



MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
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Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Melton. 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 2021. The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor pitch sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby pitches
- ◀ Hockey/artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Golf courses
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Bowling greens

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 across Melton 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, where 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 Melton, which should aim to be implemented from 2014 to 2021. 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 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.

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PART 2: VISION

2.1 Vision

Melton's Sustainable Community Strategy is a long term plan of the Melton Community Partnership. It represents the priorities and actions required to capture the needs and aspirations of the community. Its main drive is to make Melton Borough a place where people would like to live, work and visit. Key objectives include:

- ◀ Focus work in the priority neighbourhoods
- ◀ Re-vitalise Melton Mowbray Town Centre
- ◀ Create a Safer and Stronger community
- ◀ Reduce traffic congestion in Melton Mowbray
- ◀ Enable and support the provision of affordable housing
- ◀ Improve the health and well being of local people
- ◀ Improve learning opportunities to help individuals achieve their potential
- ◀ Improve the local economy and infrastructure
- ◀ Making existing structures and projects more accessible.

Therefore, a vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Melton Playing Pitch Strategy:

'To have an accessible range of outdoor sports facilities which offer opportunities for the local community to participate in sport, contributing to a higher quality of life for everyone in the Borough of Melton.'

2.2 Aims

The following 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 and 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

PART 3: ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

The following key issues are identified on a strategic level and for each sport from the Assessment Report. They form the basis for the development of the aims and objectives and subsequent recommendations within the Strategy.

3.1 Strategic

- ◀ Co-ordination of a structured sports club network to help build better links and relationships; whilst also providing a 'pathway' for participation.
- ◀ Opportunity to maximise community use and access of school facilities.
- ◀ Lack of a centrally located multi use 'hub' venue with appropriate ancillary facilities. A multi use hub site will help to meet the needs of high achieving and key sports clubs identified with current facility/provision issues (i.e. Melton Mowbray FC, Melton RFC) as well as the wider sports participation needs of Melton.

3.2 Sport by sport

Football pitches (grass)

- ◀ Lack of sites with appropriate ancillary facilities to service high level teams/clubs (i.e. above Step 7 of National League System)
- ◀ Three out of the four poor quality pitches in Melton are located on Council sites identified as having issues of unofficial use and litter.
- ◀ An overall decline in adult 11v11 football which has resulted in a surplus of adult pitches across Melton.
- ◀ Overplay occurring on two pitches at the Saxby Road site.
- ◀ Future shortfall of youth pitches (1 in total) and as such any current spare capacity should be retained on youth pitches.
- ◀ Future shortfall of mini pitches (2 in total) and as such any current spare capacity should be retained on mini pitches.

Cricket pitches

- ◀ Five sites are overplayed by a total of 51 match sessions per season. However, in reality overplay at three sites is minimal and should be able to be absorbed by pitches in their current state.
- ◀ Most overplay occurs at the All England Sports Ground (19 matches) and Thorpe Arnold Cricket club (18 matches).
- ◀ There are 12 sites with potential spare capacity but only six have actual spare capacity. No actual spare capacity is shown in West Melton; where overplay (two squares/grounds) and unmet demand (one square/ground) is expressed.
- ◀ Further investigate whether actual spare capacity in North, Central and East Melton can help meet overplay in Central, East and West Melton. Or whether new pitches are required to accommodate overplay and/or unmet demand.
- ◀ Lack of affordable indoor practice nets within Melton.

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Rugby union pitches

- ◀ There is minimal spare capacity (0.5 pitches) in the peak period at King Edward VII Community Sports Centre (Melton RFC) to accommodate current demand.
- ◀ Spare capacity is identified at Belvoir High School (one pitch) and Long Field Academy (three pitches).
- ◀ However, club demand is for floodlit training facilities.
- ◀ The current training floodlit pitch at King Edward VII Community Sports Centre is overplayed by 15 matches per week (equivalent of three good quality pitches).
- ◀ Concerns any loss of training pitch will result in training being displaced onto match pitches leading to overplay occurring.

AGPs

- ◀ Only provision is full sized sand filled AGP at King Edward VII Community Sports Centre. Refurbished in 2007 the AGP will require replacing in the near future (carpet of an AGP usually lasts for circa 10 years).

Hockey

- ◀ Adequate current supply of AGPs to service current and future provision for hockey in Melton.

Football

- ◀ The FA model suggests that there is a need for an additional 1.5 full size 3G pitches to service the number of football clubs in Melton.
- ◀ Development of a 3G AGP at Brooksby College due to open in early 2015. However, extent of community use is currently unclear.

Other sports

Tennis

- ◀ Three sites (equivalent of eight courts) are rated as poor quality.
- ◀ Priority for improvements at poor quality courts should link to availability of courts for public/community use.

Bowling greens

- ◀ Lack of junior participation to sustain future demand.
- ◀ Addressing spare capacity and maximising use of bowling greens, particularly for pay and play opportunities.
- ◀ Where demand exists, ensuring that quality is sustained.
- ◀ Notwithstanding that there may be additional demand for bowling greens in the future; there is an approximate current theoretical oversupply of two greens in Melton based on a membership capacity analysis.
- ◀ However, it is not feasible (due to the rural nature of Melton and the spread of greens) to expect clubs to consolidate onto less greens.

Golf

- ◀ No changing provision is available at Six Hills Golf Course (municipal site).
- ◀ All Melton residents are serviced by a golf course within a 20 minute drive time. There is considered to be a sufficient amount of supply for current and future demand.

PART 4: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic objectives and subsequent recommendations reflect key issues 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.

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 73) as well as 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?
- ◀ 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.

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- ◀ The level of current use and the impact on the spatial distribution of facilities across Melton of closing a facility.

It may be appropriate to dispose of some existing playing field sites that are of low value (i.e. one 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.

For further information please refer to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy - 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' Policy Exception E4 & E5 which can be found at:

<http://www.sportengland.org/media/123579/policy-exception-4.pdf>

<http://www.sportengland.org/media/123588/policy-exception-5.pdf>

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. This should help to avoid a scenario where a playing field is lost in an area which has deficiencies and is replaced on the other side of the Borough.

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

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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 local authority sites, there is a need to address the lack of sites with appropriate ancillary facilities in Melton. Currently there is no site in Melton which can accommodate fixtures above Step 7 of the National League System. Melton Mowbray FC currently play in a Step 7 League and (if promoted) would be denied promotion due to not having access to a ground with ancillary facilities to the standard required. The Club is currently displaced to Asfordby Sports Ground in order to meet its current league requirements.

In order to potentially access greater funding resources, it is recommended that security of tenure should be granted to the clubs currently or anticipating to play on these sites (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs). This would ensure that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding in order to improve pitch quality and ancillary facilities at such sites.

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.

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>

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Inviting clubs to apply for season long leases on a particular site as an initial trial may be a useful tool to test the viability and sustainability of club/site lease arrangements.

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://assettoolkit.sportengland.org/>

AIM 2

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

Objectives:

- c. Ensure a sufficient quality of pitches to meet needs.
- d. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- e. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.
- f. Establish an approach to securing developer contributions.
- g. Establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools to maximise community use of educational facilities.

Objective (c) – ensure a sufficient quality of pitches to meet needs

Priority in the short term (dependent upon limited resources) should be directed to poor quality council sites (preferably with security of tenure). 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 policy approach to these outdoor recreation facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

There are a couple of sites that are poor quality but which 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 quality was to increase. Improving pitch quality should not be considered in isolation from maintenance regimes.

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.

'Good' quality refers to facilities that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc., have access for disabled people and are supported by good quality ancillary facilities including changing accommodation, toilets and car parking. While 'standard' quality refers to facilities that have, for example adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear, reasonable changing accommodation and the goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. Please refer to the Sport England quality assessments.

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Improving pitch/surface quality as a priority

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	Matches
Football	Adult pitches	3
	Youth pitches	4
	Mini pitches	6
Rugby union	Pipe and Slit Drained and a good level of maintenance (D3/M2)	3.5
	Pipe drained and a good level of maintenance (D2/M2)	3.25
	Natural (adequate) drainage and a good level of maintenance (D1/M2)	3
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season

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 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 a 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 (d) – 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 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

Objective (e) – 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 as established through the Playing Pitch Steering Group.

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

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

Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence. However, one of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health through, for example, the PCT.

Sport England research suggests the following beneficial impacts of sport:

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 (f) – 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 new provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and its subsequent maintenance. Section 106 contributions or a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) 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.
- ◀ 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.

Objective (g) - Establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools to maximise community use of educational facilities.

The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet clubs can struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Melton pricing policies at facilities can be barrier to access at some of the education sites but physical access and resistance from schools to open for community use has also been an issue.

A number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and the local clubs. The Council and other key partners must work with schools and colleges to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address 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.

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

- ◀ All three secondary school sites are underutilised, especially for competitive club play.
- ◀ Community use is often permitted but not accessed by clubs.
- ◀ It is unclear whether community use agreements are official in place.
- ◀ 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 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:

- ◀ 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 (if required).
- ◀ 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 future deficiencies in the area.

There are other educational sites in Melton, which the Council has no control over the management or operation. It is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work together 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.

AIM 3

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

Objectives:

- h. Rectify 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 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 Melton can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- ◀ Improving pitch quality in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.
- ◀ The re-designation of pitches for which there is an oversupply.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

Maximising the use of existing pitches offers scope to address the quantitative deficiencies for most sports; particularly cricket and to some extent football.

It is unlikely that new provision of any cricket squares on public or private fields is required to meet the levels of demand identified for cricket both now and in the future. However, in the future there is likely to be a need to improve existing wickets and/or currently unused sites.

There may also be a requirement to protect some senior football pitches as this provides the flexibility to provide senior, junior or mini pitches (through different line markings/coning areas of the pitch). 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 expressed for youth (one pitch) and mini (two pitches) formats. There is also a need to address the lack of an appropriate venue to accommodate teams above Step 7 of the National League System.

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows for pitches to be rested in order 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 required.

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The Councils aspiration for the redevelopment of the King Edward Sports Centre site to a multi sport hub venue (with a potential 3G facility) is recommended. Such a redevelopment will help to specifically meet the current displaced demand expressed by Melton Mowbray FC and the floodlit training requirements of Melton RFC. Furthermore, the introduction of a 3G AGP will help to meet The FA Model recommended need for 1.5 full size 3G pitches in Melton. In addition, the King Edward Sports Centre site is well positioned in the central location of Melton Mowbray which will assist in maximising public accessibility (e.g. public transport promotion/ reduced car travel need) and the sports participation opportunities for the majority of the population in Melton.

However, consideration should be given to the impact the AGP development at Brooksby College (currently taking place at the time of writing) may have on the future need and demand for an additional facility in the area. To assist in this, a review of the use and capacity of the AGP at Brooksby College may be required in the future. Nevertheless there is an opportunity for the King Edward Sports Centre site to help address the displaced demand expressed by Melton Mowbray FC and the training requirements of Melton RFC

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

Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	The needs of the game have changed from implementation of the FA Youth Development Review. As a result, pitch demands will continue to change. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).	Consider leases to Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams. Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities. Work with clubs in relation to their pitch demands as a result of the FA Youth Development Review.
	Demand for senior football is likely to be sustained or decrease slightly based on current trends and the move to small sided football.	Sustain current stock but consideration given to reconfigure pitches.
	An increase in women and girls football following £2.4m investment over the next two years (2014-2016) from Sport England to increase the number of women and girls taking part in football sessions.	A need to provide segregated ancillary facilities and the potential need for more pitches.
Cricket	Demand for additional cricket pitches to accommodate unmet demand as well as club demand and midweek/weekend local leagues.	Access to additional new cricket pitches is unlikely to be required in Melton. Greater use/play on non turf wickets.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority. there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next 5 years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Rugby union	The Rugby World Cup (2015) is predicted to see a further increase in the demand for rugby provision. Strong junior sections	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate.
AGPs	Demand for 3G pitches for football continues to increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches to service competitive football, particularly for smaller sided formats of the game will result in some reduced demand for grass pitches. Provision of 3G pitches which are IRB compliant will help to reduce overplay as a result of training on rugby pitches.	Ensure that access to new AGP provision across the Borough is maximised and that community use agreements are in place. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface: http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf
Golf	Two key aims from the Strategic Plan for England Golf 2014-2017: To reverse the decline in club membership that has been occurring annually since 2005 and stabilise club membership. To increase the number of people who play golf at least once a week from the baseline of 750, 000 in 2014 to 910,000* by March 2017	There is spare capacity at all courses in Melton to accommodate current and future demand.
Tennis	It is likely that future demand for access to tennis courts in Melton will remain reasonably static.	There are a large number of tennis courts in Melton which are considered able to accommodate current and future demand. Clubs should be supported to ensure courts are well maintained.
Bowls	General trend of demand for bowling greens remaining static or slightly decreasing.	Likely to result in the need for less outdoor bowling greens. However, at this moment in time, given dispersed nature of provision it is not appropriate to suggest disposal.

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 may become redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy can also 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 5: SPORT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The objectives and recommendations look to address the issues identified from the Assessment Report. Site specific actions falling out of the sport by sport objectives outlined below are further detailed within the action plan.

FOOTBALL OBJECTIVE

Meet identified deficiencies and ensure there is a range of football facilities across the Borough to service *all* levels of the game.

- ◀ Protect the current level of playing pitches and seek to provide provision of a youth pitch (in East Melton) and two mini pitches across Melton.
- ◀ Look to transfer overplay to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity or are not currently used for community use. Geographical location is a determining factor for where people want to play and must be considered.
- ◀ Where necessary, reconfigure existing pitch provision with access to suitable pitches and facilities, to support and grow the game.
- ◀ Work with schools to secure tenure and access particularly to secondary schools to help address deficiencies. Especially in order to target access to cricket and mini/youth pitches as well as to create better club/school links.
- ◀ Where schools are available but unused ensure access arrangements are suitable for facilitating access to the whole community, particularly in relation to cost.
- ◀ Look to work with partners in order to provide access to a venue able to accommodate competitive fixtures above Step 7 of the National League System.
- ◀ Where necessary, increase the quality and standard of changing rooms, in particular to accommodate dual gender changing facilities (in line with The FA standards).
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnership and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded (i.e. FA Charter Standard Community) clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development (as detailed in the management objectives).

3G pitches

- ◀ Look to provide at least one 3G pitch within access of the main settlement of Melton. This can help to accommodate training as well as potentially competitive matches.
- ◀ Need to review demand/requirements of AGP provision in light of Brooksby College.
- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain 3G pitch quality in the long term.

RUGBY OBJECTIVE

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

- ◀ Address overplay of training pitch at club site.
- ◀ Ensure club has access to sufficient training areas which are either dedicated floodlit grassed areas or through the provision of an International Rugby Board (IRB) AGP.
- ◀ Any opportunity to provide additional changing accommodation at the King Edward VII site should be supported; particularly in order to serve different sports.

CRICKET OBJECTIVE

Meet unmet demand for access to additional pitches and work to increase the quality of existing provision to address instances of overplay.

- ◀ Protect current levels of provision and seek to address issues of unmet demand and overplay through relocating play to currently unused sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any facilities developed support opportunities for women's and girl's competitive cricket as well as indoor practice nets.
- ◀ Where possible support clubs to develop and improve 'off pitch' practice facilities.

HOCKEY OBJECTIVE

Ensure access to existing provision and work towards improving the quality of existing provision when possible.

- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain AGPs quality in the long term.
- ◀ Work with providers to ensure access to AGPs to accommodate both hockey training and competitive play.
- ◀ Any opportunity to provide additional changing accommodation at the King Edward VII site should be supported; particularly in order to serve different sports.

OTHER SPORTS OBJECTIVE

Maximise access to existing provision and look to improve the quality of provision when opportunities arise.

Golf

- ◀ Maximise access to courses and ensure affordable, pay and play options are offered.
- ◀ If demand occurs, look to work with partners to provide changing facilities at Six Hills Course.

Tennis

- ◀ Ensure court quality is maintained and that clubs can access the appropriate standard of courts to allow LTA competitions to be played.

Bowls

- ◀ 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 which plan to attract younger people through hosting events such as family days as well as establishing links with local primary schools etc.
- ◀ Where demand exists, ensure that quality is sustained or improved.

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

6.1 Introduction

The site-by-site action plan 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.

6.2 Justification of sites within the action plan

The action plan details recommendations 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/or 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.

Melton has a number of sites that are considered to be the most popular for sport and therefore need to be of a high standard in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week. The Council should ensure this provision model recognises 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 club 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.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In the context of developing a tiered model approach to the management of sports facilities Melton has a number of sites which are owned and maintained by clubs. These sites are recognised as the 'home ground' of the club with the management responsibility, in terms of maintenance and allocating teams to pitches, transferred to the individual club. Such sites are fundamentally different from those which can be hired on a regular basis by a club but which do not carry a responsibility in terms of allocating or maintaining pitches.

Proposed tiered site criteria

Strategic sites	Key centres	Club or education sites	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 several grass pitches. Including provision of an AGP.	Likely to accommodate two or more grass pitches.	Likely to accommodate 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.	Management control remains within the local authority or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement or education owned	Club either has long-term lease/hires the pitch for the entire season or owns the site. Education owned or management control may remain with the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement.	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 to changing for both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	No requirement for access changing to accommodation.

Strategic sites are of borough wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi sport. These should be identified on the impact the site can have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

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

Although these sites are more community focused, some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or even further afield). However, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e. a dedicated site.

From a football perspective, these sites may already seek to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for youth football 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. Initial investment could be required in the short term and is identified in the Action Plan where required.

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.

Club/Education sites refer to those sites which have been leased on a long-term basis or are hired to clubs for a season. Primarily they are sites with more than one pitch. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low. Consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on a 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 may 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 a club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the facilities.

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.

6.3 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.

6.4 Action plan columns

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisation(s) that Melton Borough Council should liaise with in helping to deliver the actions. The next step in implementing any recommended action from the plan is to agree a Lead Partner to help drive the action.

Timescales

The action plan has been created to be delivered over an approximate seven year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. It is not feasible to include all sites with identified development issues. Only sites, which meet the criteria listed above, have therefore been included. 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).

Aim

In order to ensure that the actions are delivering one of the three strategy aims of **Protect, Enhance, Provide** the final column relates each action back to one or more of the aims.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CENTRAL MELTON AREA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Latent/Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	2.5	-	-	2.5	-	2.5
Youth pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mini pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-

- ◀ No shortfalls in current or future demand
- ◀ Actual spare capacity on adult pitches should be retained in order to accommodate any change in future demand at any level (Adult, Youth or Mini).
- ◀ Melton Mowbray FC displaced to Asfordby Sports Ground due to lack of appropriate ancillary facilities.
- ◀ No site suitable to meet requirement above Step 7 of National League System.
- ◀ Brooksby College development will introduce 3G AGP and grass pitches for use.

Cricket

- ◀ All England Ground is overplayed by a total of 19 match sessions per season.
- ◀ Cricket square with artificial wicket at Long Field Academy is currently unused (with the exception for curriculum use). School has had a quote to replace the wicket but too expensive. School/club link and increased use of the site may help alleviate overplay.

Rugby union

- ◀ Melton RFC only club in area based at King Edward VII site.
- ◀ No training on match pitches as all training occurs on dedicated floodlit pitch. However, training pitch is overplayed by 15 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Oversupply of 3.5 senior pitches in area (predominantly at Long Field Academy). However, club demand is for greater floodlit training facilities.

Hockey

- ◀ One full size sand based AGP used by Melton Hockey Club. Facility can accommodate current and future hockey use.

Tennis

- ◀ Seven poor quality courts across two sites; King Edward VII Sports Centre (four courts) and Howell Sports Ground (three courts). No tennis club associated to either site.

Bowls

- ◀ No issues to address regarding bowls in Central Melton Area.

² In match equivalent sessions

**MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site	ID	Management	Sport	Current status	Capacity rating	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescale	Aim
All England Ground	1	MMTE	Cricket	One standard quality square with 12 wickets. Played over capacity.		Consider possibility of using currently unused sites such as Knossington Cricket Club or Long Field Academy (non-turf wicket). Option may be to transfer all junior play to Long Field Academy.	ECB/ Club/ MBC	Club Site	M	Provide
Asfordby Sports Ground	2	MMTE	Football	Three standard adult sized football pitches playing at capacity. Home of Asfordby FC. Also used as displaced home ground for Melton Mowbray FC (as meets league requirements). Site also contains a youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitch.		Address current nomadic play of Melton Mowbray FC through Councils aspiration for redevelopment at King Edward VII site. Work with the Club to explore potential of improving quality in order to increase carrying capacity.	Club/ MBC	Club Site	S-M M-L	Provide & Enhance
Egerton Park Sports Ground	15	MMTE	Football	Standard quality site with actual spare capacity.		Ensure appropriate maintenance is applied in order to improve/sustain capacity.	MMTE	Key Centre	S	Protect
			Cricket	Home of Egerton Park Cricket Club. Site has 15 grass wickets and a non-turf wicket. No spare capacity in peak time.		Ensure appropriate maintenance is applied in order to improve/sustain capacity.			S	
John Ferneley College	19	Education	Football	One Youth 9v9 football pitch not available for community use. Playing field refurbishment will provide an additional two 11v11 adult pitches in late 2014. Possibility all three pitches may become available for community use.		Establish relationship with the School in order to encourage community use in the future. Can provide a supply of Reserve pitches in order to help meet any change in future growth.	MBC	Education Site	M	Enhance & Provide
King Edward VII Community Sports Centre	20	LCC (transferring to MBC)	Rugby	Site consists of three senior and five mini/midi pitches. Rated good quality despite basic pitch maintenance. Club demonstrates need for greater floodlit provision to meet training requirements (see ID 78).		Maintain quality of pitch in order to retain current level of use. Explore redevelopment of wider site to provide a multi sports hub in Melton. Will help meet displaced demand from Melton Mowbray FC, training requirements of Melton RFC as well as the national and local sports participation/health agenda.	Club/ MBC/ RFU	Strategic site	S S-L	Protect, Enhance & Provide
			Sand AGP	Full size sand filled AGP of standard quality. Home to Melton Hockey Club. Surface will require refurbishment in near future.		Continue to work with the Club and sustain current participation.			MBC	
			Tennis	Four poor quality courts. No club attached.	-	Explore opportunities to improve quality. If no demand, provision may be surplus.	MBC		M	
Melton Country Park	23	MBC	Football	Two poor quality adult pitches on site. Pitches are played at capacity.		Look to improve quality in order to increase carrying capacity.	MBC	Key Centre	S-M	Enhance
Thorpe Road Recreation Ground	28	MBC	Football	One poor quality adult football pitch. Currently played at capacity.		As a minimum maintain quality of pitch in order to retain current level of use. Improve quality in order to increase capacity.	MBC	Key Centre	S M-L	Enhance
Howell Sports Ground	53	Club	Tennis	Three poor quality courts. No club attached.	-	Work with the Sports Club to explore opportunities to improve quality/demand.	Club	Club site	L	Enhance
King Edward VII Rugby Training Floodlit Pitch	78	LCC (transferring to MBC)	Rugby	Dedicated floodlit training pitch currently overplayed. To preserve match pitches the Club reports demand for additional floodlit provision.		Explore opportunities to provide greater floodlit training provision as part of Council's aspiration for redevelopment of site.	Club/ MBC/ RFU	Strategic site	S	Enhance & Provide

**MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site	ID	Management	Sport	Current status	Capacity rating	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescale	Aim
Long Field Academy	81	Education	Rugby	Three standard senior pitches. No community use.		Establish relationship with the School in order to encourage community use in the future.	MBC	Education site	S	Enhance & Provide
			Cricket	Standard quality cricket pitch with a non-turf wicket. Not in community use. School has looked at replacing non-turf wicket but too costly.		Work with the School to investigate opportunity to use site in order to accommodate overplay at All England Ground	Club/ Council/ School	Education Site (Potential Club Site)	M	

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

EAST MELTON AREA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ³	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Latent/ Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	2	1	-	1	-	1
Youth pitches	-	1	-	-1	-	-1
Mini pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-

- ⚡ Sufficient current and future capacity of pitch types except for youth.
- ⚡ Overplay of adult and youth pitches occurs at one site (Saxby Road)
- ⚡ Actual spare capacity on adult pitches should be retained in order to accommodate overplay.

Cricket

- ⚡ Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club is overplayed by a total of 18 match sessions per season. Club is looking to introduce additional grass wickets as part of recent extension to outfield.
- ⚡ Spare capacity at Buckminster Cricket Club and the unused cricket square at Knossington Cricket Club may help alleviate overplay.
- ⚡ Cricket square at Waltham Playing Field also unused due to poor quality.

Rugby union

- ⚡ No current rugby union demand in the East Melton Area.

Hockey

- ⚡ No current hockey demand in the East Melton Area.

Tennis

- ⚡ Knossington Tennis Court (private site) is unused.

Bowls

- ⚡ No issues to address regarding bowls in East Melton Area

³ In match equivalent sessions

**MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site	ID	Management	Sport	Current status	Capacity	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescale	Aim
Buckminster Cricket Club	11	Club	Cricket	One standard quality square with 11 wickets. Spare capacity as site unused on Saturdays.		Explore possibility of square being used to help meet some overplay from Thorpe Arnold CC.	Club/ MBC	Club Site	M	Protect & Provide
Buckminster Playing Field	12	Private	Football	Standard quality adult pitch. Unused.		Consider ability to meet overplay at Saxby Road. Alternatively use site as reserve and for recreational football use.	Club/ Landowner/ MBC	Club Site/ Reserve Site	S M	Protect & Provide
Knossington Cricket Club	21	Private	Cricket	Standard quality square. Not being used.		Explore possibility of square being used to meet overplay from either Melton Mowbray CC or Thorpe Arnold CC.	Club/ ECB/ Landowner/ MBC	Club Site	M	Protect & Provide
Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club	27	Club	Cricket	One good quality square with 16 wickets. Played over capacity. Club has plans to introduce additional wickets.		Support the Club in introducing additional wickets on site to meet overplay and/or explore option of using currently unused sites such as Knossington Cricket Club or Buckminster Cricket Club.	Club/ ECB/ MBC	Club Site	S M	Enhance & Provide
Saxby Road	25	Club	Football	Home of Melton Foxes FC. Standard adult sized football pitch playing at capacity. Site also contains a youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 pitches. Adult and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed.		Work with the Club to explore improving pitch quality in order to address overplay. Alternatively consider possibility of the Club using currently unused sites such as Buckminster or Waltham Playing Field s.	Club/ MBC	Club Site	S S-M	Enhance & Provide
Waltham Playing Fields	29	Parish Council	Football	Standard quality adult pitch. Unused.		Consider ability to meet overplay at Saxby Road (may require remarking as youth 9v9). Alternatively use site as reserve and for recreational football use.	Club/ MBC/ Parish Council	Club Site/ Reserve Site	S M	Protect, Enhance & Provide
			Cricket	Poor quality square. No community use due to poor quality.		If poor quality can be addressed, explore possibility of square being used to help meet some overplay from Thorpe Arnold CC.			M	
Knossington Tennis Court	68	Private	Tennis	Single poor quality tennis court, appears unused.	-	Facility may be surplus if no demand expressed.	Landowner/ MBC	Club Site	M-L	Protect

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

NORTH MELTON AREA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Latent/ Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	2	-	1	1	-	1
Youth pitches	3	-	2	1	-	1
Mini pitches	1	-	-	1	-	1

- ◀ No overplay recorded
- ◀ Sufficient current and future capacity of all pitch types identified.
- ◀ Given rural nature of analysis area, actual spare capacity on pitches should be retained in order to accommodate latent and unmet demand; particularly for adult and youth pitches.

Cricket

- ◀ No overplay at cricket sites.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity equivalent to three grounds.
- ◀ Cricket square with artificial wicket at Belvoir High School is currently unused (with the exception for curriculum use). School/club link may help increase use of the site.

Rugby union

- ◀ No current rugby union demand in the North Melton Area.

Hockey

- ◀ No current hockey demand in the North Melton Area.

Tennis

- ◀ No issues to address regarding tennis in the North Melton Area.

Bowls

- ◀ No quality issues at sites. However, two clubs identify plans to increase membership.

⁴ In match equivalent sessions

**MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site	ID	Management	Sport	Current status	Capacity	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescale	Aim
Belvoir Road	9	Parish Council	Football	Standard adult pitch. Used as a home ground for Bottesford FC adult teams.		Retain pitch as a reserve if Bottesford FC continues with plans to centralise all its teams at Bottesford FC site.	MBC/ Parish Council	Club site/ Reserve site	S	Protect
Croxton Kerrial Sports Club	14	Parish Council	Football	Site played at capacity due a poor quality of adult pitch.		Work with the Club to explore potential of improving quality in order to increase carrying capacity.	Club/ MBC/ Parish Council	Club Site	M	Protect & Enhance
			Cricket	Poor quality square with eight wickets.		Work with the Club to explore potential of improving quality as required.			L	
Belvoir High School	31	Education	Cricket	Standard quality cricket pitch with a non-turf wicket. Not in community use.		Establish relationship with the School in order to encourage community use in the future (if and when required). Long term may help to meet any capacity issues expressed locally.	MBC	Education Site	S	Provide
			Football	Site contains an adult and youth 9v9 pitch. Both of standard quality with no community use.					L	
			Rugby	Senior pitch. No community use identified.						
Knipton Bowls Centre	54	Club	Bowls	Good quality green. Club would like to increase membership.		Work with the Club to explore ways of attracting new members.	Club/ MBC	Club Site	S-M	Protect & Enhance
Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	59	Club	Bowls	Good quality green. Club plans to increase membership levels. Pay and play not offered.		Support the Club in plans to increase membership. Explore potential of offering pay and play as a means of attracting new members.	Club/ MBC	Club Site	S	Protect, Enhance & Provide
			Cricket	One good quality square with 11 wickets. Minimal spare capacity recorded.		Ensure current maintenance of square in order to retain current capacity and levels of use. Any long term capacity issues could be addressed by exploring use of Belvoir High School.			S M-L	
Bottesford FC	83	Club	Football	Site contains a good quality youth 11v11, 9v9 and a mini 7v7 pitch. Club introducing a new adult pitch in 2014. Also plans to build a new clubhouse so all teams can play from site. Longer term looking to provide small sand based AGP for training.		Maintain current quality levels and use and support the Club in plans for facility improvements.	Club/ MBC/ Parish Council	Club Site	S M-L	Protect

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WEST MELTON AREA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Latent/Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mini pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-

- ◀ No play or demand recorded in West Melton

Cricket

- ◀ Overplay equates to demand for an equivalent of one cricket square. Nature of overplay is across three separate sites.
- ◀ Frisby, Hoby and Rotherby Cricket Club express latent demand for a square.
- ◀ Cricket square at Wartnaby Cricket Ground is currently unused as is square at Park Field, Ashby Folville (on Saturdays); both may help to meet overplay.

Rugby union

- ◀ No current rugby union demand in the West Melton Area.

Hockey

- ◀ No current hockey demand in the West Melton Area.

Tennis

- ◀ No current tennis demand in the West Melton Area.

Bowls

- ◀ No current bowls demand in the West Melton Area.

⁵ In match equivalent sessions

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Site	ID	Management	Sport	Current status	Capacity	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescale	Aim
Park Field, Ashby Folville	6	Club	Cricket	Used by Ashby Carrington Cricket Club. Unused on Saturdays.		Explore possibility of square helping to meet overplay from Great Dalby Cricket Club.	Club/ MBC	Club Site	S	Protect & Provide
Corner Field	13	Private	Cricket	Standard quality square. Overplayed by six matches per season. Used by Great Dalby Cricket Club.		Work with the Club to explore option of using spare capacity (on Saturdays) at Park Field, Ashby Folville	Club/ MBC	Club Site	S	Protect & Provide
Frisby, Hoby and Rotherby Cricket Club	17	Club	Cricket	Standard quality square. Overplayed by six matches per season. Club expresses unmet demand.		Work with the Club to explore option of using currently unused sites such as Wartnaby Cricket Ground.	Club/ Landowner/ MBC	Club Site	S	Protect & Provide
Wartnaby Cricket Ground	52	Private	Cricket	Unused due to poor quality.		If poor quality can be addressed, explore possibility of square being used to help meet overplay and unmet demand from Frisby, Hoby and Rotherby Cricket Club.	Club/ Landowner/ MBC	Club Site	S	Protect, Enhance & Provide
Old Dalby Cricket Club	60	Club	Cricket	Standard quality square. Overplayed by two matches per season. Overplay should be able to be absorbed on site.		Ensure current maintenance of square in order to retain current capacity and levels of use and in order to absorb minor overplay identified. Work with club to explore potential of improving quality (or number of wickets) in order to increase carrying capacity.	Club/ MBC	Club Site	S L	Enhance & Provide

PART 7: 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 Melton in the seven years up to 2021. 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 Melton 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.

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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.

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

The steering group should regularly review and refresh area by area 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. Development of sites such as Brooksby College and King Edwards Sports Centre should also be refreshed as when greater information is available.

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.

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Checklist

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

<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.

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- ◀ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
- ◀ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ◀ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ◀ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ◀ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

National 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

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- ◀ Workforce
- ◀ Facilities

'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

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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.

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

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The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

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

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

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

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

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

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

England Hockey (EH)

'The right pitches in the right places'⁶

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.

⁶

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

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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"> • Improvement 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: 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 www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org	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: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, and floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).

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Awarding body	Description
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
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.

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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.