adult pitches	1	0.5	-	-	0.5	0.2	0.5
Youth pitches	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	
Mini pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- ◀ No demand for additional football pitches.
- ◀ Small amount of overplay at Aspatria War Memorial Recreation Ground which could be accommodated at local school sites if opened up for community use.
- ◀ Level of spare capacity expressed should be retained in order to help protect/improve quality.

Cricket

- ◀ There is some spare capacity at Blennerhasset Playing Field (27 sessions per season).

Rugby union

- ◀ No demand for additional pitches.
- ◀ Pitch quality should be sustained/protected.

Rugby league

- ◀ No demand for additional pitches.

² In match equivalent sessions

³ Figures rounded up

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Aspatria

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
1	Aspatria RFC	Rugby union	Club	Three good quality senior rugby union pitches with some peak time capacity but also accommodates rugby league matches (i.e. all year round use). Improvements carried out to pitch drainage and floodlights in 2012.	Apply appropriate levels of maintenance to sustain quality/investment made in the pitches. PPF gained for improvements to training pitch. Potential future growth can be accommodated on the pitches.	RFU	Club	S – L (ongoing)	d
3	Blennerhasset Playing Field	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult football pitch that is unused by community and therefore available at peak times.	Retain as reserve and promote site availability to accommodate local demand if required.	Parish Council	Club	S	a, d
		Cricket		One standard quality pitch (including a non turf wicket). There is some spare capacity on the grass wickets at Blennerhasset Playing Field (27 sessions per season). However, access to changing rooms and the quality of the pitch is affecting further use.	If there is enough local demand, seek to improve pitch quality and changing rooms.			M	d
70	Aspatria War Memorial Recreation Ground (St Mungo's Park)	Football	Town Council	One standard quality adult football pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 sessions a week. Pitch is used by Aspatria FC (also juniors playing across senior pitch) and The Sun Inn FC on Saturdays and Sundays.	Apply appropriate levels of maintenance to help improve quality. Reduce overplay by transferring youth play to other local sites i.e. Beacon Hill School.	Town Council FA	Key Centre	S	d, h
		Rugby league		One standard quality senior pitch with minimal spare capacity. Home ground to Aspatria Hornets RLFC.	Apply appropriate levels of maintenance to help improve quality and retain spare capacity.			Town Council	S
2	Beacon Hill School	Football	School	Two standard quality adult football pitches and ½ size (60 x 40) AGP sand filled. Unavailable for community use.	Establish opportunity for community use in order to help alleviate overplay from War Memorial Recreation Ground.	FA Council	Education	S	c
129	St Michael's CE Primary	Football	School	One standard quality youth football pitch that is unused by community and therefore available at peak times.	Establish opportunity for community use in order to help alleviate overplay from War Memorial Recreation Ground.	FA Council	Education	S	c

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

COCKERMOUTH

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Cockermouth	Actual spare capacity ⁴ (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Latent demand	Unmet demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total ⁵ (future)
Adult pitches	7	-	0.5	-	6.5	0.35	6
Youth pitches	4	-	-	-	4	0.55	5
Mini pitches	1	-	-	-	1	0.4	1

- ◀ Latent demand for one team which can be accommodated on spare capacity.
- ◀ Half of the spare capacity expressed on adult and youth pitches should be retained in order to protect quality/rest pitches.
- ◀ Level of mini pitch spare capacity expressed should be retained in order to protect quality/rest pitches.

Cricket

- ◀ No spare capacity in the Area due to quality of pitch (Cockermouth Cricket Club played to capacity and no actual spare capacity at Broughton Cricket Club due to quality issues).
- ◀ Latent demand expressed at Cockermouth Cricket Club.

Rugby union

- ◀ Poor pitch quality/drainage at Grassmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RFC).
- ◀ Pitches are also overplayed due to training on pitches and all year round use from rugby league club.
- ◀ Demand in the Area for one mini/midi pitch to accommodate future demand from Allerdale as a whole.

Rugby league

- ◀ Poor and standard quality pitches in the Area.
- ◀ Overplay at Broughton Red Rose RLFC due to poor quality.
- ◀ No spare capacity in the Area due to quality of pitch.
- ◀ No significant future demand for pitches.

AGPs

- ◀ Poor pitch quality at Cockermouth School affecting hockey use.

⁴ In match equivalent sessions

⁵ Figures rounded up

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Cockermouth

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
7	Cockermouth Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One good quality cricket pitch with grass and synthetic wickets. Pitch currently played to capacity and club expresses latent demand for two junior teams.	Work with the Club to accommodate latent demand for two junior teams. Explore use of Dovenby Hall.	ECB	Club	S	h
8	Cockermouth School	Football	School	Three adult and two youth (9v9) good quality football pitches with community use (Cockermouth Jnrs) but spare capacity at peak times. Service level agreement now in place to resolve access issues and secure use.	Explore opportunity to increase use and to accommodate latent demand expressed by Rons Boys FC.	FA	Education	S – L	c, h
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket pitch with synthetic wicket only that is available for community use but currently unused.	Promote use to accommodate latent demand from Cockermouth Cricket Club.	ECB			c, h
		Rugby union		Three poor quality rugby union pitches, available but unused due to quality.	Potential spare capacity to reduce overplay at Grassmoor Sports Centre albeit quality needs to be improved.	RFU			
		Hockey		One standard quality full size floodlit sand filled AGP. Minimal spare capacity. Holes/rips in the carpet and damage to the surface. As a result of these issues and in order to sustain hockey use in the future, England Hockey is currently advising and supporting Cockermouth School to submit a Sport England, Inspired Facilities bid to resurface the school pitch.	Support the School and club in its funding bid and seek to maximise secured usage of the AGP for hockey.	EH			c, f
9	Dovenby Hall	Cricket	Private	One standard quality cricket pitch with synthetic wicket only that is available for community use but unused.	Promote LMS format to utilise synthetic wicket and to accommodate latent demand in the area.	ECB	Club	S	h
28	Broughton Red Rose ARLFC	Rugby league	Club	One poor quality senior rugby league pitch that is overplayed by 1.5 sessions a week.	Improve the quality of pitch to accommodate more play. Alternatively use other pitches in area (Grassmoor Sports Centre) that express spare capacity.	Club Borough Council	Club	M	d, h
29	Broughton Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality football pitch that is unused and therefore available at peak times.	Retain as reserve and promote site availability to accommodate local demand if required.	Parish Council	Reserve	S	e
		Cricket		One poor quality cricket pitch with five grass wickets and spare capacity. No changing facilities and under-sized outfield.	Retain current usage and apply appropriate levels of maintenance to help improve quality. Not ideally located to meet demand identified in the Area.			M – L	d, h

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
30	Grassmoor Sports Centre	Rugby union		Home ground to Cocker mouth RFC. Two senior and three mini rugby union pitches of poor quality due to very poor drainage. Pitches are considered to be overplayed due to all year round use. The Club report a basic maintenance programme. Club also expresses potential demand to increase teams in the future.	Seek options to improve pitch quality as a priority in the medium term and address floodlighting in the longer term. Future demand can be accommodate if quality is improved.	RFU	Key Centre	M – L	d, f, h, e
		Football		One standard quality adult football pitch and has spare capacity at peak times during the winter. Home ground to Cocker mouth FC.	Spare capacity retained to protect quality. Retain current usage.	FA		S	
		Rugby league		Pitches used by Cocker mouth Titans RLFC resulting in additional wear and tear and all year round use.	Apply appropriate levels of maintenance to help improve quality.	Club		S	
		All sports		Potential funding opportunity in the Area.	Across all sports, explore potential funding to improve pitch quality/drainage.	Clubs, FA, RFU		S-M	
		Tennis		Poor quality tennis courts (including floodlights being out of use) hired by Cocker mouth Tennis Club. Courts are multi-use with multiple line markings and, therefore, are unable to be used for certain level of LTA competitions.	Investigate the feasibility of attracting funding to improve courts. If not feasible, explore options to relocate to Harris Park.	LTA		S	
40	Highfield	Football	Borough Council	One standard quality adult football pitch that is used by community but has spare capacity at peak times.	Continue to maintain pitch and retain current play.	Borough Council	Club	S – L	c
53	Tarn Close	Football	Town Council	Two standard quality youth football pitches with spare capacity at peak times. Can be used for a variety of formats. Main user is Cocker mouth Jnrs. Pitches located in centre of old cinder running track.	Work with the Town Council in partnership with local sports clubs in order to secure the site's long term future for sport.	Town Council FA	Club	S – L	a, b, c
		Athletics							
203	Harris Park	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality tennis courts (no floodlighting) with room for potential expansion.	Investigate the feasibility of attracting funding to upgrade the courts to accommodate Cocker mouth Tennis Club if relocated from Grassmoor Sports Centre.	Council LTA	Key Centre	M	d, f
143	Wakefield Road	Football	Council	One standard quality football pitch recently brought back into commission for use by Deer Orchard FC. Site is prone to flooding.	Apply appropriate levels of maintenance to help improve quality. Consider site for a long term lease to the Club.	Council FA	Club	M	b, e

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

MARYPORT

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Maryport	Actual spare capacity ⁶ (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Latent demand	Unmet demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total ⁷ (future)
Adult pitches	5	-	1	-	4	0.6	3
Youth pitches	2	-	2	-	0	0.65	-1
Mini pitches	2	-	-	-	2	0.55	1

- Latent demand for one adult pitch (Grasslot Veterans FC and Maryport Bounty FC) and two youth pitches (Crosby Comets JFC and Maryport AFC) which can all be accommodated on spare capacity or through improving pitch quality, no additional pitches required.
- Identified need for one youth pitch to accommodate future demand which could be addressed by establishing community use at Netherhall Community Sports Centre.
- One adult pitch to be classified as actual spare capacity. Remaining actual spare capacity expressed should be retained in order to protect quality/rest pitches.

Cricket

- Unused, good quality synthetic wicket at Netherhall Community Sports Centre.

Rugby union

- Poor quality at both sites (Netherhall Community Sports Centre and Netherhall RUFC).
- No spare capacity due to poor quality pitches.
- Netherhall RUFC plan to increase the number of senior teams in the future.

Rugby league

- No peak time capacity. Pitches are overplayed due to poor quality and training on match pitches.
- 11 matches per week of overplay which can be addressed through pitch improvements and development of dedicated training areas. Most at Glasson Rangers RLFC (6.5 sessions).
- Latent demand for two pitches to accommodate junior teams from Glasson Rangers RLFC and Maryport RLFC – additional pitches required.
- Future demand for two pitches – additional pitches required.

⁶ In match equivalent sessions

⁷ Figures rounded up

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Maryport

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
15	Netherhall Community Sports Centre	Football	School/Council	3G pitch built in 2005 and operating at 50% usage which will extend its life span of beyond the FA recommended 10-12 years. Some reported access issues by users.	Ensure pitch is being fully utilised and is available for community use at peak times, including weekends. Test for FA 3G Football Turf Pitch Register – could in the future cater for more competitive matches to alleviate capacity on grass pitches in the Area. Reassess quality and life span of pitch in 5 years. Consider potential for a separate toilet block to help further alleviate access issues.	Borough Council FA	Strategic	M	c, f
		Football		One adult and one youth pitch, both standard quality and available for community use but unused.	Explore opportunities for establishing community use if required in the future.	FA		M	c
		Rugby union		One poor quality senior rugby union pitch with ad hoc use by Netherhall RFC.	Improve quality of surface to make pitch more desirable to clubs and accommodate overplay in area.	Borough Council		M – L	d, h
		Cricket		Unused, good quality synthetic wicket.	Potential site to accommodate future demand/adult participation.	ECB		S	h
16	Netherhall RFC	Rugby union		Two poor quality senior rugby union pitches with no spare capacity. Club has aspirations to improve quality of pitches and clubhouse.	As a priority, address club structure needs and then seek to improve pitch quality in order to increase capacity. In the longer term explore options for funding to improve changing rooms/clubhouse.	RFU	Club	S – L	d, f
		Football		One standard quality adult football pitch with community use but with spare capacity at peak times. However, the pitch is boggy in places. No formal lease in place but the football club carrying out maintenance.	Explore opportunity for additional youth team to use but retain some spare capacity in order to protect/improve quality.	FA		S	d
33	Ellenborough ARLFC	Rugby league	Club	One standard quality senior rugby league pitch that is overplayed by 1.5 sessions per week.	Reduce pitch usage by seeking access to dedicated training area.	Club	Club	S – M	h
		Football		One adult and one youth pitch, both standard quality and used to capacity. Main user, Grasslot Veterans FC reports latent demand for one team.	Increase pitch quality in order to accommodate latent demand expressed.	FA		S	d
35	Flimby ARLFC	Rugby league	Club	One poor quality rugby league pitch that is overplayed by two sessions a week.	Increase pitch quality in order to accommodate latent demand.	Club	Club	S – M	d, h
		Football		One standard quality adult football pitch that has spare capacity at peak times.	No local demand for further use at the site.	FA			
36	Flimby Recreation	Football	Borough Council	One standard quality mini soccer pitch with peak time availability.	Converted to a youth pitch to accommodate future demand shortfall expressed in the Area of one youth pitch. Can still cater for both if required. Retain current use/spare capacity to protect/increase quality.	Borough Council	Club	S	h, i

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
43	Maryport ARLFC	Rugby league	Club	RFL owned land. One standard quality senior pitch overplayed by one match session per week. Club reports latent demand for 3 x junior teams.	Improve pitch quality to good in order to accommodate overplay. Ensure maintenance is appropriate to sustain/improve pitch quality. In the longer term, explore options for one additional floodlit pitch required to accommodate latent demand.	RFL	Club	M	d, i
				Small poor quality MUGA on site – potential requirement to turn into car park for nearby railway station.	Ensure mitigation for loss of MUGA if this goes ahead.				
45	Milltoft	Rugby league/ Football	Borough Council	One poor quality rugby league pitch (used by Maryport RLFC until the end of the season then spare capacity) and two poor quality youth football pitches used to capacity (by Maryport AFC). One football pitch is overmarked on the rugby league pitch. Field liable to flooding and public access contribute to quality issues at the site. Maryport Amateurs FC report latent demand for three youth teams. No changing facilities servicing the site. Potential retail development with requirement for re-provision of pitches.	Improve pitch quality to good in order to accommodate football latent demand expressed. Ensure spare capacity on rugby league pitch as of next season (2015) is used to meet local demand/shortfalls. Consider funding options to develop changing facilities to make more desirable to clubs. Partnership approach to be taken on realignment of the site to mitigate loss of pitches. If pitches are to remain overmarked ensure appropriate levels of maintenance are applied in order to sustain all year round use. Also consider option to address security of the site through possible fencing.	Borough Council	Club	S – M	d, f
49	Glasson Rangers RLFC - Sandy Lonning Community Sports Field	Rugby league	Club	One good quality rugby league pitch that is overplayed by 6.5 sessions per week. School usage and club training on pitch make site overplayed. Club reports latent demand for 0.5 junior teams.	One junior and one senior pitch is required to accommodate overplay and latent demand expressed. Seek options to access a dedicated training area to help relieve overplay and investigate options for developing additional pitches.	RFL	Club	M	d, i
55	Village Field, Broughton Moor	Football	Parish Council	Disused site, once used for football but left to disrepair.	No local demand for football use. Explore options to convert to rugby league to meet shortfalls expressed by Glasson Rangers RLFC.	Parish Council	Club	M	h
67	Ennerdale Road Site	Football	Borough Council	One standard quality adult football pitch with community use but spare capacity at peak times. Maryport Bounty FC report latent demand for one team.	Local demand to increase use. Ensure appropriate maintenance is applied in order to help improve/sustain quality. Latent demand can be accommodated.	FA	Club	S	d, h
96	Potteries Ground	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult football pitch that is used by community but has spare capacity at peak times.	Maintain pitches to retain current play.	Parish Council FA	Club	S – L (ongoing)	d
100	Crosscanonby St Johns Primary School	Football	School/Club	One standard quality 11v11 football pitch that is at capacity (used by Crosby FC). Investment c£40K spent on improvement to grass pitches in 2013. Crosby Comets JFC report latent demand for one youth team.	Ensure investment is utilised and that effective maintenance programme is in place in order to improve capacity to accommodate latent demand expressed.	FA	Club	S – L (ongoing)	d, h

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

SILLOTH

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Silloth	Actual spare capacity ⁸ (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Latent demand	Unmet demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total ⁹ (future)
Adult pitches	1	-	1.5	-	-0.5	0.2	-1
Youth pitches	-	-	1	-	-1	-	-1
Mini pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- ⚡ Small current and future shortfall of adult and youth pitches.
- ⚡ Silloth AFC report latent demand for 1.5 adult pitches.
- ⚡ Abbeystown JFC report latent demand for 1 youth pitch.
- ⚡ Improving quality will go some way towards meeting shortfall.

Cricket

- ⚡ No current provision and no future demand for cricket in the Area.

Rugby union

- ⚡ Silloth RUFC plan to increase the number of senior teams in the future.
- ⚡ Standard quality pitches which are overplayed.
- ⚡ Shortfall of pitches to accommodate overplay (4 match sessions per week).

Rugby league

- ⚡ No current provision and no future demand for cricket in the Area.

⁸ In match equivalent sessions

⁹ Figures rounded up

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Silloth

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
10	Eden Street (Silloth RUFC and Silloth AFC)	Football	Club	One standard quality adult football pitch that is used by community but has spare capacity at peak times. Poor quality changing provision across the site.	Improve pitch maintenance and/or quality in order to accommodate latent and future demand.	FA	Club	S – L (ongoing)	d
		Rugby union		One standard quality senior rugby union pitch that is overplayed by four sessions per week. New floodlights installed. Club also train on match pitches and multi use games area on tennis courts. Poor quality changing provision across the site.	High standard pitch management/ maintenance can sustain current levels of play. Priority to improve changing room quality. Consider a joint approach to funding in partnership with the football club.	RFU		L	i, d
17	Solway Community School	Football/rugby union	School	Site contains two senior football pitches, one senior rugby pitch and one hockey pitch. All grass pitches are available for community use but unused as the School is located in a small area with little reported demand for grass pitches. Both football pitches are of a good standard but the rugby pitch has poor drainage and is often waterlogged. Changing facilities, although basic, are available within the School and would be made available should community use of the pitches occur.	Work with the School to enable access for community use to accommodate latent demand from Silloth AFC. Keep reserve for potential future demand for Silloth RUFC.	FA RFU	Education	S	i, c
104	Silloth Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth football pitch that is not available for community use.	Work with the School to enable access to community use to accommodate latent demand from Silloth AFC if required.	FA	Education	S	i, c
71	The Recreation Field (Abbeytown JFC)	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult football pitch that is currently unused. Site is home to Abbeytown JFC (18 teams) which is currently carrying out pitch improvement works and developing (c£200K) changing rooms. The pitch drainage improvements will (as per The FA guidelines) allow for three matches per week to be accommodated. Therefore, although the Club intends for play to commence at The Recreation Field in Spring 2014; some of its teams will continue to play at the alternative sites.	Ensure recent investment is utilised and that effective maintenance programme is in place. Ensure all 18 teams are appropriately accommodated on other sites in local area.	Parish Council FA	Club	S – L (ongoing)	d
134	Holm Cultram Abbey Cofe School	Football	School	One standard quality mini pitch that is currently unavailable for community use.	Work with the School to enable community use to accommodate Abbeytown JFC teams locally.	FA	Education	S	i, c
206	Silloth Tennis Club	Tennis	Council	Silloth Tennis Club hires courts from the Council on an annual basis (and also Solway Community School). The condition of the courts is considered to be standard; however, it doesn't have access to changing facilities as no clubhouse is located on site.	Investigate options/funding for a small purpose built changing/clubhouse type facility to be provided at the site. Also explore options to access the School building.	Council LTA	Club	M	c, f

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

WIGTON

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Wigton	Actual spare capacity ¹⁰ (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Latent demand	Unmet demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total ¹¹ (future)
Adult pitches	1	6	-	-	-5	0.2	-5
Youth pitches	2	1.5	1.5	-	-1	0.7	-2
Mini pitches	1	-	-	-	1	0.45	1

- ⚡ High level of overplay on pitches used by Abbeytown Juniors FC.
- ⚡ Generally standard quality pitches, which if improved could accommodate some overplay.
- ⚡ Shortfall of adult and youth pitches to meet current and future demand as a result of overplay.
- ⚡ Latent demand expressed for 1.5 youth pitches by Wigton FC which cannot wholly be accommodate on spare capacity in the Area.

Cricket

- ⚡ Future demand (from population growth in Allerdale as a whole) for two pitches.
- ⚡ No spare capacity to accommodate future demand.

Rugby union

- ⚡ Demand in the Area for one adult pitch to accommodate future demand from Allerdale as a whole.
- ⚡ No peak time capacity to accommodate further play.

Rugby league

- ⚡ No current provision and no future demand in the Area.

Hockey

- ⚡ Future demand for hockey expressed by Wigton HC.

¹⁰ In match equivalent sessions

¹¹ Figures rounded up

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Wigton

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
205	Anthorn Sports Club	Tennis	Club	Anthorn Tennis Club and Kirkbride Tennis Club have amalgamated to utilise all courts in the area. The clubs require four courts for competitive fixtures and, therefore, use courts at both Kirkbride and Anthorn (two miles apart).	Support funding applications to replace worn out courts at Anthorn and both clubs hope investment to improve facilities will increase membership.	LTA	Club	M	d, f
14	Nelson Tomlinson School	Football	School	Two standard quality adult football pitches that are not available for community use.	Work with the School to enable access to pitches for community use to help address overplay on other sites in the area. Ensure that pitches are of the appropriate quality to sustain play.	FA	Education	S	c, d
		Cricket		One good quality non turf wicket unavailable for community use.	Investigate further if future demand could be accommodated on a non turf wicket and if so work with the site to allow community use.	ECB		S	
		Rugby union		Two poor quality adult rugby union pitches used to capacity due to poor quality.	Continue to build established relationship between Wigton RFC and the School and investigate potential for community use if pitch quality was improved to accommodate future demand.	RFU		M	
69	Thursby Jubilee Playing Field & Wetland	Football	Parish Council	Disused football site which has been successful for PPF funding to bring back into use and to accommodate Dalston Jnr Black Reds currently playing in Carlisle. Some match funding still to be secured. Site will provide one adult and one youth/mini pitch.	Support development of the site as required and ensure community use agreements are established to secure use for the club.	FA Parish Council	Club	S - M	d, e, h, i
74	Wigton Park	Football	Town Council	One standard quality adult football pitch that is used by Abbeytown Junior FC and is overplayed by 6 sessions a week. Project plans in place to link this site with adjacent Barton Links (via a new bridge) and to improve quality and provide an additional adult pitch.	Support developments to improve pitch quality and increase provision which will address overplay and latent demand expressed across these two sites.	FA Town Council	Key Centre	M - L	d, e, h, i
75	Barton Laws	Football	Town Council	Two standard quality adult pitches used to capacity by Wigton FC and latent demand expressed for 1.5 youth pitches by the Club.					
94	Wigton Sports Club	Hockey	Club	One good quality full size floodlit sand dressed AGP that is well used but has some spare capacity.	Retain and maximise usage of AGP to meet demand future demand for hockey expressed by Wigton HC.	EH	Key Centre	S - L (ongoing)	a, c
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket pitch used by Wigton CC with a small amount of spare capacity. Recently made improvements to the drainage of the outfield.	Retain spare capacity in order to protect/sustain pitch quality. Ensure maintenance levels are appropriate to sustain improvements made.	ECB		S	d
		Rugby union		One mini and two adult rugby pitches of good quality with no peak time capacity. Home ground to Wigton RFC. Poor quality changing rooms across the site.	Ensure maintenance levels are appropriate to sustain future use. Support club to improve social space in order to increase revenue and sustainability. Longer term, improve changing rooms as a joint project across the site as a whole – substantial investment would be required.	RFU		M-L	d

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
99	Wigton Infants School	Football	School	One standard quality mini soccer pitch that is used by community but has spare capacity at peak times. One standard quality youth football pitch that is overplayed by 2.5 sessions a week. Used by Abbeytown Junior FC.	Overplay may be reduced when pitch improvements are completed at The Recreation Field. Therefore, reassess overplay next season and ensure maintenance levels are appropriate to retain/increase pitch quality.	Council FA	Education	S – M	d
108	Boltons CofE School	Football	School	One standard quality youth football pitch that is unused by community and therefore available at peak times.	Promote site as having spare capacity at peak times to help address overplay on other sites in the area.	Council FA	Education	S	h
117	Thursby Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth football pitch that is not available for community use.	Promote site as having spare capacity at peak times to help address overplay on other sites in the area.	Council FA	Education	S	h, d
133	Oulton Park	Football	Town Council	One standard quality youth football pitch used by Abbeytown JFC but has spare capacity at peak times.	Retain current use/spare capacity and apply appropriate maintenance in order to help improve/sustain quality.	Parish Council FA	Club	S	h, d

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

WORKINGTON

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Workington	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Latent demand	Unmet demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult pitches	12	9	3	1	-1	1.55	-2.5
Youth pitches	-	4	1	-	-5	1.1	-6
Mini pitches	2	-	1	-	1	0.95	

- Current and future shortfall of adult and youth pitches. However, there are enough mini pitches to accommodate current and future demand.
- Latent demand expressed in the Area equating to three adult, one youth and one mini pitches.
- Most pitches in the Area are rated as standard quality and would benefit from increase maintenance.
- Initial findings suggest a new AGP may be required in the south west of the District. The 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface'1 process should be used to establish this.

Cricket

- Workington Cricket Club is played to capacity.
- Latent demand expressed by Workington Cricket Club.
- No capacity to accommodate future or latent demand.

Rugby union

- Workington RFC reports plans to increase teams in the future which could be accommodated on existing pitches which have spare capacity.
- Ellis Sports Ground (Workington RFC) is overplayed by two match sessions per week due to training on pitches but also has standard quality pitches which could be improved.
- In line with Allerdale shortfall of one AGP, RFU County Plan identifies demand for an IRB AGP on the West Coast.

Rugby league

- All pitches in the Area are assessed as either standard or poor quality.
- Future demand for one pitch to accommodate demand from Allerdale as a whole.
- No peak time capacity available.
- Four sites are overplayed by a total of four match sessions per week.
- Shortfall of pitches to accommodate future demand and overplay.

Hockey

- No specific demand in the Area.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Workington

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
18	Southfield Technology College	Football/ rugby union	School	The College has two senior football pitches and one senior rugby pitch. The football pitches are assessed as standard quality but the rugby pitch has poor drainage. All pitches were previously available for community use but the School had various problems with regard to payment and the pitches have poor drainage. The School has, therefore, decided that all pitches are no longer available for community use and this is unlikely to change in the future. Future uncertain as College could join with Stainburn School and Science College to form an Academy.	No local demands for rugby pitch use. If site is left vacant after formation of Academy, ensure football pitches are available for community use to accommodate current and future shortfall of adult and youth pitches in Workington.	County Council FA	Education	M	a, c
19	Stainburn School and Science College	Cricket/football	School	One poor quality cricket pitch with synthetic wicket which has ad hoc use by Workington CC. One good quality adult football pitch that is not available for community use. Future uncertain as College could join with Southfield Technology College to form Academy.	Potential demand for cricket wicket to be retained for future adult participation, albeit quality improvements would be required. If site is left vacant after formation of Academy, ensure pitches are available for community use to accommodate current and future demand for football in the area.	County Council ECB FA	Education	M	a, c h
20	The Ranch	Football	Private	One adult and one mini soccer good quality football pitches with spare capacity at peak times. One good quality youth football pitch that is overplayed by four sessions a week. Site is used by Workington JFC but owned by private land owner and therefore tenure of pitches is unsecure.	Work with Workington JFC and landowner to ensure long term security of tenure for site.	FA	Club	S	b
25	Workington Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One good quality cricket pitch that has grass and synthetic wickets. Site is played at capacity, however, club expresses latent demand.	Work with Club to investigate options to use other sites in the area to accommodate latent demand i.e. Dovenby Hall, Netherhall Sports Centre or Stainburn School.	ECB	Club	S	h
31	Curwen Park	Football	Borough Council	Three standard quality adult football pitches that are overplayed by a total of 1.5 sessions a week. No changing facilities on site.	Develop as a 'hub' site and consider funding packages. Improve quality and/or quantity of pitches to meet shortfalls identified and develop changing facilities.	Borough Council FA	Strategic	M	d, f, e
32	Workington Town RLFC - Derwent Park	Rugby league	Club	One rugby league senior stadium pitch. Semi professional club with one senior mens team and no other community use. Site is leased from Allerdale Borough Council. Club would like to use 3G AGP for training in Allerdale. RFL identified need for community changing facilities.	Ensure continued security of tenure and support club to return to Allerdale to use AGP for training. Investigate/consider provision of an RFL Community Standard AGP at the site to support Workington Town and community club demand.	RFL Borough Council	Club	S – L (ongoing)	b
39	Great Clifton Lions ARLFC	Rugby league	Club	One poor quality rugby league pitch that is overplayed by one session per week.	Reduce pitch usage and seek access to dedicated training area.	Club Borough Council	Club	S – M	d, h

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
42	Lakes College (West Cumbria)	Football Rugby union	College	One good quality adult football pitch that is unused by community and therefore available at peak times. Also has one disused (due to poor quality) senior rugby union pitch. College is currently seeking funding to install full size floodlit football and rugby 3G AGP on disused rugby union pitch.	Promote availability of grass football pitch at peak times to help address shortfall of adult football pitches in Workington. Work with College to progress plans for rugby and football IRB 3G AGP to be used by rugby union and football clubs to alleviate overplay on grass pitches in the area. Ensure pricing policy is benchmarked locally.	FA RFU College	Key Centre	S	e, h
								S – M	f, h
44	Meadow Vale	Football	Parish Council	Two poor quality adult football pitches that are overplayed by a total of 7.5 sessions a week by Seaton JFC. Space adjacent to pitches is unused and could be developed for sporting use. Expression of interest received for pitch improvements. Although there is no changing attached to the site the Club uses Seaton Rangers ARLFC.	Improve quality/maintenance of pitches to help reduce overplay and develop space adjacent to accommodate additional pitches. Consider potential for lease/asset transfer to Seaton JFC in order to gain funding.	FA	Club	M	d, h, b
50	Seaton Rangers ARLFC	Football	Club	One standard quality adult football pitch that is used by community but has spare capacity at peak times.	Promote availability of site at peak times to help address shortfall of adult/youth football pitches in Workington. Explore options to accommodate Seaton JFC overplay.	FA	Club	S	c, h
		Rugby league		One standard quality senior rugby league pitch that is overplayed by one session per week. Pitch laid on top of a 'slag bank'. Club is currently seeking funding to develop the land adjacent to its pitch and install a RFL Community Standard AGP.	Increase pitch quality from standard to good. AGP investment unlikely at the location, therefore investigate increasing natural turf training areas.	RFL		S	d, h
52	St Joseph's Catholic High School	AGP	School	¾ size sand based AGP that is used predominately by the School but is used regularly in the evenings and on Saturday by hockey and rugby clubs for training.	Retain current use and ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment/maintenance of the site.	School	Education	S	d
144	Islay Place	Football	School	Managed by St Joseph's Catholic High School and contains two adult football pitches with no current use. Poor quality pitches due to drainage issues. Site is fenced off but is not serviced by changing rooms or car parking.	Work to improve quality and increase usage in partnership with a local club. Explore options for securing access to changing rooms.	County Council FA	Education	M	c, d, h
56	Walker Road Pitches	Rugby league	Borough Council	One poor quality senior rugby league pitch that is not used by clubs due to poor quality.	Make improvement to the quality of rugby league pitch to accommodate overplay on other sites in the area.	Borough Council	Club	S – M	d, h

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
58	Workington Leisure Centre & Pool	Football	Borough Council	Three standard quality adult football pitches that are used by community but have spare capacity at peak times. Site may be lost through development of new leisure centre. Changing rooms requirement improvement.	Promote availability of site at peak times to help address overplay of adult/youth football pitches in the area. Should site be lost during redevelopment of leisure centre then investigate whether play can be accommodate on nearby school sites, such as Southfield Technology College (if site is left vacant after formation of Academy). Alternatively investment into Curwen Park to create 'hub' site. Consider options for improving changing accommodation.	Borough Council	Strategic	M	c, h, e
		Tennis		No current provision.	Explore opportunities at the new Workington Leisure Centre to accommodate latent/unmet demand for courts in the area.			S	i
63	Workington AFC, Borough Park	Football	Club	Semi-professional club with no community use. One senior football floodlit stadium pitch that is used by two senior mens teams and one womens team. Site is leased from Allerdale Borough Council (11 years of 20 year lease remaining). Site is vulnerable to vandalism due to inadequate fencing.	Renew current lease and support club to secure perimeter of site.	Borough Council FA	Club	S – L (ongoing)	b
65	Ellis Sports Ground. Workington RFC	Rugby union	Club	Two standard quality senior pitches that are overplayed by two sessions a week. One of these pitches known as "The Paddock" is leased from the Council. Also one training/mini pitch on site. Changing room capacity/quality issue identified. Potential growth club in relation to the development of women and girls'.	Council to consider renew of lease and to incorporate adjacent Jane Pitt as part of the long term security and management of this Area as a whole. Assess club needs and in the longer term explore opportunities for a joint funding bid to improve pitch quality and address changing room issues.	RFU Borough Council	Key Centre	S-M	d, h, b, e
		Football		One standard quality adult pitch recently remarked with no current usage.	Available pitch to accommodate local demand. Ensure access to changing rooms is secured through the rugby club and put community use agreement in place to secure usage.			FA	S
41	Jane Pitt	Football	Borough Council	One standard quality adult football pitch being used but not marked by the Council until recently. Requires access to changing. In close proximity to Ellis Sports Ground.	Consider long term lease of the site to the Ellis Sports Ground/Workington RFC and formalise use with access to its changing rooms.	Borough Council	Club	S	b, h
97	Eastman	Football	Private	One standard quality adult football pitch that is used by community but has spare capacity at peak times.	Retain spare capacity in order to protect quality.	Council	Club	S	c, h
107	Victoria Junior School	Football	School	One standard quality youth football pitch that is currently not available for community use.	Work with the School to enable access to pitch for community use to accommodate current and future demand for football in Workington.	Council	Education	S	c, h
114	Derwent Vale Primary & Nursery School	Football	School	One good quality youth football pitch that is unused by community and therefore available at peak times.	Promote availability of site at peak times to help address overplay of youth football pitches in the area.	Council	Education	S	c, h

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales	Objective link
120	St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth football pitch that is currently not available for community use.	Work with the School to enable access to pitch for community use to accommodate current and future demand for football in Workington	Council	Education	S	c, h
204	Harrington Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Club	The courts and facilities at Harrington Lawn Tennis Club are old and are of poor quality.	In partnership with the LTA and the Club, explore opportunities to accommodate tennis courts which would replace Harrington Lawn Tennis Club and allow growth of the Club by taking on members from Ashfield Tennis Club which recently closed. Alternatively, seek opportunities for investment to improve court quality/site quality.	LTA	Club	M	d, f, a

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 9: PRIORITIES

Falling out of the Action Plan, the Council together with the NGBs have developed a list of Borough wide priorities as follows:

Priority 1 - Investigate the options for changing room provision within Curwen Hall either on or off site. Consider potential of onsite access, developments with the school merger, the new leisure centre and other nearby sports clubs.

Priority 2 - Reduce overplay and increase capacity on sites through increased provision (Seaton is a focus for the short term and potentially Wigton (Barton Laws)) and improved maintenance programmes. Assessment of standard of facility through the Regional Pitch Advisor. For key sites, undertake a Pitch Feasibility Study (Meadow Vale and Curwen Hall put forward as key sites with NGB support). Improved training/education for grounds staff and grounds maintenance contractors.

Priority 3 - Deliver a pilot study across all Schools/Community facilities within a cluster area to establish why some facilities are under used. Potential to investigate funding for a partnership member of staff to improve access to these sites for community use.

Priority 4 - Ensure work with groups using sites where the future is uncertain to mitigate any loss of facility. Priority over the School merger (Stainburn/Southfield) in Workington and the Moorclose pitches/changing rooms.

Priority 5 - To work closely with Netherhall Sports Centre as a key site to encourage full access to pitches and AGP and investigate the potential for an external changing/toilet block.

PART 10: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

Delivery

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Allerdale. 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 Allerdale can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

The 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 PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the steering group should not end with the completion of the PPS document

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

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

Monitoring and updating

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

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

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Ideally the PPS could 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 PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

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

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

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

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

Alongside 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.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Checklist

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

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

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

APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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

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.

Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)

In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England aspires to transforming sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics. The strategy will:

- ◀ See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- ◀ Create more opportunities for young people
- ◀ Nurture and develop talent
- ◀ Provide the right facilities in the right places
- ◀ Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- ◀ Ensure real opportunities for communities

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

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

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

- ◀ 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's area.
- ◀ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ◀ All secondary schools that wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ◀ At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.
- ◀ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ◀ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ◀ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ◀ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

National 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 FA National Game Strategy (2011 – 2015)

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Growth and retention (young and adult players)
- ◀ Raising standards and behaviour
- ◀ Better players
- ◀ Running the game
- ◀ Workforce
- ◀ Facilities

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

'The National Game Strategy' reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites. Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years, resulting in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

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

The FA National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2015)

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

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

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

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

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

It also commits to:

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

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)

'Grounds to Play' continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified in the ECB's previous strategy: Building Partnerships. The pillars are:

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

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

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

This plan therefore influences 'Grounds to Play' in the areas of facilities and coaches, which is where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The recently launched RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

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

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

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

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

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

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

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

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

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rffacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

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

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

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

England Hockey (EH)

'The right pitches in the right places'¹²

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

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

¹²

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

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

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

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Facilities Fund • Sportsmatch • Small Grants • Protecting Playing Fields • Inspired Facilities • Strategic Facilities Fund http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/strategic-facilities/	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Loans Scheme http://www.rfu.com/microsites/rff/index.cfm?fuseaction=loans.home	The Loans Scheme helps finance projects that contribute to the retention and recruitment of rugby players. Projects eligible for loans include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Club House Facilities: General structural improvements, general refurbishment, storerooms and offices, kitchen facilities, training areas. 2. Grounds (other than pitches): Car parking facilities, ground access improvements, fencing, security measures.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme http://www.rfu.com/microsites/rff/index.cfm?fuseaction=groundmatch.home	The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
EH Capital Investment Programme (CIP)	The CIP fund is for the provision of new pitches and re-surfacing of old AGPs. It forms part of EH's 4 year Whole Sport's Plan.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: Young people and hockey. Young people and sport in Milton Keynes. Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level. Smaller Charities.

Protecting Playing Fields

SE launched a funding programme; Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects over the next three years (2011-2014).

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

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

The programmes three priorities are:

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

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

Strategic Facilities Fund

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

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

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

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

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

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

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

ALLERDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Projects will need to demonstrate how the grant will deliver against Sport England's strategic priorities. The funding available is for the development of the capital infrastructure, which can contribute to the costs of new build, modernisation or refurbishment and purchasing of major fixed equipment as part of the facility development.

Funder's requirements

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

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

Indicative costs

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

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

The costs are for the development of community sports facilities and are based on providing good quality sports facility for the 2nd Quarter 2011. These rounded costs are based on schemes most recently funded through the Lottery (and therefore based on economies of scale), updated to reflect current forecast price indices for 1st Quarter 2010 provided by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), prepared by Technical Team Lead of Sport England.

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