



STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
AFL-E	Australian Football League England
CFA	Cheshire Football Association
CFS	County Facilities Strategy
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EMJFL	East Manchester Junior Football League
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Management Association
GMAL	Greater Manchester Amateur League
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LMS	Last Man Stands
LFFP	Local Football Facilities Plan
MFA	Manchester Football Association
MRJFL	Manchester Respect Junior Football League
MYSL	Manchester Youth Super League
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NLS	National League System
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SMBC	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
SMJFL	Stockport Metropolitan Junior Football League
U	Under
WNLS	Women's National League System

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch facilities. It delivers:

- ◀ A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance. This details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision.
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the Strategy.
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date.

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete. The lifespan of a PPS is considered to be three years, although this can be extended if it is regularly kept up to date.

Where not already implemented, the recommendations that come out of this strategy should be translated into local planning policy so that there is a mechanism in place to protect existing provision and to secure investment where the opportunity arises.

1.1: Scope

The PPS encompasses all relevant facilities regardless of ownership and management. The following are included within the scope:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Cricket squares
- ◀ Hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Lacrosse pitches
- ◀ Other grass pitches (i.e., for rounders and Australian rules football)
- ◀ Third generation turf (3G) pitches

1.2: Study area

The study area comprises of the full local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Stockport as a whole. This entails splitting the Council's administrative area into seven committee areas that were also used for the previous study (although there have been some boundary changes).

The areas are detailed in the following table and shown in Figure 1.1, overleaf.

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Table 1.1: Summary of PPS analysis areas

Analysis (committee) area	Ward
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Bramhall North, Bramhall South & Woodford, Cheadle Hulme South
Cheadle	Cheadle East & Cheadle Hulme North, Cheadle West & Gatley, Heald Green
Heatons & Reddish	Heatons North, Heatons South, Reddish North, Reddish South
Marple	Marple North, Marple South & High Lane
Stepping Hill	Hazel Grove, Norbury & Woodsmoor, Offerton
Stockport Central	Brinnington & Stockport Central, Davenport & Cale Green, Edgeley, Manor
Werneth	Bredbury & Woodley, Bredbury Green & Romiley

Figure 1.1: Map of Stockport and its analysis areas



1.3: Headline findings

The table overleaf highlights the current quantitative shortfalls for each sport included within the PPS, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 3: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 5: Action Plan.

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Natural turf pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions. The table below therefore uses this, converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (carrying capacity) and how much play takes place (current use) into the same unit of demand to enable an analysis to be undertaken.

Based on how the sports tend to be played, the match equivalent session unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport, whereas for cricket, the number of match equivalent sessions is over the course of a season. This is because how much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a square, with only one match generally played per pitch per day and with the wickets rotated throughout a season to reduce wear and to allow for repair. Each wicket is therefore able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

For artificial surfaces, the carrying capacity of the provision is much higher, meaning how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how demand adversely affects quality, as is the case with grass pitches. Therefore, the total number of pitches required is instead used to form an analysis. This is most pertinent for football and rugby union (3G pitches) and for hockey (sand-based pitches).

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings

Sport / facility type	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week) ¹
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 9
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 24	Shortfall of 26.5
Football	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2	Shortfall of 1
Football	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 6
Football	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Shortfall of 0.5
3G (football team training)	11v11 (full size)	Shortfall of 11.75 pitches	Shortfall of 12.5 pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 42	Shortfall of 90
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	Spare capacity of 30	Shortfall of 18
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 144	Shortfall of 169
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 20.5	Shortfall of 23
Hockey	AGP	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Lacrosse	Senior	Shortfall of 13	Shortfall of 13
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Aussie rules	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

¹ Based on population growth to 2040.

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Conclusion

The existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall. **As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing playing pitch provision until all demand is met**, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as well as Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, which has additional tests (see Part 4).

Where demand is being met, as is the case for hockey, rounders and Aussie rules provision, as well as for some elements of cricket, this does not equate to a surplus of provision. Instead, any spare capacity should be considered as a solution to overcoming shortfalls.

Most of the identified grass pitch shortfalls can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities, bringing disused pitches back into use and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. This means that new grass pitches are not generally required, although such a need will increase if other methods of reducing deficits are not possible, particularly for cricket. Moreover, new provision may be needed to service any large scale housing developments or new school builds.

Notwithstanding the above, in regard to artificial pitches, there is a clear quantified shortfall of 3G provision that can only be rectified through the installation of new facilities. Furthermore, the deficit is relatively large. The development of 3G pitches could also help to alleviate grass pitch shortfalls via the transfer of play from overplayed grass pitch sites and facilitate the growth of teams and leagues that use for the provision for their playing formats (e.g., mini 5v5 and 7v7 football).

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PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

The vision for this PPS is to:

'Provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meets local and community needs of existing and future residents and visitors to Stockport.'

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 2.1 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all relevant stakeholders.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitch provision and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

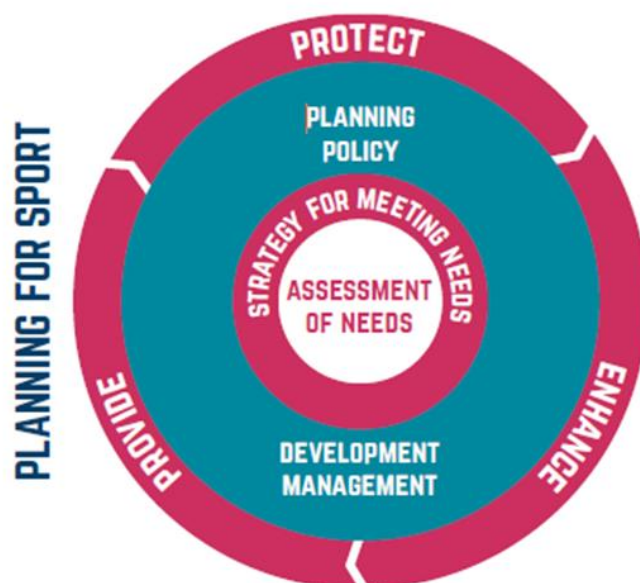
AIM 2

To **enhance** playing pitch provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

AIM 3

To **provide** new playing pitch provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 2.1: Sport England themes



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

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PART 3: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, in order to help develop recommendations and actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This then informs sport specific recommendations.

The included scenarios focus on the impact that they will have on the shortfalls and key issues identified and how they can be overcome. However, whilst each can improve the picture to a greater or lesser extent, it should be noted that carrying out some scenarios to the fullest degree is likely to be unviable and that a combination of actions will instead be required to ensure that all current and future demand can be met.

For site-specific and more localised recommendations, please refer to Part 5: Action Plan.

3.1: Football – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Football – supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity totals 10 match equivalent sessions per week across 13 pitches in Stockport, whilst 34 pitches across 25 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 37 match equivalent sessions per week in Stockport.
- There are current shortfalls across adult, youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches, whilst capacity is sufficient across youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- When factoring in future demand, shortfalls would become present on all pitch types, although growth for youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches is more likely to be accommodated away from grass provision.

Football – supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 157 grass football pitches within Stockport across 90 sites, with 119 pitches across 64 sites identified as being available for community use.
- Football pitches were also previously identified across six sites, although these remain in use as public open space.
- Tenure of football sites in Stockport is generally secure, although not at most school sites.
- Of the pitches that are available for community use, nine pitches (8%) are rated as good quality, 48 as standard quality (40%) and 62 as poor quality (52%).
- Eight sites are receiving GPMF support.
- Of the 64 sites that are actively used for community football, eight (13%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, 18 (28%) by standard quality ancillary facilities and 20 (31%) by poor quality ancillary facilities.
- There are 18 sites (28%) not serviced by onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

Football – demand summary

- There are 640 teams from across 88 affiliated clubs playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Stockport, with this consisting of 91 adult men's, 11 adult women's, 201 youth boys', 69 youth girls' and 268 mini teams.
- Since the previous study (2019), the total number of teams playing in Stockport has increased significantly from 570 teams to 640 teams (12% increase), whilst those based in Stockport (including exported demand) has increased from 648 teams to 876 (35.1%).
- Three clubs play within the men's NLS and have to adhere to ground grading requirement, whilst two clubs play within the female national league pyramid.
- High levels of exported and imported demand is identified, primarily due to use of central venues by leagues both inside and outside of Stockport.
- There are 255 Stockport based teams playing matches at venues outside of the Borough, with 203 of these utilising central venues due to the league that they play in. Whilst 19 teams currently import into Stockport.
- The EMJFL, CGFL, SMJFL and MYSL identify unmet demand.

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- ◀ Future demand from population growth projects an increase of three adult, five youth 11v11 boys, five youth 9v9 boys, one youth 9v9 girls, nine mini 7v7 and nine mini 5v5 team.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, 26 report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

In total, there are 34 pitches across 25 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 37 match equivalent sessions per week in Stockport. Improving quality of such provision will increase capacity across the sites and consequently reduce both current and future shortfalls across the Borough.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights that the large majority of existing overplay would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 3.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating
8	Bakery Bridge	Stockport Central	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1	2
12	Brabyns Park	Marple	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1
13	Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Youth (11v11)	3	Poor	1	8
33	Cheadle and Gatley Junior Football Club	Cheadle	Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	2.5	0.5
39	Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium)	Cheadle	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
40	Chester Road Playing Fields	Stepping Hill	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
44	Davenport Playing Fields	Stockport Central	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1	2
50	Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields	Heatons & Reddish	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
50	Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields	Heatons & Reddish	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
61	Harrogate Road	Heatons & Reddish	Youth (11v11)	2	Poor	5	1
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	Stepping Hill	Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	2	2

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating
74	Hillcrest Playing Fields	Stepping Hill	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
75	Hollywood Park	Stockport Central	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
94	Lumb Lane Recreation Ground	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
96	Marple Hall School	Marple	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
108	Norbury Cricket and Lacrosse Club	Stepping Hill	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1
110	Norbury Playing Field	Stepping Hill	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
113	Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground	Cheadle	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
143	St John's Wood Playing Field	Stepping Hill	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
155	Stockport Georgians AFC	Stepping Hill	Adult	1	Standard	1	0
167	The Mike Doyle Centre	Heatons & Reddish	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
170	Torkington Park	Stepping Hill	Adult	3	Poor	2.5	3.5
174	Warth Meadow Playing Fields	Stockport Central	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	Cheadle	Adult	1	Standard	3	2
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	Cheadle	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
182	Woodford Recreation Ground	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Youth (11v11)	2	Poor	3	3

As seen, most overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality improved to good, and spare capacity would be created on 30 of the 34 pitches. This means that only three currently overplayed pitches would still display a shortfall even if quality is maximised, whilst one pitch would be played to capacity. However, it should be noted that alleviating overplay would not create any actual spare capacity (as all of the pitches are used to capacity at peak time).

The pitches that would remain overplayed are located at Cheadle & Gatley Football Club (mini 7v7), Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields (adult) and William Scholes Playing Fields (adult). The only way to fully alleviate overplay on these would be to transfer demand to alternative existing or new pitches with available capacity (grass or 3G).

Across Stockport as a whole, reducing overplay through quality improvements would reduce the current shortfall across all pitch types other than adult pitches.

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Table 3.2: Impact on supply and demand if quality of overplayed pitches improved to good

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)
Adult	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 2.5
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 24	Spare capacity of 0.5
Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2.5
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4

When considering future demand, each pitch type would still experience shortfalls. However, this would be at a reduced level for each.

Table 3.3: Impact on future supply and demand if quality improved to good

Pitch/facility type	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)
Adult	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 4
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 26.5	Shortfall of 2
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 0.5
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 4
Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5

Priority improvement sites

As improving the quality of all overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving specific strategic sites. To that end, there are several sites identified that may need investment and that are considered key to the development of football across the Borough. This relates to the following sites:

- ◀ Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields
- ◀ Brinnington Park
- ◀ Davenport Playing Fields
- ◀ Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields
- ◀ Gotherage Lane Playing Fields
- ◀ Harrogate Road
- ◀ Lavington Avenue Playing Fields
- ◀ Marple Hall School
- ◀ Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground
- ◀ Torkington Park
- ◀ William Scholes Playing Fields
- ◀ Woodford Recreation Ground

Although most overplay in Stockport originates on single pitch sites, the sites listed above are multi pitch sites and improving their quality will therefore not only work to reduce pitch specific overplay but also benefit the overall supply and demand position via increasing actual spare capacity. This would alleviate existing shortfalls of adult pitches, increase capacity on youth 9v9 pitches and reduce shortfalls on youth 11v11 pitches.

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Table 3.4: Impact of priority site quality improvements (to good quality)

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)
Adult	Shortfall of 7.5	At capacity
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 24	Shortfall of 8
Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 4.5
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4

When considering future demand, each pitch type apart from youth 9v9 would still experience shortfalls. However, this would be at a reduced level for adult and youth 11v11.

Table 3.5: Impact of priority site quality improvements on future supply and demand

Pitch/facility type	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)
Adult	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 1.5
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 26.5	Shortfall of 10.5
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Spare capacity of 1.5
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5

Access to unsecure education sites

There is currently unsecured community use of grass football pitches at five education sites across the Borough. These are:

- ◀ Cheadle Hulme School
- ◀ Didsbury Road Primary School
- ◀ Hazel Grove Sports Centre
- ◀ Marple Hall School
- ◀ The Cheadle College²

The level of usage across these totals 16.5 match equivalent sessions per week across adult (2.5 match equivalent sessions), youth 11v11 (12 match equivalent sessions) and youth 9v9 (two match equivalent sessions) pitches.

As seen in the table below, if community use was to be lost at these sites (because they are unsecure), shortfalls would be exacerbated across adult and youth 11v11 pitches, whilst spare capacity would be removed on youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 3.6: Impact on current supply and demand from potential loss of unsecure sites

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)
Adult	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 10
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 24	Shortfall of 36
Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2	At capacity
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4

² The has a planning application approved (DC/089265) which includes a community use agreement.

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After considering future demand, shortfalls across adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches would be exacerbated.

Table 3.7: Impact on future supply and demand from potential loss of unsecure sites

Pitch/facility type	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)
Adult	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 11.5
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 26.5	Shortfall of 38.5
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 3
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5

In contrast to the above, the below table shows what supply and demand would look like if community available pitches with unsecure tenure had its tenure secured (e.g., via community use agreements). This would result in actual spare capacity being created on adult pitches (3.5 match equivalent sessions), youth 11v11 pitches (six match equivalent sessions) and youth 9v9 pitches (four match equivalent sessions).

Table 3.8: Impact on current supply and demand from securing unsecure sites

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)
Adult	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 4
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 24	Shortfall of 18
Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 6
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4

In terms of future demand, overall spare capacity would be created on youth 9v9 pitches, whilst shortfalls of adult and youth 11v11 pitches would decrease.

Table 3.9: Impact on future supply and demand from potential loss of unsecure sites

Pitch/facility type	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)
Adult	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 5.5
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 26.5	Shortfall of 20.5
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Spare capacity of 3
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that the number of unavailable pitches in Stockport is relatively minimal when compared to most other local authorities, with most sites offering access. Furthermore, the majority of sites that do not offer availability are generally school sites with just one pitch, meaning the impact of securing access would be minimal. Only Stockport Grammar School offers a large number of pitches that are not accessible (four youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5).

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Actioning all the above scenarios

Via a combination of improving pitch quality, improving priority investment sites and securing tenure, all current shortfalls in Stockport would be alleviated overall and considerable spare capacity would be provided across the pitch types. This is especially the case in relation to youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 provision, as seen in the following table.

Table 3.10: Impact on current supply and demand from securing unsecure sites

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)
Adult	Shortfall of 7.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 24	Spare capacity of 10
Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 9
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4

When accounting for future demand, the table below shows that shortfalls on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 would be alleviated if all scenarios were actioned, whilst the remaining shortfalls would be reduced. It should also be noted that due to the nature of mini football in Stockport, the future demand is likely to be accommodated at central venues across Greater Manchester on 3G pitches, meaning the remaining deficits is not necessarily a grass pitch issue.

Table 3.11: Impact on future supply and demand from potential loss of unsecure sites

Pitch/facility type	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)
Adult	Shortfall of 9	At capacity
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 26.5	Spare capacity of 7.5
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Spare capacity of 6
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 4
Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5

Impact of participation increases

Of responding clubs, 11 report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide over the next three years, totalling a predicted growth of 26 teams. This is summarised below.

Table 3.12: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Gender	No. of teams	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions
AFC Stockport	Heatons & Reddish	Men's	1	Adult	0.5
Cheadle & Gatley JFC	Cheadle	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Cheadle & Gatley JFC	Cheadle	Mixed	2	Mini 7v7	1
Cheadle & Gatley JFC	Cheadle	Mixed	2	Mini 5v5	1
Cheadle FC	Cheadle	Men's	1	Adult	0.5
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Heatons & Reddish	Men's	1	Adult	0.5

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Club	Analysis area	Gender	No. of teams	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Heatons & Reddish	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Heatons & Reddish	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Heaton Mersey Vipers FC	Heatons & Reddish	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
High Lane FC	Marple	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
Hillgate FC	Stockport Central	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Hillgate FC	Stockport Central	Boys	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Mellor FC	Marple	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
Mountfield Rovers FC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Mountfield Rovers FC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Boys	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Reddish Vulcans FC	Heatons & Reddish	Boys	2	Youth 11v11	1
Rose Hill JFC	Marple	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Rose Hill JFC	Marple	Boys	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Stockport Vikings FC	Heatons and Reddish	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
Stockport Vikings FC	Heatons and Reddish	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Stockport Vikings FC	Heatons and Reddish	Girls	2	Youth 9v9	1
Stockport Vikings FC	Heatons and Reddish	Girls	1	Youth 11v11	0.5

This growth has previously been discounted as it is considered to be more theoretical than that predicted via population forecasts; however, it needs to be considered should the increases come to fruition. As such, the following table shows the impact that these team increases would have on the existing supply and demand balance of grass football pitches in Stockport.

Table 3.13: Impact on current supply and demand from potential participation increases

Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)
Adult	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 11
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 24	Shortfall of 28
Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2	Shortfall of 1.5
Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2.5
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 3

As seen in the table above, if these aspirations are realised, existing shortfalls would be exacerbated across adult, youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches, and an additional shortfall will be created on youth 9v9 pitches.

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Impact of participation increases based on trends

As mentioned in the preceding Assessment Report, since the 2019 PPS, there has been an overall increase of 228 teams (33%) across Stockport (including exported demand). When broken down by pitch type, there has been a reduction of 31 adult teams and significant increases of youth 11v11 (55 teams), youth 9v9 (57 teams), mini 7v7 (76 teams) and mini 5v5 (74 teams) demand.

Using the above context, the table below identifies what the impact would be on the overall supply and demand analysis if this level of growth continued over the next five years (in terms of percentage increase). Where there has been a decrease in demand, as is the case for adult football, the levels of supply and demand has been kept the same as any further reduction should not be presumed or encouraged.

Table 3.14: Impact on current supply and demand from potential participation increases based on identified trends

Pitch/facility type	Increase since 2019	Predicted number of new teams by 2029	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions per week)
Adult	-	-	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 7.5
Youth 11v11	34%	84	Shortfall of 24	Shortfall of 66
Youth 9v9	53%	87	Spare capacity of 2	Shortfall of 41.5
Mini 7v7	62%	122	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 62.5
Mini 5v5	61%	118	Spare capacity of 4	Shortfall 55

As seen, if the same levels of growth from 2019 to 2024 is actualised up to 2029, the already significant shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches would increase to 66 match equivalent sessions. Similarly, the shortfall of mini 7v7 pitches would increase to 62.5 match equivalent sessions, whilst large deficits would be created on youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of grass football pitches.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment to improve quality.
- ◀ Transfer match play from pitches which remain overplayed to alternative pitches with spare capacity.
- ◀ Seek to secure community use at education sites (i.e., via a community use agreement) where community use is already present but without a long-term, formal arrangement in place.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to gain access to sites currently unavailable for community use, such as education sites (e.g., Stockport Grammar School) via a community use agreement.
- ◀ Support further transition of sites to club/league-led management models and explore opportunities for lease agreements or asset transfer, where possible.
- ◀ Update the LFFP based on the findings from the PPS.
- ◀ Utilise PitchPower to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Support eligible organisations and pitch providers to access FF funding to improve grass pitches where presently maintaining them and/or to take on greater maintenance (and management) of the pitch stock where possible.
- ◀ Ensure any additional future growth in demand can be supported, particularly in relation to women and girl's football.

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- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, focusing on multi-pitch sites, club-managed sites and key sites for adult and female participation.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new and/or improved pitch and ancillary provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football facility provision and not on existing playing field land, use contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football facility provision and not on existing playing field land, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls and ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are in place.

3.2: Third generation turf (3G) pitches

Assessment Report summary

3G – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Based on current demand, there is a clear shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training requirements, with this being relatively significant and in most analysis areas.
- ◀ Although not the only possible solution, there is also evidence that could warrant the creation of additional World Rugby compliant 3G provision given the grass pitch shortfalls evident as this could be a solution to alleviating the deficits.
 - ◀ For other sports, lacrosse activity on 3G pitch provision also needs to be protected.

3G – supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are 10 11v11 size and 31 smaller sized 3G pitches identified in Stockport, although one 11v11 size and two smaller sized pitches are unavailable for community use.
- ◀ All unavailable pitches are located at educational sites, with these being Aquinas College, Our Lady's Catholic Primary School and St Thomas C of E Primary School.
 - ◀ All of the 11v11 size pitches are serviced by sports lighting (two smaller sized are not).
- ◀ Planning permission has been granted for the development of 11v11 3G pitches at Stockport School and Reddish Vale Technology College.
- ◀ The Stockport LFFP has four outstanding projects for the creation of new 11v11 3G pitches, whilst aspirations also exist across several other sites.
 - ◀ Seven of the 11v11 3G pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register, whilst three are not.
- ◀ There are currently two World Rugby compliant 3G pitches, located at Burnage Rugby Football Club and Cheadle Hulme School.
- ◀ For the 11v11 3G pitches, there are four good quality pitches, five standard quality pitches and one poor quality pitch identified (at Aquinas College).
 - ◀ Ten of the smaller sized 3G pitches have also exceeded their recommended lifespan.

3G – demand summary

- ◀ The 3G pitches currently servicing Stockport are broadly reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- ◀ The capacity issues apply not only to midweek training capacity but also to weekend capacity, with 336 affiliated football teams currently registered as using the 3G provision in Stockport for regular match play.
- ◀ Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, but some rugby union and lacrosse activity has been identified as well.
 - ◀ In total, 203 teams are exporting match play demand outside of Stockport to access 3G provision, although this is primarily due to the use of central venues and is not considered to be an issue.
 - ◀ There are 19 teams that import demand into the Borough, all accessing 3G pitches.
 - ◀ 64% of responding football clubs state that additional 3G pitch access is required to meet or better cater for their training requirements.
 - ◀ A degree of unmet demand for rugby union is also identified by Stockport RUFC and Heaton Moor RUFC, with both aspiring to access 3G provision to alleviate overplay.

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◀ If future demand from population projections (and/or club aspirations) is realised, this will further increase 3G requirements for football and rugby union.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

Based on 876 teams currently being based within Stockport, there is a theoretical need for 23 11v11 size 3G pitches (rounded down from 23.05) to meet training demand. This is via use of the FA's model of one 11v11 pitch being able to cater for 38 teams. With there currently being 11.25 equivalent community available pitches, there is an indicative shortfall of 11.75 pitches.

Table 3.15: Current demand for 3G pitches in Stockport (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
876	23	11.25	11.75

When considering future demand for an additional 32 teams (based on population growth identified), there is potential demand for 23.75 11v11 size pitches overall (rounded up from 23.89). This means a predicted future shortfall of 12.5 pitches.

Table 3.16: Future demand for 3G pitches in Stockport (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size adult 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
908	23.75	11.25	12.5

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. This not only identifies where the potential need exists across Stockport, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

Table 3.17: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	118	3	2.5	0.5
Cheadle	156	4	1.5	2.5
Heatons & Reddish	184	4.75	1.75	3
Marple	67	1.75	0.75	1
Stepping Hill	96	2.5	1	1.5
Stockport Central	120	3.25	1.25	2
Werneth	135	3.5	2.5	1

This shows an overall shortfall of 11.5 11v11 3G pitch equivalents, with specific shortfalls in each analysis area. The largest shortfall is in the Heatons & Reddish Analysis Area (three pitches).

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Impact of 3G pitch need based on participation trends

As mentioned in the proceeding Assessment Report, since the 2019 PPS, there has been an overall increase of 228 football teams (35.1%) across Stockport (648 to 876). Using this, the table below identifies what the impact would be on the overall supply and demand analysis of 3G provision if this level of growth continued over the next five years.

Table 3.18: Potential Future demand for 3G pitches in Stockport based on a continuation of recent participation trends (38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size adult 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
1,183	31.25	11.25	20

As seen, if the same levels of growth from 2019 to 2024 is actualised up to 2029, the already significant shortfall of 3G pitches would increase to 20 pitches.

3G pitches with planning consent

Planning permission has been granted for the creation of a new 11v11 3G pitch at both Reddish Vale Technology College (DC/089000) and Stockport School (DC/089162). Following development of these, the overall shortfall of 3G pitches on an analysis areas basis would reduce from 11.5 to 9.5 pitches. However, shortfalls would remain in each, albeit at a reduced level in the Heaton & Reddish and Stepping Hill analysis areas.

Table 3.19: Potential supply and demand of 3G pitches based on LFFP projects

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current 11v11 pitch shortfall	Potential number 11v11 pitches	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	118	0.5	-	0.5
Cheadle	156	2.5	-	2.5
Heaton & Reddish	184	3	1	2
Marple	67	1	-	1
Stepping Hill	96	1.5	1	0.5
Stockport Central	120	2	-	2
Werneth	135	1	-	1

Based on the above, it is clear that additional projects also need to be identified in six of the seven analysis areas. Although there are no immediate plans on how this remaining shortfall could be alleviated, a number of sites/clubs have expressed aspirations and have initial plans drawn up. This relates to:

Unavailable pitches

There are currently three 3G pitches in Stockport which are unavailable for community use, with these located at Aquinas College, Our Lady's Catholic Primary School and St Thomas C of E Primary School. However, the pitches at the latter two sites are very small (measuring 32 x 18 metres and 20 x 15 metres, respectively) and are without sports lighting. This means community availability would make very little impact on the shortfalls identified.

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In contrast, the pitch at Aquinas College is 11v11 site and has sports lighting. Securing community use of the facility would therefore reduce the overall 3G pitch shortfall, and lessen the deficit in the Stepping Hill Analysis Area from 1.5 pitches to 0.5 pitches. The shortfall would also be eradicated entirely when accounting for the planned pitch at Stockport School.

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

There are currently two World Rugby compliant 11v11 size pitches in Stockport, with these located at Burnage Rugby Football Club and Cheadle Hulme School. The 3G pitch at the former is used for training and competitive demand by Burnage RUFC in addition to football usage (e.g., via the Manchester Respect League), whilst the pitch at the latter is used to meet various curricular and extra-curricular activities including rugby union sessions. The School also indicates that the pitch is hired out to football, rugby union and lacrosse community clubs, although it does not provide specific user details.

In addition to the two existing pitches, due to shortfalls across grass pitches and training areas within Stockport, it is evident that there is scope for additional World Rugby compliant pitches to be established. For this, a proposal at Stockport School is to be built to required surface specifications, whilst both Heaton Moor RUFC and Stockport RUFC have also expressed a desire to develop provision at their sites (the latter has submitted a planning application which Sport England has objected to as it involved the loss of natural turf provision).

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Refurbish existing 3G pitches where necessary (i.e., when they have reached the end of their recommended 10-year lifespan e.g., at Aquinas College and Hazel Grove Sports Centre).
- ◀ Explore community use options at Aquinas College.
- ◀ Develop new 3G pitch provision with sports lighting to alleviate shortfalls in the Borough, with additional pitches required in each analysis area.
- ◀ Seek to develop additional central venues in line with the need for more 3G pitches in order to facilitate growth of age formats which more commonly utilise such provision.
- ◀ Ensure EH and other relevant NGBs are in agreement regarding any proposals for conversion of existing hockey AGP to ensure a sufficient supply of pitches remain for hockey.
- ◀ Ensure that new 3G pitches are constructed to meet quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria for their respective sporting uses (e.g., football and/or rugby union).
- ◀ Where new 3G pitches are to be provided (or replaced/renewed), or where resurfacing is to take place, ensure the use of the most up-to-date and environmentally sustainable method of construction, use and maintenance is utilised.
- ◀ Ensure that all existing and new pitches that are on the FA 3G Pitch Register are re-tested every three years (or annually if used for National League System play) to sustain certification.
- ◀ For any pitches built to RFU specifications, ensure World Rugby compliancy and re-testing every two years.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a pitch replacement fund or other mechanism for long-term sustainability to fund any future repairs and eventual surface replacement.
- ◀ Ensure new and existing 3G pitches have LED sports lighting in order to reduce light spill and improve energy efficiency.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

3.3: Cricket squares

Assessment Report summary

Cricket – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket in Stockport on Saturday's and midweek.
- ◀ When future demand is accounted for, shortfalls for Saturday and midweek cricket are further exacerbated and a shortfall is found on Sundays equating to 18 match equivalent sessions a season.
- ◀ There is a clear inadequate supply of cricket provision to meet demand in Stockport.

Cricket – supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are 27 grass wicket squares in Stockport, with 24 available for community use.
- ◀ A total of 14 non-turf pitches (NTPs) are identified, with seven supporting existing grass wicket squares and the others being standalone NTPs.
- ◀ All clubs either own or lease their home grounds, with 15 clubs owning their sites and four clubs leasing their grounds.
- ◀ Woodley CC is considered to have unsecure tenure as its lease agreement has come to an end (it is negotiating a renewal).
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares found 17 (71%) to be good quality and seven (29%) to be of standard quality (none are assessed as poor).
- ◀ The standard quality grass wicket cricket squares are located at Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club - Dark Lane (x2), Compstall Cricket Club, Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme), William Scholes Playing Fields (x2) and Woodford Cricket Club.
- ◀ The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites determines that 10 (48%) are accompanied by good quality provision and 11 squares (52%) are accompanied by standard quality provision (none are poor).
- ◀ Of the 22 community available sites, 16 have dedicated fixed net provision, of which nine are good quality, five are standard quality and one is poor (at Stockport Trinity Cricket Club)
- ◀ All sites have pedestrian access, whilst most also have some form of car parking and a bus stop nearby; however, only three sites have bike storage facilities.

Cricket – demand summary

- ◀ In Stockport, there are 19 clubs generating 81 senior men's, 13 senior women's, 108 junior boys' teams and 15 junior girls' teams.
- ◀ The biggest club is Heaton Mersey Cricket Club with 23 teams (five senior men's teams, 16 junior boys teams and two junior girls teams).
- ◀ There has been an increase of 40 teams since the 2019 PPS, resulting in a 23% increase overall.
- ◀ There is currently no unmet or latent demand identified.
- ◀ Six clubs import demand from Manchester, whilst no demand is exported.
- ◀ There are 14 clubs in Stockport catering for All Stars cricket and nine clubs running Dynamos.
- ◀ 11 clubs report to be operating women's & girls' softball sections.
- ◀ There are ten additional teams expected to be generated by population growth alone, with this equating to four men's teams and six junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Seven clubs quantify aspirations to increase levels of participation, totalling predicted growth of four senior men's teams, six senior women's teams, four junior boys' teams and five junior girls' teams.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sophisticated maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay (e.g., at The Heatons Sports Club and High Lane Cricket Club), a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no effect on quality over time. Attempts should therefore be made to reduce identified overplay, although it is recognised that many clubs do not believe that there is an issue and are able to accommodate such demand.

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There are currently 15 overplayed squares in Stockport. The impact of improving these, where possible, is shown in the following table.

Table 3.20: Overplay if all overplayed squares were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Current quality	Type of wicket	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Good quality capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
16	Bramhall Cricket Club	Good	Junior	14	14
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	Standard	Senior	32	25
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	Good	Junior	9	9
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Good	Junior	15	15
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Standard	Junior	6	5
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	Good	Junior	1	1
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Good	Senior	5	5
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Good	Junior	32	32
72	High Lane Cricket Club	Good	Junior	1	1
102	Mellor Sports Club	Good	Junior	15	15
128	Romiley Cricket Club	Good	Junior	6	6
154	Stockport Cricket Club	Good	Junior	13	13
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Good	Senior	33	33
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	Good	Junior	21	21
163	Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	Good	Junior	17	17
181	Woodford Cricket Club	Standard	Junior	9	7
184	Woodley Cricket Club	Good	Senior	20	20

As seen, improving quality will only have minimal impact as most squares are already considered to be good. Overplay would only be reduced on three squares and only ten match equivalent sessions per week of overplay would be alleviated.

As another means of reducing/eradicating overplay, the following overplayed squares are currently without an NTP:

- ◀ Bramhall Cricket Club
- ◀ Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme) x2
- ◀ The Heatons Sports Club
- ◀ High Lane Cricket Club
- ◀ Mellor Sports Club
- ◀ Stockport Cricket Club
- ◀ Stockport Georgians Cricket Club
- ◀ Stockport Trinity Cricket Club
- ◀ Woodford Cricket Club

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Cricket squares can be accompanied by NTPs, with these made of a synthetic material that allows users to play on a usable wicket all year round whilst not contributing towards playing demand on grass wickets. By the nature of its design, an NTP is able to accommodate significantly more demand than a natural cricket wicket (up to 60 match equivalent sessions per season), meaning they can contribute towards addressing overplay issues on grass cricket squares. As such, installing an NTP to accompany overplayed grass wicket squares can alleviate capacity issues as some demand could be transferred.

As a caveat, whilst the inclusion of an NTP for the management of fixtures can alleviate overplay issues, usage is subject to league rules and minimum pitch specifications. Generally, only junior fixtures can be played on the provision, in addition to some lower level senior play and midweek demand (e.g., recreational leagues and friendlies). Furthermore, undue pressure should not be placed on clubs and volunteers to install self-funded NTPs.

Another consideration could be the installation of hybrid wickets. These are currently being trialled by the ECB, although the capacity impact that they could have is, as of yet, unknown. Bramhall CC has expressed an interest in having two installed at its site and could therefore be suitable if and when they are rolled out further.

A hybrid wicket combines natural turf grass with less than 5% of uniquely engineered, soft polyethylene yarn, which has already been used to improve golf tees, tennis courts and pitch surrounds. These wickets are to offer a greater capacity in addition to reducing time on repair works with a faster recovery time. Reports found that hybrid wickets improve surface stability, reduced wear, reduced bowler foot holes and significantly extended hours of playing time. Although it is difficult at this stage to understand what impact hybrid wickets could have on capacity, it is suggested that they could potentially alleviate overplay on both junior and senior wickets.

The biggest overplay issue is faced by Stockport Georgians CC, with overplay amounting to 54 match equivalent sessions across the site. Whilst an NTP could reduce this, it is unlikely that enough demand could be transferred to it to fully eradicate the existing deficit. This leads to the Club having an aspiration to install a second square at the site, which clearly warrants support based on the PPS.

In addition to existing demand, the Club also aims to add one senior men's, two senior women's, one junior boys' and two junior girls' teams, as per its future demand aspirations. This would lead to an increase in the shortfall on senior wickets to 45 match equivalent sessions per season, whilst the shortfall of junior wickets midweek would increase to 36 match equivalent sessions (based on the average number of matches played by such teams). Based on this, if a new square was to be created, a total of at least nine good quality (or 12 standard quality) senior wickets and eight good quality (or nine standard quality) junior wickets would be required to accommodate both current and future demand.

Accommodating future demand

In addition to Stockport Georgians CC, six cricket clubs in Stockport express future demand over the next three years, which if realised would exacerbate shortfalls for Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket. The table below explores the impact that this demand could have on a club-by-club basis to better understand what can and cannot be accommodated. This has not previously been considered as the aspirational demand is considered to be more theoretical than future growth predicted via population increases.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.21: Accommodating future demand for cricket (club-by-club)

Club	Future demand				Comments
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls	
Cheadle Hulme CC	1	2	1	-	For senior cricket, both squares are already played to capacity at peak time, whilst junior wickets used by the Club are already overplayed.
Hawk Green CC	-	-	1	-	Sufficient spare capacity exists at Hawk Green Cricket Club to accommodate an additional junior boys team.
Heaton Mersey CC	1	-	1	1	The Heatons Sports Club is already overplayed for both senior and junior cricket and therefore additional demand is not recommended on site.
Heaton Mersey Village CC	1	-	-	-	Sufficient spare capacity exists at Heaton Mersey Sports Club to accommodate an additional senior men's team.
High Lane CC	-	1	-	1	Sufficient spare capacity exists at High Lane Cricket Club to accommodate an additional senior women's team, although the junior wickets on site are overplayed and so additional junior demand is not recommended.
Marple CC	-	1	-	1	Sufficient spare capacity exists at Compstall Cricket Club to accommodate an additional senior men's team.

As seen, Cheadle Hulme, Heaton Mersey and High Lane cricket clubs cannot achieve all their future demand aspirations at sites currently used due to existing capacity issues. However, there are ways for most of the demand to be accommodated if existing NTPs were to be fully utilised and additional NTPs were to be installed at the relevant sites.

Additional squares

Based on the above scenarios, the following clubs could require access to additional and/or new squares, either based on current or future demand levels:

- ◀ Bredbury St Marks CC
- ◀ Cheadle Hulme CC
- ◀ Hazel Grove CC
- ◀ Heaton Mersey CC
- ◀ High Lane CC
- ◀ Romiley CC
- ◀ Woodley CC

One option that could be explored is access to school-based provision for these clubs, although the private nature of these could be problematic. Cheadle Hulme School and Stockport Grammar School both have grass wicket squares that are currently unavailable for community use.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Impact of participation increases based on trends

As mentioned in the preceding Assessment Report, since the 2019 audit there has been an overall increase of 40 teams (23%) across Stockport. This growth across all format with senior men's increasing by 18 teams, senior women's increasing by eight teams and juniors increasing by 14 teams.

The table overleaf identifies what impact on the overall supply and demand analysis this growth would have if it occurred within the lifespan of this PPS (next five years). It should be noted that one senior men's (Saturday) and one senior women's (Sunday) team equates to 12 match equivalent sessions a season. In comparison a junior team (Midweek) amounts to five match equivalent sessions a season. These figures represent the average number of games a season referenced in the Assessment Report.

Table 3.22: Impact on current supply and demand based on identified demand trends

Peak time	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	48	90	42	216	258
Sunday	120	90	30	96	66
Midweek	105	249	144	70	214

If the same levels of growth from 2019 to 2024 is actualised, within the lifespan of this PPS, the shortfalls for both Saturday and Midweek cricket would significantly increase. In comparison the spare capacity for Sunday cricket would be fully alleviated with a shortfall of 66 match equivalent sessions a season being established. Based on this scenario, in addition to the ones referenced above, there is a clear need to create additional capacity for cricket across Stockport.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Improve quality at sites assessed as standard and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Reduce overplay via quality improvements and the installation and greater use of NTPs.
- ◀ Consider installation of hybrid wickets as a further solution to alleviating overplay once more information is known.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place (e.g., Woodley CC).
- ◀ Explore opportunities to gain access to unavailable school sites.
- ◀ Consider creation of additional squares for clubs with existing and future shortfalls that cannot be fully overcome via other measures.
- ◀ Support Stockport Georgians CC to provide a second square at Stockport Georgians Cricket Club.
- ◀ Improve the changing facilities where there is a need to do so.
- ◀ Improve practice provision across Stockport, with a focus on clubs reporting existing issues.
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ◀ Ensure future demand can be accommodated, particularly in relation to a growth in women's and girls' cricket.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new and/or improved pitch and ancillary provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket facility provision, use contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket facility provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls and ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are in place.
- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing or new cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g., through ball-strike issues).

3.4: Rugby union - grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Despite five senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity, only one is considered to provide actual spare capacity (at Stockport Rugby Club).
- ◀ There are seven pitches across five sites that are overplayed by a combined 21 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overall, there is a shortfall of 20.5 match equivalent sessions to meet current demand, with this increasing to 23 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

Rugby union – supply summary

- ◀ Within Stockport, there are 22 grass rugby union pitches identified across 11 unique sites, with 15 pitches available for community use across six sites.
- ◀ There are two sites that previously accommodated rugby union pitches but no longer do so (two at Bramhall School and one at Marple Hall School).
- ◀ Stockport RUFC has been submitted a planning application for the creation of a World Rugby compliant full size 3G pitch, which would result in the loss of a grass pitch at this site. Sport England have objected to the current plans as it did not meet its policy exceptions.
- ◀ All clubs have security of tenure of their home grounds via freehold.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, eight are assessed as standard quality and seven are assessed as poor quality (none are good quality).
- ◀ Poor quality pitches are provided at The Heatons Sports Club, RSA Wood Lane Playing Field, Stockport Rugby Club (one of four) and Priestnall Sports Field.
- ◀ Most clubs access good or standard quality ancillary provision, other than Stockport Rugby Club, which has poor quality provision and aspirations for improvement.
- ◀ Manchester RUFC aspires to construct a new changing room facility, situated at the top end of the first team pitch.

Rugby union – demand summary

- ◀ Five rugby union clubs play within Stockport consisting of 80 teams, which as a breakdown equates to 15 senior men's, two senior women's, 29 age grade boys', four age grade girls' and 30 age grade mixed teams.
- ◀ When comparing current data to the findings of the previous PPS study in 2019, there has been an overall increase in demand amounting to eight teams across the clubs (11% growth).
- ◀ Burnage RUFC accesses a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch for all of its training demand, whilst remaining clubs generally use their grass pitches via permanent or portable lighting.
- ◀ Stockport RUFC also fields one senior men's touch rugby team, running sessions on Monday evenings.
- ◀ Imported demand is identified at Cheadle Hulme School, where Sale Sharks Developing Player Programme and Wilmslow RUFC utilise the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ No unmet or latent demand is identified from clubs within Stockport.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict a minimal growth of five teams, whilst five clubs have plans to expand by a total of eight teams.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

Of the six community club sites in Stockport, five currently contain overplayed pitches. The only site which currently has no levels of overplay is Burnage Rugby Football Club, which is also the only club site to also have a 3G facility. This accommodates significant levels of match and training demand, thus alleviating the grass pitches of excess use.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For the remaining clubs, whilst some, such as Stockport Rugby Club, also have some pitches with spare capacity, each also has provision that is overplayed. The tables below therefore look at the impact of quality improvements at each of the relevant sites. This can be achieved through enhancing the existing maintenance regimes and through the installation of drainage systems (where not already provided). The first table shows the existing position at each relevant site, with this then followed by several tables documenting different levels of improvement work.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.23: Existing supply and demand balance of overplayed rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	Technical score	Quality*	Sports lighting	Usage (match equivalent sessions)	Pitch capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Secure	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1	2	1
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Secure	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	6.5	2	4.5
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Secure	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	2	0
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Secure	M0 / D1	Poor	Yes	1.5	1.5	0
69	The Heatons Sports Club	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Secure	M0 / D1	Poor	Yes	6.25	1.5	4.75
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	Yes	Secure	M0 / D1	Poor	No	3	1.5	1.5
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	Yes	Secure	M0 / D1	Poor	No	1.5	1.5	0
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	Marple	Yes	Secure	M0 / D1	Poor	No	6	1.5	4.5
161	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Secure	M0 / D0	Poor	No	1.5	0.5	1
161	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Secure	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1	2	1
161	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Secure	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	1	2	1
161	Stockport Rugby Club	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	Yes	Secure	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	6	2	4
192	Priestnall Sports Field	Heatons & Reddish	Yes	Secure	M0 / D1	Poor	No	2.25	1.5	0.75

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.24: Impact of improving maintenance regime by one increment

Site ID	Site name	Technical score	Quality*	Floodlit?	Usage (match equivalent session per week)	Pitch capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Current capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Improved technical maintenance score	Improved quality rating	Theoretical capacity (match equivalent sessions)
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1	2	1	M2 / D1	Good	2
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	6.5	2	4.5	M2 / D1	Good	3.5
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	2	0	M2 / D1	Good	1
69	The Heatons Sports Club	M0 / D1	Poor	Yes	1.5	1.5	0	M1 / D1	Standard	0.5
69	The Heatons Sports Club	M0 / D1	Poor	Yes	6.25	1.5	4.75	M1 / D1	Standard	4.25
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	M0 / D1	Poor	No	3	1.5	1.5	M1 / D1	Standard	1
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	M0 / D1	Poor	No	1.5	1.5	0	M1 / D1	Standard	0.5
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	M0 / D1	Poor	No	6	1.5	4.5	M1 / D1	Standard	4
161	Stockport Rugby Club	M0 / D0	Poor	No	1.5	0.5	1	M1 / D0	Poor	0
161	Stockport Rugby Club	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1	2	1	M2 / D1	Good	2
161	Stockport Rugby Club	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	1	2	1	M2 / D1	Good	2
161	Stockport Rugby Club	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	6	2	4	M2 / D1	Good	3
192	Priestnall Sports Field	M0 / D1	Poor	No	2.25	1.5	0.75	M1 / D1	Standard	0.25

Through this scenario, overplay would be reduced on one pitch at Stockport Rugby Club, whilst spare capacity is created on pitches that are currently played to capacity.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.25: Impact of improving drainage to a D2 rating

Site ID	Site name	Technical score	Quality*	Floodlit?	Usage (match equivalent sessions)	Pitch capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Current capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Improved technical drainage score	Improved quality rating	Theoretical capacity (match equivalent sessions)
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1	2	1	M1 / D2	Standard	1.5
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	6.5	2	4.5	M1 / D2	Standard	4
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	2	0	M1 / D2	Standard	0.5
69	The Heatons Sports Club	M0 / D1	Poor	Yes	1.5	1.5	0	M0 / D2	Standard	0.25
69	The Heatons Sports Club	M0 / D1	Poor	Yes	6.25	1.5	4.75	M0 / D2	Standard	4.5
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	M0 / D1	Poor	No	3	1.5	1.5	M0 / D2	Standard	1.25
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	M0 / D1	Poor	No	1.5	1.5	0	M0 / D2	Standard	0.25
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	M0 / D1	Poor	No	6	1.5	4.5	M0 / D2	Standard	4.25
161	Stockport Rugby Club	M0 / D0	Poor	No	1.5	0.5	1	M0 / D2	Standard	0.25
161	Stockport Rugby Club	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1	2	1	M1 / D2	Standard	1.5
161	Stockport Rugby Club	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	1	2	1	M1 / D2	Standard	1.5
161	Stockport Rugby Club	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	6	2	4	M1 / D2	Standard	3.5
192	Priestnall Sports Field	M0 / D1	Poor	No	2.25	1.5	0.75	M0 / D2	Standard	0.5

Through this scenario, overplay would also be reduced on one pitch at Stockport Rugby Club, whilst spare capacity is created on pitches that are currently played to capacity.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.26: Impact of improving both maintenance and drainage

Site ID	Site name	Technical score	Quality*	Floodlit?	Usage (match equivalent sessions)	Pitch capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Current capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Improved technical drainage score	Improved quality rating	Theoretical capacity (match equivalent sessions)
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1	2	1	M2 / D3	Good	2.5
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	6.5	2	4.5	M2 / D3	Good	3
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	2	0	M2 / D3	Good	1.5
69	The Heatons Sports Club	M0 / D1	Poor	Yes	1.5	1.5	0	M2 / D3	Good	2
69	The Heatons Sports Club	M0 / D1	Poor	Yes	6.25	1.5	4.75	M2 / D3	Good	2.75
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	M0 / D1	Poor	No	3	1.5	1.5	M2 / D3	Good	0.5
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	M0 / D1	Poor	No	1.5	1.5	0	M2 / D3	Good	2
132	RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields	M0 / D1	Poor	No	6	1.5	4.5	M2 / D3	Good	2.5
161	Stockport Rugby Club	M0 / D0	Poor	No	1.5	0.5	1	M2 / D3	Good	2
161	Stockport Rugby Club	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1	2	1	M2 / D3	Good	2.5
161	Stockport Rugby Club	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	1	2	1	M2 / D3	Good	2.5
161	Stockport Rugby Club	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	6	2	4	M2 / D3	Good	2.5
192	Priestnall Sports Field	M0 / D1	Poor	No	2.25	1.5	0.75	M2 / D3	Good	1.25

Via improving both maintenance and drainage, overplay would only remain on four pitches – one at each of Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme), The Heatons Sports Club, RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields and Stockport Rugby Club. Total overplay would reduce from 21 match equivalent sessions to 10.75 match equivalent sessions.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

There are currently two World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Stockport, with these located at Burnage Rugby Football Club and Cheadle Hulme School. The 3G pitch at Burnage Rugby Football Club is used for training and competitive demand by Burnage RUFC and ensures that there are no shortfalls across the site, whilst the pitch at Cheadle Hulme School is used to meet various curricular and extra-curricular activities including rugby union sessions. The School also indicates that the pitch is hired out to football, rugby union and lacrosse community clubs, although it does not provide specific user details.

Due to shortfalls across grass pitches and training areas within Stockport, it is evident that there is scope for additional World Rugby compliant 3G facilities, as also set out within the 3G section. Based on current levels of overplay and the level of overplay that would remain even if other scenarios were undertaken, Stockport, Manchester, Marple and Heaton Moor rugby clubs would all benefit from such provision.

Linked to the above, both Heaton Moor RUFC and Stockport RUFC have expressed a particular desire to access 3G pitches. The table below therefore tests the impact of relocating their training demand from existing grass pitches onto 3G provision.

Table 3.27: Impact of 3G access on capacity for Heaton Moor RUFC and Stockport RUFC

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Capacity after removing training demand
69	The Heatons Sports Club	1	M0/D1 (Poor)	0	0
69	The Heatons Sports Club	1	M0/D1 (Poor)	4.75	0.5
-	-	-	Total	4.75	0.5
-	-	-	-	-	-
161	Stockport Rugby Club	1	M0 / D0 (Poor)	1	0.5
161	Stockport Rugby Club	1	M1 / D1 (Standard)	1	1
161	Stockport Rugby Club	1	M1 / D1 (Standard)	1	1
161	Stockport Rugby Club	1	M1 / D1 (Standard)	4	2
-	-	-	Total	3	4.5

As seen, if training demand was removed off existing grass pitches at The Heatons Sports Club onto 3G, overplay would reduce to minimal levels. For Stockport Rugby Club, overplay would be fully eradicated and there would be spare capacity across all pitches onsite.

Impact of club aspirational demand on future supply and demand

Future demand expressed by club aspirations is considered to be more aspirational than that forecast via population projections. As such, it has been discounted up until this stage. However, this scenario explores the impact that the demand would have if the growth was realised, which the RFU deems to be realistic. The growth in women's and girls' rugby is considered especially likely moving forward as this is a target area, especially with the upcoming 2025 World Cup being hosted locally (Manchester RUFC and Stockport RUFC are RFU focus clubs).

Five clubs currently express future demand over the next three years, with this equating to a growth of eight additional teams and four match equivalent sessions of play. Broken down by analysis area, this totals two match equivalent sessions per week in the both the Heatons & Reddish and Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South analysis areas.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.28: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future team aspirations	Match equivalent sessions on a senior pitch
Burnage RUFC	Heatons & Reddish	3 x age grade boys	1.5
Heaton Moor RUFC	Heatons & Reddish	1 x age grade girls	0.5
Manchester RUFC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1 x age grade girls	0.5
Manchester RUFC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	1 x senior women's	0.5
Stockport RUFC	Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	2 x age grade girls	1

The table below shows what the impact would be on overall supply and demand analysis if club aspirational demand came to fruition. As seen, the existing shortfall increases from 20.5 match equivalent sessions to 24.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 3.29: Impact of club aspirational future demand (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Potential total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	9.5	9.5	2	11.5
Cheadle	-	-	0	-	0
Heatons & Reddish	0.5	5.5	5	2	7
Marple	-	6	6	-	6
Stepping Hill	-	-	0	-	0
Stockport Central	-	-	0	-	0
Werneth	-	-	0	-	0
Stockport	0.5	21	20.5	4	24.5

The above further demonstrates the need to undertake the other scenarios set out, i.e., pitch quality improvements, additional sports lighting installation and the creation of additional World Rugby compliant 3G pitches. Through this, it is considered that all future demand could be accommodated; however, without it, existing deficits will only increase.

Impact of participation increases based on trends

As mentioned in the proceeding Assessment Report, since the 2019 audit there has been an overall increase of eight teams (11%) across Stockport. This growth has come in the junior / colts age group with an increase of 57% or 12 teams. In comparison there have been marginal decreases for both adult and mini teams equating to two teams each.

The table overleaf identifies what impact on the overall supply and demand analysis this growth would have if it occurred within the lifespan of this PPS (next five years). It should be noted that each team represents 0.5 match equivalent sessions (playing on a home and away basis). Where there has been a decrease in demand, such as adult and mini, the levels of supply and demand has been kept the same. This is based on the RFU continued aspirations to grow participation across all age groups.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.30: Impact on current supply and demand from potential participation increases based on identified trends

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Potential total
Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South	-	9.5	9.5	2.5	12
Cheadle	-	-	0	-	0
Heatons & Reddish	0.5	5.5	5	2.5	7.5
Marple	-	6	6	1	7
Stepping Hill	-	-	0	-	0
Stockport Central	-	-	0	-	0
Werneth	-	-	0	-	0
Stockport	0.5	21	20.5	6	26.5

If the same levels of growth from 2019 to 2024 is actualised, within the lifespan of this PPS, the shortfalls in the Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South, Heatons & Reddish and Marple analysis areas would all increase. Overall, the shortfalls would increase from 20.5 to 26.5 match equivalent sessions.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches and areas used for rugby union activity.
- ✦ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems, particularly at sites containing overplayed pitches.
- ✦ Support clubs in taking part in the GMA pitch advisory service to explore technical requirements to help pitch improvement.
- ✦ Install additional sports lighting where it is possible and required to reduce existing overplay on pitches used for training via the dispersal of demand.
- ✦ Install additional World Rugby compliant 3G pitches to service clubs with particularly high levels of overplay which cannot be eradicated via other means.
- ✦ Ensure future demand can be accommodated, particularly in relation to the projected growth of women's and girls' activity.
- ✦ Support clubs with their aspirations to improve their ancillary facilities.
- ✦ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new and/or improved pitch and ancillary provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ✦ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby union facility provision, use contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ✦ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby union facility provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls and ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are in place.

3.5: Hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

Assessment Report summary

Hockey – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Overall, there is sufficient quantity of full size hockey suitable AGPs to meet current and future demand for hockey in Stockport.
- ◀ For Stockport Bramhall HC, priority should be placed on protecting the pitch at Bramhall High School, although access to an additional pitch may be required if it was to grow its senior demand.
- ◀ It should also be ensured that Heaton Moor Junior HC can continue to be adequately accommodated and that provision within Stockport is available should it need to return to the Borough.

Hockey – supply summary

- ◀ There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs in Stockport, with all being serviced by sports lighting and available for community use.
- ◀ There are also 13 smaller size sand-based pitches in Stockport across 12 sites, with five of these available for community use and four serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ The full size pitch at Bramhall High School is currently the only pitch in use for community hockey, although the smaller sized pitch at Priestnall School has also previously been accessed.
- ◀ A disused pitch is identified at Peel Moat Leisure Centre, where planning permission was granted in July 2023 to cover the surface with topsoil; however, Sport England objected to this proposal as it did not meet its playing fields policy and Paragraph 103 of the NPPF. Aspirations now exist to convert the pitch to 3G and Sport England maintains that replacement is required in accordance to planning policy.
- ◀ Planning permission for the 3G conversion of the full size pitch at Reddish Vale Technology College has been approved (June 2023).
- ◀ Of the full size pitches, three are owned and managed by the education sector and are located at school sites, whilst one is managed by Stockport Bramhall HC at Bramhall High School.
- ◀ The pitch at Bramhall High School and Werneth School are accessed as standard quality, whilst the pitch at Cheadle Hulme School is poor quality and has far exceeded its recommended lifespan.
- ◀ In relation to the smaller sized pitches, five are considered to be poor quality, with this including the used provision at Priestnall School.
- ◀ Changing provision at Bramhall High School is currently unavailable following an inspection of Bramhall High School, with RAAC found in some parts of the facility.
- ◀ All sites have good access arrangements for all relevant modes of travel.

Hockey – demand summary

- ◀ There are two hockey clubs based in Stockport.
- ◀ Stockport Bramhall HC is a large club catering for 12 teams, whilst Heaton Moor Junior HC fields just three junior teams.
- ◀ Since the 2019 PPS, there has been a slight decrease in senior teams, although this does not reflect overall membership numbers, which according to EH has likely grown.
- ◀ Stockport Bramhall HC also operates Back to Hockey sessions at its home venue, Bramhall High School.
- ◀ Heaton Moor Juniors HC is currently exporting all demand into Manchester via accessing a pitch at Parris Wood High School for training and through use of a central venue for matches.
- ◀ It is unknown if either club has any growth plans, although it is suggested that both Stockport Bramhall HC and Heaton Moor Junior HC aspire to grow.
- ◀ All community available pitches have some level of spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey usage, although the pitch at Bramhall High School is generally used to capacity on Saturdays.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenarios

Accommodating current and future demand

As a reminder, one full size sports-lit AGP is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one pitch being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' pitch).

On the basis that there are three full size AGPs available which can accommodate hockey matches in Stockport, the above calculation provides an opportunity to accommodate up to 24 hockey teams. With only eight Saturday teams currently playing in the Borough, there is, thus, sufficient spare capacity to accommodate demand. In fact, this means that only one pitch is currently required, although any growth will result in the need for a second pitch.

As the pitch at Bramhall High School is already in use for community hockey via Stockport Bramhall HC, it is imperative that this pitch is protected. In addition, the pitch at Cheadle Hulme School has previously been utilised by the Club and sits within the same locality. As a result, this should also be protected for hockey usage as it can provide an overspill venue if it was required.

In relation to the pitch at Cheadle Hulme School, this needs imminent resurfacing in order to bring it up to an appropriate level. In addition, over the lifespan of this PPS, it is likely that the pitch at Bramhall High School will also need refurbishment.

In addition, if Stockport Bramhall HC starts to access the pitch at Cheadle Hulme School, an agreement should be sort after to secure this use. If this cannot be achieved, there would be a potential need for the remaining hockey suitable AGP at Werneth School to also be protected and improved.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

The AGPs at Bramhall High School and Cheadle Hulme School must be protected for hockey usage and therefore cannot be converted to 3G. This is because Stockport Bramhall HC utilises the provision at Bramhall High School and could require future access at Cheadle Hulme School.

Similarly, EH's current stance in relation to Werneth School is that it should also be protected for hockey, with this linked to the School's own curricular and extra-curricular requirements. However, the NGB notes that this can be continually reviewed as part of the Stage E process of the PPS.

Any conversion of a sand based AGP to 3G should not take place unless consultation with EH identifies the AGP is not required to meet existing or future predicted demand. This PPS only provides a snapshot in time which may change as other supply and demand alterations take place. Furthermore, any 3G conversion will need to be carried out in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Impact of participation increases based on trends

As mentioned in the proceeding Assessment Report, since the 2019 audit there has been a slight decrease in senior teams, with 10 teams reducing to nine (including other team demand), whereas junior teams has decreased by one team. This, however, does not reflect overall membership numbers, which according to EH has likely grown, especially and junior level, despite fewer teams being fielded. There is sufficient capacity to accommodate current and any future demand within Stockport for hockey however there is a need for pitch refurbishments and securing tenure for community hockey clubs.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure that the full size hockey suitable AGPs at Bramhall High School and Cheadle Hulme School are protected for continued hockey use.
- ◀ Review the requirement for Werneth School as part of the Stage E process.
- ◀ Ensure the resurfacing of Cheadle Hulme School takes place in the short term, whilst monitoring the quality of the pitch at Bramhall High School with the likelihood of it requiring resurfacing within the lifespan of this PPS.
- ◀ Look to secure long term tenure for hockey usage at Cheadle Hulme School.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision, particularly at Bramhall High School.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new and/or improved pitch and ancillary provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site hockey facility provision, use contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site hockey facility provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls and ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are in place.

3.6: Lacrosse pitches

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ All lacrosse pitches located in Stockport at overplayed, with total overplay amounting to 13 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is currently an insufficient supply of lacrosse pitches to meet demand in Stockport.

Supply summary

- ◀ There are ten senior grass lacrosse pitches in Stockport located across seven sites, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ There are no dedicated pitches for junior teams, which instead play on senior pitches that are shortened through temporary line markings or with cones.
- ◀ Of the pitches, three are assessed as good quality and six as standard quality and one of poor quality.
- ◀ Brabyns Park and Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club are the only sites with a poor quality ancillary provision.

Demand summary

- ◀ In total, there are six clubs generating 20 senior men's, four senior women's, 27 junior boys' teams and 21 junior girls' teams.
- ◀ All clubs are large clubs fielding several senior and junior teams.
- ◀ Overall, since the previous PPS in 2019, there has been an increase of 10 teams, with demand growing from 62 to 72 in 2024.
- ◀ Whilst Norbury Lacrosse Club predominately plays at Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club in Stockport, it has also recently begun to access Disley Amalgamated Sports Club in Cheshire East (exported demand).
- ◀ No future, latent or unmet demand has been identified in Stockport; however, this is relatively unknown as most clubs did not respond to consultation requests.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality / addressing overplay

In total, there are nine lacrosse pitches across six sites which are overplayed by a combined total of 14 match equivalent sessions per week in Stockport. Improving quality of such provision will increase capacity across the sites and consequently reduce current shortfalls across the Borough, as seen in the following table (the pitches at Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club are already good quality and are therefore not included).

Table 3.31: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Capacity rating	Current usage	Current Capacity balance	Good quality capacity balance
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club	2	4	5.5	1.5	0.5
69	The Heatons Sports Club	2	4	7	3	1
108	Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club	1	2	3.5	1.5	0.5
154	Stockport Cricket Club	1	2	6	4	3

As shown, if the four included sites had their pitches improved to good quality, overplay would be alleviated and spare capacity created at one site (Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club). All remaining sites would shortfalls remaining albeit at a reduced level.

In order to address the remaining shortfalls, a number of options could help, including but not limited to, additional pitch provision onsite (if space allows), additional pitch provision at an alternative site and/or utilisation of 3G provision and AGP's for matches.

Impact of participation increases based on trends

As mentioned in the proceeding Assessment Report, since the 2019 audit there has been an increase of 10 teams, with demand growing from 62 to 72 in 2024. Demand for senior men's and junior boys and girls have all increased, whilst the number of senior women's teams have marginally decreased from four to three teams. With each Lacrosse site in Stockport currently either being played to capacity or overplayed, any level of future growth would only further compound this issue. Overall, across the Authority the current shortfall of 13 match equivalent sessions would increase to 18 match equivalent sessions if the same level of growth occurred.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of grass lacrosse pitches.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment to improve quality.
- ◀ Transfer match play from pitches which remain overplayed to alternative (or new) pitches with spare capacity.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to transfer match play demand onto AGP and 3G pitches to alleviate overplay across the Borough.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure where it is required.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

3.7: Other grass pitch sports

Assessment Report summary

Other grass pitch sports – Supply and demand summary

- ◀ In isolation, the pitch used for Aussie Rules at Burnage Rugby Club is sufficient to accommodate the demand expressed by Manchester Mosquitoes; however, it is predominantly used for rugby union and post-season remedial work may therefore be impacted.
- ◀ As there are no rounders clubs in Stockport it is considered no community facilities are currently required.

Other grass pitch sports – Supply summary

- ◀ A rugby union pitch at Burnage Rugby Club is used to accommodate Aussie rules demand from Manchester Mosquitoes
- ◀ There are currently 30 rounders diamonds identified across 12 sites in Stockport, although none are known to be available for community use and they are all located at schools.

Other grass pitch sports – Demand summary

- ◀ There is one team identified as playing Aussie Rules within Stockport, with this known as the Manchester Mosquitoes; it fields one senior men's team.
- ◀ No formal rounders club demand currently exists in Stockport; however, a significant number of clubs are identified in neighbouring Manchester.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure Manchester Mosquitoes continues to have a home site to operate from.
- ◀ Ensure appropriate maintenance is carried out at Burnage Rugby Club to support dual use nature of the provision.
- ◀ Retain quantity of rounders provision for curricular and extra-curricular needs and to provide for community demand should any arise in the future.

PART 4: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPS, that playing pitches are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPS, that playing pitches are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPS shows that all existing playing field sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes disused, underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

NPPF paragraph 103 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

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

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The PPS should also be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision as well as accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications should be assessed on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of provision used within the last five years (whilst being a non-statutory on playing field applications that have not been used for longer than five years) and will use the PPS to help assess those planning applications against its Playing Fields Policy.

Sport England will object to proposals relating to developments impacting on playing field provision (and accompanying ancillary provision) unless at least one of its five policy exceptions is met. The exceptions are:

- ◀ **Exception 1:** Excess of provision – a robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
- ◀ **Exception 2:** Ancillary development – the proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.
- ◀ **Exception 3:** Land incapable of forming part of a pitch – the proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:
 - ◀ reduce the size of any playing pitch;
 - ◀ result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
 - ◀ reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain their quality;
 - ◀ result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site; or
 - ◀ prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site.
- ◀ **Exception 4:** Replacement provision of equivalent or better quality and quantity – the area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field:
 - ◀ of equivalent or better quality, and
 - ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity, and
 - ◀ in a suitable location, and
 - ◀ subject to equivalent or better accessibility and management arrangements.
- ◀ **Exception 5:** New sports provision benefit outweighs the loss of the playing field – the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field.

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

A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in Stockport for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure; however, use is not necessarily formalised, meaning relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of use, such as at Marple Hall School.

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

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Given current budgetary pressures, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds for the acquisition and development of sites, providing that this is to the benefit of sport and inline with NPPF and Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy requirements.

The Council should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position manage assets and to apply for external funding for site improvements. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be enhanced and sites developed. However, it is recognised that asset transfer will not be possible at the majority of sites across Stockport, partly due to existing club usage (meaning it would not be appropriate for a single club to take on management).

For sites that could be suitable, local sports clubs that could be able to manage their own assets should be supported by partners, including the Council and NGBs, to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop business and sports development plans to show how facilities can be sustainable and to maximise income generation.

Relevant clubs could also be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)³. They should also be signposted to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

Table 4.1: Recommended criteria for lease of council sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/NGBs 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. Strong business plans could also be created by the clubs to illustrate this.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as ‘Local Sites’ (recommendation E) for new clubs (i.e., not those with a Borough-wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management ‘Key Centres’ are also appropriate.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of an accreditation award).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards the improvement of the site.</p>

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

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

- ✦ Increasing participation, particularly in target areas such as women's and girls' activity.
- ✦ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ✦ Commitment to quality standards.
- ✦ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

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

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain so that extensions can be secured, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site development. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding (unless the agreement has been recently entered into), Stockport Trinity CC and Woodley CC currently have less than 25 years on their existing agreements.

Recommendation (c) – Maximise community use of education facilities where needed

To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools and higher/further education establishments is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Stockport, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from providers to open up provision is also an issue, especially at academies.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the venues and local clubs, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

In some instances, facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these facilities sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

Whilst community sport should ultimately be sought at all educational sites, priority should be placed on firstly exploring community use options at larger venues offering several pitches, Marple Hall School, Stockport Grammar School and The Kingsway School (Foxland Camous). Securing access to such sites will have a bigger impact on reducing shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within. However, it is also noted that smaller sites and particularly primary schools can also serve a significant purpose as they can be at the heart of local communities, particularly in more rural areas.

Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the providers where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

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

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, these should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's playing pitch needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential for facility provision to be made within the developments, if appropriate. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 and/or youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as 3G pitches.

OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance playing pitch provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given the number of councils' face reducing budgets, it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g., the largest, well used sites that are overplayed and/or poor quality). The Action Plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed which should be prioritised for improvement.

With pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include the use of equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

Addressing quality issues

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

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Based upon an achievable target, using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the facilities tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that quality can vary year on year dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.

If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites (thus reducing capacity issues). Where this occurs, it is vital that the improvements are advertised and marketed towards potential users as their perception of the provision may need altering.

In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer (although other provision can be key for income generation) and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement.

For football, The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The tool is available across mobile apps and desktop and is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund.

For rugby union and cricket, the respective NGBs are now also utilising Pitch Power, with reports being produced similar to those for football.

For the improvement/replacement of 3G and hockey provision, this is most commonly linked to age, with any surfaces older than 10 years generally requiring replacement. Furthermore, qualitative testing for 3G pitch is undertaken as part of the FA/RFU registration process, which can then also identify if and when provision requires replacements.

Where AGPs are provided, sinking / pitch replacement funds should be put into place to ensure that refurbishment can take place when it is required.

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As improving all sites is unlikely to be feasible from a budgetary and logistical perspective, key sites with a larger number of pitches/facilities should be prioritised, particularly where they are well used or could be well used following improvements. The table below identifies sites in Stockport that could be focused on for each relevant sport, based on their current status and issues.

Table 4.2: Key sites requiring pitch quality improvements (by sport)

Sport	Sites for improvement
Football	Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields Brinnington Park Davenport Playing Fields Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields Gotherage Lane Playing Fields Harrogate Road Lavington Avenue Playing Fields Marple Hall School Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground Torkington Park William Scholes Playing Fields Woodford Recreation Ground
Rugby union	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme) The Heatons Sports Club RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields Stockport Rugby Club
Hockey	Cheadle Hulme School Bramhall High School
Cricket	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane) Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme) Woodford Cricket Club
Lacrosse	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club The Heatons Sports Club Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club Stockport Cricket Club
Aussie rules	-
Rounders	-

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock, it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (e.g., via a non-technical site assessment and/or technical PitchPower assessments) and allocating a match/usage limit to each.

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

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Table 4.3: Carrying capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	4 per day	4 per day	N/A

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity, or quality, where possible, should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use, but which may be in the future. In isolated cases, new provision may be required.

For cricket, an increase in NTPs is often key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ with existing squares. Where NTPs are already installed, increased usage should be encouraged.

For rugby union, additional sports lighting can reduce levels of overplay at club sites as it will allow clubs to spread demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas, where the space exists. If permanent sports lighting is not possible, portable sports lighting is an alternative.

The table below identifies sites in Stockport that are currently overplayed for each sport.

Table 4.4: Overplayed sites (by sport)

Sport	Sites for improvement
Football	Bakery Bridge Brabyns Park Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields Cheadle and Gatley Junior Football Club Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium) Chester Road Playing Fields Davenport Playing Fields Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields Harrogate Road Hazel Grove Sports Centre Hillcrest Playing Fields Hollywood Park Lumb Lane Recreation Ground Marple Hall School

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Sport	Sites for improvement
	Norbury Cricket and Lacrosse Club Norbury Playing Field Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields St John's Wood Playing Field Stockport Georgians AFC The Mike Doyle Centre Torkington Park Warth Meadow Playing Fields William Scholes Playing Fields Woodford Recreation Ground
Rugby union	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme) The Heatons Sports Club RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields Stockport Rugby Club Priestnall Sports Field
Hockey	-
Cricket	Bramhall Cricket Club Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane) Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme) Hazel Grove Cricket Club The Heatons Sports Club High Lane Cricket Club Mellor Sports Club Romiley Cricket Club Stockport Cricket Club Stockport Georgians Cricket Club Stockport Trinity Cricket Club Woodford Cricket Club Woodley Cricket Club
Lacrosse	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club The Heatons Sports Club Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club Stockport Cricket Club
American football	-
Rounders	-

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality but are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality was improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

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

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

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The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide and sporting context. As such, this takes into account the level of demand accommodated and the potential impact the recommended actions will have on addressing the identified shortfalls/issues.

The proposed site-hierarchy is summarised in the following table.

Table 4.5: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for more at a basic level.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school/college/university with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

Hub 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. Actions at these sites are likely to have a greater impact on addressing the issues identified in the PPS.

Key centres are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. However, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

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Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports.

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

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

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

Partners, in collaboration with the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding is secured for improved sports provision and directed to areas of need. This should be underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities, with the PPS able to be used as an evidence base for attracting investment.

Furthermore, to address community need, target priority areas and reduce provision duplication, a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPS Steering Group as well as with neighbouring local authorities. Cross-border developments can accommodate demand from within Stockport and lessen requirements within the Borough (and vice versa).

To attract investment, the Council should stay informed in relation to relevant and appropriate funding pots, both in regard to what it can directly attract, as well as to what clubs could attract independently (with the Council able to assist with this process). This can also be helped through the wider Steering Group signposting partners to what could be available.

To attract investment, the Council should stay informed in relation to relevant and appropriate funding pots, both in regard to what it can directly attract as well as to what clubs could attract independently (with the Council able to assist with this process). This can also be helped through the PPS Steering Group signposting partners to what could be available.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development. This includes delivery from education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector.

For football, the Stockport Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) identifies investment priorities, using the PPS to inform it (both for its original production in 2020 and its upcoming update). The Council should continually engage with the FF and county FAs to work in partnership to deliver its actions and to attract the subsequent investment.

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing developments. For this, it is recommended the Council uses Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form the basis of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions and should aid the negotiation process with developers.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sport and by pitch type and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport and on that provision. That percentage is then applied to the population growth and the additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions. This then provides the associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) provided. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

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

Where offsite contributions are necessary, the PPS should be as a guide to determine suitable sites in the locality and what the investment should achieve in relation to wider shortfalls in the area. Sport England and relevant NGBs should also be consulted to determine their needs and to ensure that there will be no duplication of investment.

For housing developments that warrant the creation of new playing pitches, especially if existing sites in the locality do not have the capacity to absorb any growth in demand, the PPS should assist in identifying the facility mix required. The preference from Sport England and the NGBs is for multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by appropriate ancillary facilities which consider the potential for further development in the future. This is because standalone facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that also contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England, where appropriate. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused.

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More generally, Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning permission should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator. 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 facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPS Steering Group meetings.

For further information, please see Part 6 of this report.

OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new playing pitch provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current facility stock.
- i. Identify opportunities to increase to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendation (h) – Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 3) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 5). First and foremost, it is imperative that the current levels of provision are protected and maintained to ensure that the overall picture does not worsen in the future.

To reduce the identified shortfalls, there is not necessarily a need for a significant level of new provision, with the current provision instead able to be better utilised to overcome most deficits. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g., converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).

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- ◀ Bringing disused sites back into use.
- ◀ Securing community use at education sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Exploring lease/management arrangements with appropriate clubs/organisations.
- ◀ Establishing additional sports lighting.
- ◀ Installing artificial surfaces (e.g., 3G pitches and NTPs), where appropriate.

The PPS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality as well as unused and unsecure sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome, typically through pitch quality improvements to increase the carrying capacity of pitches, securing community use agreements for sites that do not provide security of tenure to ensure spare capacity can be fully utilised, and gaining access to unavailable sites to increase the pitch stock available to the community.

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision.

Recommendation (i) – Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand

Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 3, although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that presently are used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, although there is a clear need for an increase in 3G provision that cannot be reduced without new stock.

If new pitches are to be provided, it is imperative that any new provision is established in locations/areas where they will be accessed by relevant clubs. Typically, and particularly for sports such as rugby union and cricket, demand can be very club-orientated, which can make the use of secondary venues unlikely. This means that failure to provide pitches in the right location could lead to the provision becoming unused and unsustainable.

Large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the School to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the School as well as the wider community.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 6 for further information.

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PART 5: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is separated by analysis area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

Site hierarchy

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. As stated in Recommendation (e), 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. This is done via classifying sites as hub sites, key centres or local sites.

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council-operated venues).

Priority

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

The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

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Costs

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

- (L) - Low - less than £150k
- (M) - Medium - £150k-£750k
- (H) - High £750k and above

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

It should also be recognised that recent inflation has likely caused the costs of most recommended actions to increase, in turn leading to many previously low cost actions to become medium cost actions and many medium cost actions to become high cost actions. This something that may continue to change throughout the lifespan of the PPS.

Timescales

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

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

Aim

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

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BRAMHALL & CHEADLE HULME SOUTH

Area summary

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions) ⁴
Football	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 4.5
Football	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
Football	Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
Football	Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
3G (football training)	11v11 (full size)	Shortfall of 0.5 pitches	Shortfall of 0.75 pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	At capacity	Shortfall of 12
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	Spare capacity of 24	Spare capacity of 12
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 41	Shortfall of 46
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 9.5	Shortfall of 9.5
Hockey	AGP	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Lacrosse	Senior	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Aussie rules	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay particularly on poor quality provision (Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields / Lumb Lane Recreation Ground / Woodford Recreation Ground). ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where required and provide ancillary facilities at sites that are currently without (Woodford Recreation Ground). ◀ Explore the feasibility of creating ancillary provision at Lumb Lane Recreation Ground. ◀ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs through CUA at school sites.
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for long-term sustainability. ◀ Examine potential options to alleviate identified 3G shortfalls. ◀ Explore developing more WR compliant 3G provision in order to alleviate grass pitch shortfalls.

⁴ Based on population growth to 2040.

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Sport	Headline findings
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve quality to eradicate overplay (e.g. at Grove Park and Stockport RUFC) ◀ Look to provide improved ancillary provision (e.g. at Grove Park and Stockport RUFC). ◀ Explore greater access to WR 3G provision to alleviate overplay.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision at Cheadle Hulme School and Bramhall High School for long term hockey usage, particularly the latter site as it is actively used by Stockport Bramhall HC. ◀ As a priority look to refurbish the pitch at Cheadle Hulme School with a hockey suitable surface. ◀ Look to resurface the pitch at Bramhall High School within the lifespan of the PPS (next five years). ◀ Look to secure tenure for any hockey usage through a CUA.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve quality of standard quality squares to alleviate overplay (e.g. at Grove Park and Woodford Cricket Club). ◀ Seek to alleviate overplay via the installation of an NTP (e.g. Bramhall Cricket Club, Grove Park, Stockport Trinity Cricket Club and Woodford Cricket Club). ◀ Support ancillary development plans/improvements (e.g. at Woodfrod Cricket Club). ◀ Explore the potential of opening up Cheadle Hulme School for community use in order to use its squares for future demand, alternatively look to develop new provision.
Lacrosse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Look to improve pitch quality at Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club with enhanced levels of maintenance.
Other grass pitch sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ N/A

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BRAMHALL & CHEADLE HULME SOUTH

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
13	Bradshaw Hall New Playing Fields	SK8 6SS	Football	Council	Three poor quality youth 11v11 pitches. Overplayed by one match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by ancillary provision of standard quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
15	Bradshaw Hall Primary School	SK8 6AN	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for continued school use.	School FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
16	Bramhall Cricket Club	SK7 1PE	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality grass square with 20 wickets. The senior wickets on site have spare capacity for an increase in midweek cricket whilst the junior wickets are overplayed by 14 match equivalent sessions per season. Bramhall CC is looking to install two hybrid wickets on site. The square is serviced by good quality ancillary provision and training facilities.	Ensure square quality is sustained through a dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of installing hybrid wickets or an NTP on site in order to alleviate overplay.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club	SK8 5BL	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality grass square with 13 wickets in total. There is actual spare capacity for an increase in senior Sunday and/or midweek cricket although the junior wickets are played to capacity. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision and standard quality training facilities.	Ensure square quality is sustained through a dedicated maintenance regime.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
37	Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge Sports & Social Club	SK8 5BL	Lacrosse	Sport Club	Two standard quality lacrosse pitches. Pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by good quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Club, EL	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
38	Cheadle Hulme School	SK8 6EF	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch and two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches. Both pitches have spare capacity however this has been discounted due to unsecure tenure. Accompanied by good quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore community use options with the School to secure tenure for clubs.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
38	Cheadle Hulme School	SK8 6EF	3G	School	One standard quality 11v11 size 3G pitch with sports lighting. Pitch has FA and WR compliancy. Utilised to almost full capacity with limited slots available.	Look to refurbish the pitch when required based on its quality. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for long-term sustainability.	School, FF, CFA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
38	Cheadle Hulme School	SK8 6EF	Cricket	School	Two good quality grass squares with nine and seven wickets respectively that are unavailable for community use. The site is serviced by good quality training provision.	Ensure square quality is sustained through a dedicated maintenance regime. Explore community use options with the School given shortfalls.	School, ECB, CCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
38	Cheadle Hulme School	SK8 6EF	Rugby union	School	Two senior pitches of Standard (M1/D1) quality, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	School, RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
38	Cheadle Hulme School	SK8 6EF	AGP	School	One poor quality sand based AGP with sports lighting, available for community use. No community use from Hockey clubs with all activity either football or lacrosse.	Ensure pitch is resurfaced in coming years as it is significantly past its lifespan. Protect pitch for potential secondary venue use by Bramhall HC and if required look to secure tenure through community use agreement.	School, EH	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
41	Club Cheadle Hulme	SK8 7JY	3G	School	One standard quality 11v11 size 3G pitch with sports lighting, available for community use. Utilised to almost full capacity with limited slots available.	Look to refurbish the pitch when required based on its quality. Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Seek to test pitch for FA compliancy to ensure pitch can be utilised for match play.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
41	Club Cheadle Hulme	SK8 7JY	AGP	School	One standard quality small sided sand based AGP with no sports lighting. Available for community use.	Look to refurbish the pitch when required based on its quality.	School, EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
57	Green Bank Preparatory School	SK8 6HU	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	SK8 7NB	Cricket	Sport Club	Two grass squares with 15 and five wickets respectively. The larger square is of good quality whilst the five wicket square is of standard quality. Junior wickets on both squares are currently overplayed whilst the senior wickets on the smaller square are played to capacity. Senior wickets on the 15 wicket square have spare capacity for an increase in midweek cricket. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision and good quality training facilities.	Ensure square quality is sustained through a dedicated maintenance regime. Improve second square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility of installing NTP(s) on site in order to alleviate overplay.	Club, ECB, CCB	Key	M	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
59	Grove Park (Cheadle Hulme)	SK8 7NB	Rugby union	Sport Club	Three standard (M1/D1) quality senior pitches, one of which has sports lighting. Main non-sports lit pitch has spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session per week but is play to capacity at peak time. Second non-sports lit pitch is played to capacity, whilst sports lit training pitch is overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision, Manchester RUFC aspires to develop new changing room facility at the top end of the first team pitch, to service this pitch, but focusing on a more appropriate changing rooms for women's and girls.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance and potential drainage improvements. Explore opportunity to develop new changing room provision onsite.	Club, RFU	Key	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
78	Hursthead Junior School	SK8 7PZ	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Pitch has spare capacity, however, has been discounted due to unsecure tenure. Accompanied by ancillary provision of standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Look to secure tenure through community use agreement with school.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
81	Lane End Primary School	SK8 7AL	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
83	Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Laurus)	SK8 5GB	Football	Trust	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Pitch has spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week, however is played to capacity at peak time. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore community use options with the School to secure tenure for clubs.	Trust, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
83	Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Club Laurus)	SK8 5GB	Football	Trust	One good quality 11v11 size 3G pitch, with sports lighting. Pitch is FIFA compliant. Utilised to almost full capacity with limited slots available.	Sustain pitch quality. When required resurface pitch, ensure pitch replacement fund is in place. Ensure re-testing every three years to ensure that it remains suitable for match play.	Trust, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
85	Bramhall High School	SK7 2JT	Cricket	Trust	A standalone NTP that is of good quality and available for community use.	Sustain wicket quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Trust, ECB, CCB	v	L	L	L	Protect
85	Bramhall High School	SK7 2JT	Rugby union	Trust	One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality for continued school use.	Trust, RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
85	Bramhall High School	SK7 2JT	Hockey	Trust	A full size AGP that is serviced by sports lighting and available to the community. Used by Stockport Bramhall HC and assessed as standard quality.	Resurface pitch in the near future to ensure long-term sustainability. Separately, explore the feasibility to develop an 11v11 size 3G pitch onsite for football, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy).	Trust, EH, FF, FA	Key	M	M	M	Protect
91	Linney Road	SK7 3JW	Football (Disused)	Council	Previously accommodated one youth 11v11 and one mini 5v5 pitch. However, the pitches are no longer marked, although the mini 5v5 pitch still has posts installed for recreational play. Pitch markings last present circa 2013.	Explore feasibility of bringing the playing field back into use given local shortfalls and ensure replacement provision is provided in line with national planning policy should a proposal come forward that will result in permanent loss.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
94	Lumb Lane Recreation Ground	SK7 1LR	Football	Sport Club	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch and one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch. Youth 11v11 pitch has spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions however this has been discounted due to poor pitch quality. Youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore feasibility to develop changing room provision onsite, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy).	Club, FF, CFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
105	Moss Hey Primary School	SK7 1DS	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
106	Nevill Road Junior School	SK7 3ET	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
124	Pownall Green Primary School	SK7 2EB	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch and one standard quality mini 5v5 pitch both unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
126	Queensgate Primary School	SK7 1NE	Rounders	School	One rounders diamond that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	School, RE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
133	Sandringham Road Playing Fields	SK8 5NH	Football (Disused)	Council	Previously had provision marked onsite with space to accommodate up to two adult pitches. The pitches were last formally marked and used in 2019.	Explore feasibility of bringing the playing field back into use given local shortfalls and ensure replacement provision is provided in line with national planning policy should a proposal come forward that will result in permanent loss.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
141	St James Catholic High School (Cheadle)	SK8 6PZ	Football	School	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Played to capacity. Accompanied by ancillary provision of poor quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore community use options with the School to secure tenure for clubs. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
141	St James Catholic High School (Cheadle)	SK8 6PZ	Hockey	School	One poor quality small sized sand based AGP. Pitch is available for community use.	Look to resurface pitch.	School, EH	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
161	Stockport Rugby Club	SK7 3AN	Rugby union	Sport Club	Three standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches, of which two have sports lighting, and one poor (M0/D0) junior pitch with no sports lighting. The sports lit training pitch is overplayed by four match equivalent sessions per week, whilst the remaining senior pitches both have spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. The junior pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week. Accompanied by poor quality clubhouse/changing room provision. Stockport RUFC has submitted a hybrid planning application (DC/089037) for the creation of its own World Rugby compliant full size 3G pitch with sports lighting as well as an extension to its ancillary provision. However, this has been objected to by Sport England due to the resultant loss of natural turf provision (it does not meet its Playing Fields Policy requirements).	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision quality and support development of clubhouse. Continue to explore feasibility for the development of a 3G pitch, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy). Look to improve clubhouse and changing facility provision, again ensuring that any proposal is planning policy compliant.	Club, RFU	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
163	Stockport Trinity Cricket Club	SK7 3BE	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality grass square with 12 wickets. The square is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision and poor quality training facilities. The senior wickets on site have spare capacity for an increase in midweek cricket whilst the junior wickets are overplayed by 17 matches per season. The Club has a 10-year lease agreement for the site from the Methodist Church.	Ensure square quality is sustained through a dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of installing an NTP on site in order to alleviate overplay. Support the Club to improve training facilities on site. Seek extension to the lease agreement to improve security of tenure.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
165	The Cheadle College	SK8 5HA	Football	College	One standard quality youth 11v11 and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Youth 11v11 pitch has spare capacity but is played to capacity at peak time, whilst the youth 9v9 pitch also has spare capacity but this is discounted due to unsecure tenure. The College has had a hybrid planning application (DC/089265) approved, with community use agreement requirements, which will see the development of a new campus on a segment of its current playing field land and the demolition of its existing facilities. The plans include the creation of replacement playing land, where the current campus is located, to replace that which is proposed to be lost, as well as the creation of up to 32 dwellings. Within this, the application includes the creation of a mini 7v7 pitch.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure development takes place in line with planning policy and that the community use agreement is adhered to.	College, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
181	Woodford Cricket Club	SK7 1PW	Cricket	Sport Club	One standard quality grass square with 14 wickets. The senior wickets on site have spare capacity for additional Sunday and/or midweek cricket whilst the junior wickets on site are overplayed by nine match equivalent sessions per season. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision and good quality training facilities.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of installing an NTP on site in order to alleviate overplay. Improve ancillary facilities.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
182	Woodford Recreation Ground	SK7 1JA	Football	Council	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches and one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch. Youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week, whilst the youth 9v9 pitch has spare capacity which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
182	Woodford Recreation Ground	SK7 1JA	Cricket	Council	A standalone NTP that is of good quality and available for community use.	Sustain wicket quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Council, ECB, CCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
188	Woods Lane Sports Ground	SK8 7LB	Football	Council	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches. Youth 11v11 pitches have spare capacity which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CHEADLE

Area summary

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions) ⁵
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2
Football	Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
Football	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 3
Football	Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
3G (football training)	11v11 (full size)	Shortfall of 2.5 pitches	Shortfall of 2.75 pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Spare capacity of 12	Spare capacity of 12
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	Spare capacity of 11	Spare capacity of 11
Rugby union	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
Hockey	AGP	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Lacrosse	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Aussie rules	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay particularly on poor or standard quality provision (Cheadle and Gatley Junior Football Club, Cheadle Town Football Club, Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground and William Scholes Playing Field). ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where required (examples Bradshaw Hall Old Playing Field, Brookfield Recreation Ground, Cheadle Town FC, Grange Park Road Playing Fields, Lavington Avenue Playing Fields, Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground, Park Road Playing Fields and Nixon Arena). ◀ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs through CUA at school sites (The Kingsway School).
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for long-term sustainability. ◀ Examine potential options to alleviate identified 3G shortfalls. ◀ Look to resurface poor quality provision such as Cheadle Heath Sports Club and Pro Football Arena Cheadle Hulme.
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve quality of school provision as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand.

⁵ Based on population growth to 2040.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Headline findings
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision at South Manchester Sports Club and Lady Barn House School with appropriate maintenances and refurbish as required.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve quality of the square (e.g. at William Scholes Playing Fields). ◀ Seek to alleviate overplay via the installation of an NTP (e.g. Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club). ◀ Support ancillary development plans/improvements (e.g. at William Scholes Playing Fields). ◀ Explore the potential of improving training facilities at Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club.
Lacrosse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ N/A
Other grass pitch sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ N/A

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

CHEADLE

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
2	Adswood Park	SK8 2JF	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch. Played to capacity. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
11	Pro Football Arena Cheadle Hulme	SK8 6PT	3G	Commercial	Poor quality small sided indoor 3G provision. Available for community use.	Look to resurface provision.	Commercial, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
14	Bradshaw Hall Old Playing Field	SK8 6SP	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch. With spare capacity, which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
25	Brookfield Recreation Ground	SK8 1EX	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. With spare capacity, which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility and need to develop dedicated ancillary provision.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L/M	Protect Enhance
32	Cheadle (Kingsway) Sports Club	SK8 1LA	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality grass square with 16 wickets and an NTP. The senior wickets on site are played to capacity at peak time whilst the junior wickets are overplayed by nine match equivalent sessions per season. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision and standard quality training provision.	Ensure square quality is sustained through a dedicated maintenance regime. Encourage further utilisation of the NTP on site to alleviate overplay of junior wickets. Improve practice facilities.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	M	S	L	Protect
33	Cheadle and Gatley Junior Football Club	SK8 3LW	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch, one standard quality mini 7v7 pitch and two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches. Youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity, with the mini 7v7 pitch overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The mini 5v5 pitches have spare capacity however are played to capacity at peak time. Accompanied by good quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility to develop a sports-lit small sided 3G pitch, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy).	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
35	Cheadle Heath Primary School	SK3 0RJ	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels for maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
35	Cheadle Heath Primary School	SK3 0RJ	Rounders	School	One rounders diamond that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	School, RE	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
36	Cheadle Heath Sports Club	SK8 2ET	Football	Sport Club	One good quality adult pitch and one good quality youth 11v11 pitch. Adult pitch has spare capacity, which is discounted to protect NLS pitch quality. Youth 11v11 pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week at peak time. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
36	Cheadle Heath Sports Club	SK8 2ET	3G	Sport Club	One standard quality small sided 3G pitch with sports lighting.	When required look to resurface pitch.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
39	Cheadle Town Football Club (Park Road Stadium)	SK8 2AN	Football	Sport Club	One good quality adult pitch with sports lighting and one poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Adult pitch has spare capacity which is discounted to protect NLS pitch quality. Youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision, with the club looking to make improvements to this.	Look to sustain and improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
54	Grange Park Road Playing Fields	SK8 1HQ	Football	Council	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches. Pitches have spare capacity which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
79	Lady Barn House School	SK8 1JE	AGP	School	Two good quality smaller sized sand based AGP's with no sports lighting. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	School, EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
80	Ladybridge Primary School	SK8 2JF	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
84	Lavington Avenue Playing Fields	SK8 2JB	Football	Council	Three poor quality youth 11v11 pitches. Pitches have spare capacity but are discounted due to poor pitch quality. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
93	Lum Head Primary School	SK8 4RR	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
113	Oakhurst Drive Recreation Ground	SK8 2HQ	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch and one poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
119	Outwood Road Recreation Ground	SK8 3JL	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch and one poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Adult pitch is played to capacity, whilst youth 11v11 pitch has spare capacity, which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
120	Park Road Playing Fields	SK8 2AR	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Pitch has spare capacity, which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
134	Seashell Trust Centre	SK8 6RQ	3G	Trust	One good quality 11v11 size 3G pitch with sports lighting. Pitch is FIFA compliant. Fully booked during the week at peak time with limited availability at the weekends.	Ensure pitch replacement fund is in place for when resurface of pitch is required. Ensure re-testing every three years to ensure that it remains suitable for match play.	Trust, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
135	South Manchester Sports Club	SK8 4RZ	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
135	South Manchester Sports Club	SK8 4RZ	3G	Sport Club	One good quality small sided 3G pitch, with sports lighting.	When required ensure pitch is resurfaced. Ensure re-testing every three years to ensure that it remains suitable for match play.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
135	South Manchester Sports Club	SK8 4RZ	AGP	Sport Club	One standard quality hockey suitable AGP with sports lighting and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Club, EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
166	The Kingsway School (Foxland Campus)	SK8 4QX	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. Pitch has spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week, however it is discounted due to unsecure tenure. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer. Explore community use options with the School to secure tenure for clubs. Consider as option for 3G pitch provision.	School, FF, CFA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
166	The Kingsway School (Foxland Campus)	SK8 4QX	Rugby union	School	One poor quality (M0/D1) junior pitch, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
166	The Kingsway School (Foxland Campus)	SK8 4QX	Cricket	School	A standalone NTP that is of good quality and available for community use.	Sustain wicket quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	School, ECB, CCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
166	The Kingsway School (Foxland Campus)	SK8 4QX	Rounders	School	Six rounders diamonds that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School, RE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	SK8 4LT	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch, one standard quality youth 11v11 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Adult pitch is overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by ancillary provision of good quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
179	William Scholes Playing Fields	SK8 4LT	Cricket	Council	Two squares, one with eight grass wickets and the second with nine grass wickets. Both squares are of standard quality. The eight wicket square is played to capacity at peak time whilst the nine wicket square has actual spare capacity for an increase in Saturday and midweek cricket. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Improve ancillary facilities.	Council, ECB, CCB	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
191	Nixon Arena	SK8 3PE	Football	Commercial	One standard quality adult pitch. Pitch is played to capacity at peak time. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision.	Commercial, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

HEATONS & REDDISH

Area summary

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions) ⁶
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 7
Football	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 0.5
Football	Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
Football	Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1.5
3G (football training)	11v11 (full size)	Shortfall of 3 pitches	Shortfall of 3.25 pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 7
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 7
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 27	Shortfall of 32
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 5
Hockey	AGP	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Lacrosse	Senior	Shortfall of 3	Shortfall of 3
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Aussie rules	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay particularly on poor quality provision (Freddick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields / Harrogate Road / The Mike Doyle Centre). ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where required (examples Freddick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields / Harrogate Road / Heaton Norris Park / South Reddish Park / Priestnall Sports Fields). ◀ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs through CUA at school sites (Didsbury Road Primary School).
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for long-term sustainability. ◀ Examine potential options to alleviate identified 3G shortfalls. ◀ Ensure refurbishments are carried out where appropriate. ◀ Ensure conversion of AGP to 3G at Reddish Vale Community College and Priestnall School. ◀ Explore developing more WR compliant 3G provision in order to alleviate grass pitch shortfalls.

⁶ Based on population growth to 2040.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Headline findings
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality to alleviate shortfalls and provide future capacity at Burnage Rugby Football Club, The Heatons Sports Club and Priestnall Sports Field. ◀ Explore greater access to WR 3G provision to alleviate overplay.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Ensure conversion of AGP to 3G at Reddish Vale Community College and Priestnall School.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Assist in square and outfield improvements at both Heaton Mersey Sports Club and The Heaton Sports Club. ◀ Seek to alleviate overplay via the installation of an NTP (e.g. Heaton Mersey Sports Club and The Heatons Sports Club). ◀ Support practice facility improvements (e.g. at Heaton Mersey Sports Club). ◀ Explore the potential of opening up school sites for community use in order to actualise future demand, alternatively look to develop new provision.
Lacrosse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Look to improve pitch quality at The Heatons Sports Club with enhanced levels of maintenance.
Other grass pitch sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Ensure pitch quality at Burnage Rugby Club is suitable to support both rugby union and Australian Rules Football. ◀ Look to formalise a tenure agreement between the clubs to provide Manchester Mosquitoes with security of tenure on site.

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

HEATONS & REDDISH

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
10	Bowerfold Openspace	SK4 2NA	Football (Disused)	Council	The site has in recent years accommodated a youth 11v11 pitch. The pitch was last marked and used for football since 2017.	Explore feasibility of bringing the playing field back into use given local shortfalls and ensure replacement provision is provided in line with national planning policy should a proposal come forward that will result in permanent loss.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	SK4 3EA	3G	Sport Club	Onne good quality 11v11 size 3G pitch and one poor quality small sided 3G pitch, both with sports lighting. The 11v11 size pitch is both FA and WR compliant.	Look to resurface small sided 3G pitch. Ensure pitch replacement fund is in place for future resurfacing for both pitches. Ensure re-testing every three years for football and two years for rugby to ensure that it remains suitable for match play.	Club, FF, CFA, RFU	Key	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	SK4 3EA	Rugby union	Sport Club	Two standard (M1/D1) quality senior pitches, both with sports lighting. Pitches offer spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week, with 0.5 match equivalent sessions across the pitches of actual spare capacity at peak time. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Improving changing room provision.	Club, RFU	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
29	Burnage Rugby Football Club	SK4 3EA	Australian Rules Football	Sport Club	A rugby union pitch on site is used to accommodate match and training demand from Manchester Mosquitoes. The pitch is deemed to be of standard quality.	Ensure pitch quality is sustained through a dedicated maintenance regime. Look to formalise a tenure agreement between the clubs to provide Manchester Mosquitoes with security of tenure on site.	Club, AFL-E	Key	L	L	L	Protect
46	Didsbury Road Primary School	SK4 3HB	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity at peak time, whilst youth 9v9 has spare capacity but it is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore community use options with the School to secure tenure for clubs.	School, FF, CFA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
50	Frederick Whittaker Scott Playing Fields	SK5 7PS	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch, one standard quality youth 11v11 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Adult pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week, whilst the youth 11v11 is also overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The youth 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. Accompanied by ancillary provision of poor quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
61	Harrogate Road	SK5 6EX	Football	Council	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches. Pitches are overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per week. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
68	Heaton Mersey Sports Club	SK4 3AW	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality square with five grass wickets and an NTP. The square has actual spare capacity at all peak times; however, the outfield on site is said to hold water with Heaton Mersey Village CC planning to level the outfield and install drainage on site. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities and has no fixed practice facilities.	Ensure pitch quality is sustained through a dedicated maintenance regime and seek resolution to the drainage issues. Explore opportunities to develop dedicated practice facilities.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
69	The Heatons Sports Club	SK4 2NF	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality square with 16 grass wickets. Senior wickets on site are overplayed by five matches per season whilst junior wickets are overplayed by 32 matches per season. Heaton Mersey CC plans to add additional wickets to the square as well as levelling the outfield and installing additional drainage. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary and training facilities.	Ensure pitch quality is sustained through a dedicated maintenance regime. Support Heaton Mersey CC to expand the square and improve outfield quality on site. Explore the feasibility of installing an NTP on site in order to alleviate overplay.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	H	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
69	The Heatons Sports Club	SK4 2NF	Rugby union	Sport Club	Two poor (M0/D1) quality senior pitches with sports lighting. The main pitch onsite is played to capacity, whilst the training pitch is overplayed by 4.75 match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by good quality ancillary provision. The Club aspires to develop the training pitch into a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility to convert training pitch to 3G. Improving changing room provision.	Club, RFU	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
69	The Heatons Sports Club	SK4 2NF	Lacrosse	Sport Club	Two standard quality lacrosse pitches. Ancillary provision of good quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility to develop training pitch to 3G.	Club, EL	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
70	Heaton Norris Park	SK4 1JA	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. The pitch has spare capacity which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
87	Life Leisure Houldsworth Village	SK5 7AT	3G	Trust	Two poor quality indoor small sided 3G pitches.	Look to resurface pitches.	Trust, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
103	Mersey Vale Primary School	SK4 2BZ	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
111	Norris Bank Primary School	SK4 2NF	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
112	North Reddish Park	SK5 6ET	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch and one good quality youth 11v11 pitch. Adult pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions at peak time, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Accompanied by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
123	Powerleague (Stockport)	SK4 2AP	3G	Commercial	Eight standard quality small sided 3G pitches with sports lighting.	When required look to resurface pitches.	Commercial, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
125	Priestnall School	SK4 3HP	AGP/ 3G	School	One poor quality sand based AGP with sports lighting. The School reports aspirations of resurfacing the pitch to a 3G surface.	Resurface the pitch and explore whether this can entail conversion to 3G based on the pitch size being insufficient for community hockey demand (subject to meeting NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy requirements).	School, EH, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	M	Protect Enhance Provide
125	Priestnall School	SK4 3HP	Rounders	School	Two rounders diamonds that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	School, RE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
127	Reddish Vale Technology College	SK5 7HD	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. Played to capacity. Accompanied by ancillary provision of standard quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
127	Reddish Vale Technology College	SK5 7HD	AGP/ 3G	School	Currently a poor quality sand based GAP pitch with sports lighting. However, work has recently started on the conversion to a 3G pitch surface. Due to be online by September 2024.	Ensure development to 3G pitch is completed. Ensure testing so that it can be suitable for match play and that a pitch replacement fund is in place.	School, EH, FF, CFA	Local	M	S	H	Provide

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
136	South Reddish Park	SK5 7LN	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch. Played to capacity. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
138	St Annes Roman Catholic High School	SK4 2QP	AGP/ 3G	School	One poor quality small sized sand based AGP with no sports lighting. Due to its width it is not considered capable of accommodating competitive hockey demand. The school aspires to resurface the pitch into a 3G surface.	Resurface the pitch and explore whether this can entail conversion to 3G based on the pitch size being insufficient for community hockey demand (subject to meeting NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy requirements).	School, EH, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	M	Protect Enhance Provide
144	St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School Reddish	SK5 6BG	3G	School	One poor quality small sided 3G pitch with sports lighting.	Look to resurface pitch.	School, FF, CFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
167	The Mike Doyle Centre	SK5 6JT	Football	Sport Club	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. The pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by good quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Club, FF, CFA	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
167	The Mike Doyle Centre	SK5 6JT	3G	Sport Club	Two standard quality small sided 3G pitches (one of 9v9 size), with sports lighting. Club aspires to develop grass youth 11v11 pitch into 11v11 size 3G pitch.	When requires resurface pitches. Explore the feasibility of developing 11v11 size 3G onsite, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy).	Club, FF, CFA	Key	M	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
169	Tithe Barn Primary School	SK4 3NG	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
169	Tithe Barn Primary School	SK4 3NG	Rounders	School	One rounders diamond that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	School, RE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
178	Whitehill Primary School	SK4 1PB	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
192	Priestnall Sports Field	SK4 3PS	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches. Pitches have spare capacity which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
192	Priestnall Sports Field	SK4 3PS	Rugby union	Council	One poor (M0/D1) quality senior pitch. Pitch is overplayed by 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision.	Council, RFU	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

MARPLE

Area summary

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions) ⁷
Football	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 2.5
Football	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
Football	Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
Football	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
3G (football training)	11v11 (full size)	Shortfall of 1 pitch	Shortfall of 1 pitch
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Spare capacity of 24	Spare capacity of 12
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	Spare capacity of 60	Spare capacity of 48
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	Spare capacity of 24	Spare capacity of 19
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
Hockey	AGP	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Lacrosse	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Aussie rules	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay particularly on poor quality provision (Brabyns Park / Marple Hall School). ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where required (Brabyns Park). ◀ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs through CUA at school sites (Marple Hall School).
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for long-term sustainability. ◀ Examine potential options to alleviate identified 3G shortfalls. ◀ Ensure refurbishments are carried out where appropriate.
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality to alleviate shortfalls and provide future capacity at RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields. ◀ Improve ancillary facilities at RSA Wood Lane Playing Fields. ◀ Explore greater access to WR 3G provision to alleviate overplay.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Resurface the pitch as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand at Rose Hill Primary School.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Assist in square and ancillary improvements at Compstall Cricket Club.

⁷ Based on population growth to 2040.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Headline findings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Seek to alleviate overplay via the installation of an NTP (e.g. High Lane Cricket Club and Mellor Sports Club). ◀ Support practice facility improvements (e.g. at Mellor Sports Club). ◀ Explore the potential of opening up school sites for community use in order to actualise future demand, alternatively look to develop new provision.
Lacrosse	◀ Look to improve pitch and ancillary provision quality at Brabyns Park.
Other grass pitch sports	◀ N/A

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

MARPLE

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
4	All Saints' Church of England Primary School	SK6 7BQ	Rounders	School	Two rounders diamonds that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	School, RE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
12	Brabyns Park	SK6 5LB	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches, one standard quality youth 11v11 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Adult pitches have actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week, whilst youth 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
12	Brabyns Park	SK6 5LB	Lacrosse	Council	One poor quality lacrosse pitch. Played to capacity. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, EL	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
26	Brookside Primary School	SK6 8DB	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
42	Compstall Cricket Club	SK6 5DY	Cricket	Sport Club	One standard quality grass square with eight wickets. Senior wickets on site have actual spare capacity at all peak times whilst junior wickets have actual spare capacity midweek. The site is supported by standard quality ancillary and training provision.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to improve ancillary and practice facilities.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
63	Hawk Green Cricket Club	SK6 7HQ	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality grass square with 14 wickets. Senior wickets on site have actual spare capacity on Sundays and midweek whilst the junior wickets have additional capacity midweek. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary and training facilities.	Ensure pitch quality is sustained through a dedicated maintenance regime.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
72	High Lane Cricket Club	SK6 8AU	Football	Sport Club	One good quality youth 9v9 pitch and two good quality mini 5v5 pitches. Mini 5v5 pitches have actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions per week, whilst youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Accompanied by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
72	High Lane Cricket Club	SK6 8AU	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with 13 grass wickets. Senior wickets on site have actual spare capacity on Sundays and midweek whilst the junior wickets are overplayed by one match equivalent session per season. The site is supported by good quality ancillary facilities and three good quality practice nets. The Club plans to increase women's and girls' demand and to support this, is looking to further improve ancillary and practice provision	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of installing an NTP on site to alleviate overplay. Support High Lane CC to improve ancillary facilities and install practice provision on site.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
73	High Lane Park	SK6 8AB	Football	Council	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches. Spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
96	Marple Hall School	SK6 6LB	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches and one standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. Adult pitches have spare capacity which is discounted due to unsecure tenure. Youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore community use options with the School to secure tenure for clubs.	School, FF, CFA	Key	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
96	Marple Hall School	SK6 6LB	3G	School	One good quality 11v11 size 3G pitch, with sports lighting. Pitch is FIFA compliant. Pitch has limited spare capacity during the week, with only a one hour slot available at weekends.	Ensure pitch replacement fund is in place for when pitch needs resurfacing. Ensure re-testing every three years to ensure that it remains suitable for match play.	School, FF, CFA	Key	L	L	L	Protect
96	Marple Hall School	SK6 6LB	Rugby union	School	One poor (M0/D1) quality senior pitch, unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, RFU	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
96	Marple Hall School	SK6 6LB	Cricket	School	One standalone NTP which is newly installed although currently in poor condition due to installation issues which is preventing use due to safety concerns. The ECB is handling the remedial work required to improve the NTP to good quality and to enable community use.	Ensure the NTP is refurbished to ensure the wicket can safely accommodate curricular demand and any community demand received.	School, ECB, CCB	Key	H	S	L	Protect Enhance

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
100	Marple Sports Club	SK6 6ND	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with 17 grass wickets and an NTP. The Club reports that vandalism on site has increased in recent years leading to numerous repairs to the square. It is now looking to secure the site to prevent further vandalism. All senior and junior wickets on site are played to capacity at peak time. The site is supported by good quality ancillary provision and training facilities.	Sustain quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support Marple CC to secure the site to prevent vandalism.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	M	S	L	Protect
102	Mellor Sports Club	SK6 5PN	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with 12 wickets. Senior wickets on site have actual spare capacity for additional play on Saturdays and Sundays although junior wickets are overplayed by 15 match equivalent sessions per season. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities but without training facilities. Mellor CC plans to develop a two lane fixed net training facility on site to support growing demand.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of installing an NTP on site to alleviate overplay. Support Mellor CC to provide appropriate training facilities on site.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
130	Rose Hill Primary School	SK6 6DW	AGP	School	One standard quality small sided sand based AGP, with no sports lighting. Unavailable for community use.	When required look to resurface.	School, EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
132	Rsa Wood Lane Playing Fields	SK6 7RE	Football	Sport Club	One poor quality adult pitch. Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
132	Rsa Wood Lane Playing Fields	SK6 7RE	Rugby union	Sport Club	Two poor (M0/D1) quality senior pitches and one poor (M0/D1) quality junior pitch. Main senior pitch is played to capacity, whilst second senior pitch is overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Junior pitch is also overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Club, RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

STEPPING HILL

Area summary

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions) ⁸
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 4.5
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 5.5	Shortfall of 6
Football	Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
3G (football training)	11v11 (full size)	Shortfall of 1.5 pitches	Shortfall of 1.5e pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 33	Shortfall of 45
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 21
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 40	Shortfall of 45
Rugby union	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
Hockey	AGP	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Lacrosse	Senior	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Aussie rules	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay particularly on poor quality provision (Chester Road Playing Fields / Green Lane Recreation Ground / Norbury Playing Fields / Norbury Cricket and Lacrosse Club / Hazel Grove Sports Centre / St John's Wodd Playing Fields / Stockport Georgians AFC and Torkington Park). ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where required (Chester Road Playing Fields / Green Lane Recreation Ground / Norbury Playing Fields / Norbury Cricket and Lacrosse Club). ◀ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs through CUA at school sites (Hazel Groven Sports Centre and Stockport School).
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for long-term sustainability. ◀ Examine potential options to alleviate identified 3G shortfalls. ◀ Ensure refurbishments are carried out where appropriate. ◀ Explore potential of opening provision at Aquinas College for community use.
Rugby union	◀ N/A
Hockey	◀ N/A
Cricket	◀ Protect provision.

⁸ Based on population growth to 2040.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Headline findings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Assist in square and ancillary improvements at Hazel Grove Sports Centre and Offerton Cricket Club. ◀ Seek to alleviate overplay via the installation of an NTP (e.g. Stockport Georgians Cricket Club). ◀ Support practice facility improvements (e.g. at Offerton Cricket Club). ◀ Explore formally securing tenure for users through a CUA at Hazel Grove Sports Centre. ◀ Explore the potential of developing a second square at Stockport Georgians Cricket Club for future demand. ◀ Assist in securing long term tenure at Offerton Cricket Club.
Lacrosse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Look to improve pitch and ancillary provision quality at Norbury Cricket and Lacrosse Club.
Other grass pitch sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ N/A

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

STEPPING HILL

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
6	Aquinas College	SK2 6TH	3G	College	One poor quality 11v11 size 3G pitch, with sports lighting. The pitch is considered unavailable for community use with very little use from clubs. Installed in 2009 so well over its recommended lifespan.	Look to resurface pitch to ensure continued use. Look to engage the College to enable community use.	College, FF, CFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
40	Chester Road Playing Fields	SK7 5PF	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
45	Dial Park Primary School	SK2 5LB	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
48	Fairway Primary School	SK2 5DR	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
55	Great Moor Park	SK2 7JN	Football	Council	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch. Pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
58	Green Lane Recreation Ground	SK7 4EB	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 and one poor quality youth 9v9. Both pitches have spare capacity, but it is discounted due to poor pitch quality. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated clubhouse/changing room provision, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy).	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
64	Hazel Grove Cricket Club	SK7 5PD	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with 12 grass wickets and an NTP. The senior wickets on site have actual spare capacity for additional play during the week whilst the junior wickets are overplayed by one match per season. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities but is without training facilities.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of installing an NTP on site in order to alleviate overplay. Explore installation of appropriate training facilities.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	SK7 5JX	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch and two standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. Adult pitch has spare capacity which is discounted due to unsecure tenure. Youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanying ancillary provision of standard quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore community use options with the School to secure tenure for clubs.	School, FF, CFA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
65	Hazel Grove Sports Centre	SK7 5JX	3G	School	One standard quality 11v11 size 3G pitch, with sports lighting. Fully booked during the week, with limited weekend availability.	When required look to resurface pitch. Look to get pitch on the FA register to ensure pitch can be used for competitive matches.	School, FF, CFA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
74	Hillcrest Playing Fields	SK2 5SE	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality adult pitch. The pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated clubhouse/changing room provision, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy).	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
108	Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club	SK7 5PJ	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. The pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week. Accompanying ancillary provision of poor quality. Previously provided one cricket square onsite, but this was identified as disused in the previous PPS (2019). There are no known clubs currently using the site.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
108	Norbury Cricket & Lacrosse Club	SK7 5PJ	Lacrosse	Sport Club	One standard quality lacrosse pitch. Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Club, EL	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
109	Norbury Hall Primary School	SK7 6LE	Football	School	Three standard quality mini 5v5 pitches, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
110	Norbury Playing Field	SK7 5JY	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision. Richmond Rovers FC aspires to further develop ancillary provision in the future.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore feasibility to further develop ancillary provision onsite.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
115	Offerton Hall Recreation Ground	SK2 5LB	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch. Pitch is played to capacity. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
143	St John's Wood Playing Field	SK2 5ED	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. The pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by standard quality with ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
147	St Peters Catholic Primary School	SK7 5PL	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
148	St Simon's Catholic Primary School	SK7 4LH	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
148	St Simon's Catholic Primary School	SK7 4LH	Rounders	School	One rounders diamond that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	School, RE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
155	Stockport Georgians AFC	SK2 7DT	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality adult pitch. The pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by ancillary provision of standard quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
156	Stockport Georgians Cricket Club	SK2 7DT	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with 18 grass wickets. Both senior and junior wickets are overplayed, by 33 and 21 match equivalent sessions per season, respectively. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary and training facilities.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of installing an NTP on site in order to alleviate overplay. Support the Club in exploring the development of a second square to ensure current and future demand can be met.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	H	S	L	Protect Provide
158	Stockport Grammar School Playing Fields	SK2 7LQ	Football/ Cricket (Disused)	School	The site, which is an off-site playing field on Dialstone Lane, has recently had Storey Homes launch public consultation for the redevelopment of the site for 112 homes. The site is disused.	Ensure any future proposal for the site is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy).	School, FF, CFA, CCB, ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
162	Stockport School	SK2 6BW	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch and one standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. Both pitches have spare capacity, but this is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Accompanying ancillary provision quality of standard quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore community use options with the School to secure tenure for clubs.	School, FF, CFA	Key	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
162	Stockport School	SK2 6BW	3G	School	The School has planning permission for the development of a 11v11 size 3G pitch suitable for both football and rugby union. Serviced by sports lighting.	Ensure development to 3G pitch is completed. Ensure testing for both football and rugby union so that it can be suitable for match play and that a pitch replacement fund is in place.	School, FF, CFA, RFU	Key	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
162	Stockport School	SK2 6BW	Rounders	School	Four rounders diamonds that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	School, RE	Key	L	L	L	Protect
170	Torkington Park	SK7 4RQ	Football	Council	Three poor quality adult pitches and one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch. Adult pitches are overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week, whilst the youth 9v9 pitch has spare capacity which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
171	Torkington Primary School	SK7 6NR	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
190	Offerton Cricket Club	SK2 5AP	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality grass cricket square with 14 wickets. Senior wickets on site have actual spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek demand whilst junior wickets are played to capacity at peak time. Offerton CC reports that the square suffers from vandalism and unauthorised use. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities but is without training facilities; Offerton CC reports a need for training facilities to support its training demand.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support Offerton CC to secure the site and install appropriate training facilities, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy). Improve ancillary facilities.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

STOCKPORT CENTRAL

Area summary

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions) ⁹
Football	Adult	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 0.5
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 4.5
Football	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	At capacity
Football	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 0.5
Football	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 1
3G (football training)	11v11 (full size)	Shortfall of 2 pitches	Shortfall of 2 pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 13	Shortfall of 18
Rugby union	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
Hockey	AGP	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Lacrosse	Senior	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 4
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Aussie rules	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay particularly on poor quality provision (Bakery Bridge / Davenport Playing Fields / Hollywood Park / Warth Meadow Playing Fields / St Thomas Recreation Ground). ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where required (Bakery Bridge / Brinnington Park / Davenport Playing Fields / Hollywood Park / St Thomas Recreation Ground/ Warth Meadow Playing Fields / Woodlands Park). ◀ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs through CUA at school sites.
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for long-term sustainability. ◀ Examine potential options to alleviate identified 3G shortfalls. ◀ Ensure the pitches at Life Leisure Brinnington Park, Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Stockport Academy and Stockport Grammar School are refurbished when required.
Rugby union	◀ N/A
Hockey	◀ Resurface the pitch as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand at Hulme Hall Grammar School, Westmorland Primary School and Stockport Grammar School.

⁹ Based on population growth to 2040.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Headline findings
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect and sustain quality of current provision. ◀ Seek to alleviate overplay via the installation of an NTP (e.g. Stockport Cricket Club). ◀ Support ancillary development plans/improvements (e.g. at Stockport Cricket Club) ◀ Explore the potential of opening up Stockport Grammar School for community use in order to use its squares for future demand, alternatively look to develop new provision.
Lacrosse	◀ N/A
Other grass pitch sports	◀ N/A

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

STOCKPORT CENTRAL

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
8	Bakery Bridge	SK3 8LQ	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch and one poor quality mini 7v7 pitch. Youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week, whilst mini 7v7 pitch is played to capacity. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
9	Banks Lane Junior School	SK1 4PR	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
23	Brinnington Park	SK5 8BG	Football	Council	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches. The pitches have spare capacity, however this is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
44	Davenport Playing Fields	SK3 8UG	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch, one poor quality youth 11v11 pitch and one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch. Adult pitch is played to capacity, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week. The youth 9v9 pitch has spare capacity, but this is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Accompanied by ancillary provision of poor quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
47	Edgeley Park Stadium (Stockport County Football Club)	SK3 9DD	Football	Sport Club	One good quality adult pitch. Pitch is the elite stadia pitch for Stockport County FC.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Club, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
75	Hollywood Park	SK3 0BN	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Pitch is overplayed 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated clubhouse/changing room provision, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy).	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
77	Hulme Hall Grammar School	SK3 8HA	AGP	School	One standard quality small sided AGP, with no sports lighting. Unavailable for community use,	When required resurface pitch for continued school use.	School, EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
82	Lark Hill Primary School	SK3 9PH	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
86	Life Leisure Brinnington Park	SK5 8BG	3G	Trust	One standard quality small sided 3G pitch with sports lighting.	When required look to resurface pitch.	Trust, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	M	Protect Enhance
117	Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	SK3 9HX	3G	School	One poor quality small sided 3G pitch, with no sports lighting. Unavailable for community use.	Look to resurface pitch for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	M	Protect Enhance
151	St Thomas Recreation Ground	SK1 4LP	Football	Council	One poor quality and three standard quality youth 11v11 pitches. Poor quality pitch is played to capacity, whilst the standard quality pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Accompanied by ancillary provision of poor quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
153	Stockport Academy	SK3 0UP	3G	School	Two standard quality small sided 3G pitches, with sports lighting and available for community use. One is youth 9v9 size and therefore capable of supporting significant activity.	Resurface pitches. Explore testing of the youth 9v9 size pitch so that it can be used for match play.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
153	Stockport Academy	SK3 0UP	Rounders	School	Two rounders diamonds that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	School, RE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
154	Stockport Cricket Club	SK3 8HD	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with 18 grass wickets. Senior wickets on site have actual spare capacity for additional midweek demand whilst junior wickets are overplayed by 13 matches per season. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary and training facilities.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of installing an NTP on site in order to alleviate overplay. Look to improve ancillary facilities and practice provision.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
157	Stockport Grammar School	SK2 7AF	Football	School	Four good quality youth 11v11 pitches, one good quality youth 9v9 pitch and two good quality mini 7v7 pitches, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
157	Stockport Grammar School	SK2 7AF	Hockey	School	One standard quality small-sided sand based AGP, unavailable for community use.	When required look to resurface pitch for continued school use.	School, EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
157	Stockport Grammar School	SK2 7AF	Cricket	School	One good quality cricket square with nine grass wickets as well as two standalone NTPs that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain square quality for curricular use. Explore community use options given shortfalls that exist.	School, ECB, CCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
157	Stockport Grammar School	SK2 7AF	Rugby Union	School	Two standard quality senior pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
157	Stockport Grammar School	SK2 7AF	Rounders	School	Five rounders diamonds that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	School, RE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
159	Stockport Lads Club	SK1 4NT	Football	Community Organisation	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch, one standard quality mini 7v7 pitch and two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches. Youth 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week, the mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. With the mini 5v5 pitches have actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions per week. Accompanied by standard quality of ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Community organisation, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
174	Warth Meadow Playing Fields	SK6 2BH	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch and one standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. The adult pitch has actual; spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. Whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week. Accompanied by ancillary provision of poor quality. Spurley Hey FC reports aspirations to redevelopment of the clubhouse in order to improve and modernise the ancillary offer.	Look to sustain and improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to redevelop clubhouse in order to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
177	Westmorland Primary School	SK5 8HH	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
177	Westmorland Primary School	SK5 8HH	AGP	School	One poor quality small sided sand based AGP, with no sports lighting and unavailable for community use.	Look to resurface pitch for continued school use.	School, EH	Local	L	L	M	Protect Enhance

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
183	Woodlands Park	SK2 5AP	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Pitch has spare capacity which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated clubhouse/changing room provision, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy).	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

WERNETH

Area summary

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions) ¹⁰
Football	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
Football	Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 1.5
Football	Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
3G (football training)	11v11 (full size)	Shortfall of 1 pitch	Shortfall of 1.25 pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 52	Shortfall of 64
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 52	Shortfall of 64
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 58	Shortfall of 63
Rugby union	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
Hockey	AGP	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Lacrosse	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Rounders	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Aussie rules	Senior	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay particularly on poor quality provision (Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village / Daisyfields Recreation Ground / Gotherage Lane Playing Fields / Harrytown Catholic High School and Mill Lane Recreation Ground). ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where required (Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village / Daisyfields Recreation Ground / Gotherage Lane Playing Fields / Harrytown Catholic High School and Mill Lane Recreation Ground). ◀ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs through CUA at Harrytown Catholic High School.
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for long-term sustainability. ◀ Examine potential options to alleviate identified 3G shortfalls. ◀ Ensure provision at Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village is refurbished when required and remains available for community use.

¹⁰ Based on population growth to 2040.

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Headline findings
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve quality to eradicate overplay (e.g. at Grove Park and Stockport RUFC) ◀ Look to provide improved ancillary provision (e.g. at Grove Park and Stockport RUFC). ◀ Explore greater access to World Rugby 3G provision to alleviate overplay.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Resurface the pitch as required to meet curricular and extracurricular demand at Arden Primary School, Romiley Primary School and Weneth School.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve quality of standard quality squares to alleviate overplay (e.g. at Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club). ◀ Seek to alleviate overplay via the installation of an NTP (e.g. Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club, Romiley Cricket Club and Woodley Cricket Club). ◀ Support training provision development plans/improvements (e.g. at Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club). ◀ Look to secure long term tenure for Woodley CC at Woodley Cricket Club.
Lacrosse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ N/A
Other grass pitch sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ N/A

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

WERNETH

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
7	Arden Primary School	SK6 2EX	AGP	School	One good quality sand based AGP, with no sports lighting and unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for continued school use.	School, EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
17	Bredbury Green Primary School	SK6 3DG	Rounders	School	Two rounders diamonds that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	School, RE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
18	Bredbury St Marks Cricket Club (Dark Lane)	SK6 2EZ	Cricket	Sport Club	Two standard cricket squares, one with seven senior grass wickets and the second with three junior grass wickets and an NTP. The senior square is overplayed by 32 match equivalent sessions per season whilst the junior square is played to capacity at peak time. The outfield has been damaged by motorbikes being ridden on site whilst, as the square is new, it is still said to need a few years to 'bed in'. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary and training facilities although the Club reports it requires increased training facilities to support current training demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce shortfalls. Explore the feasibility of installing an NTP on site in order to alleviate overplay. Support Bredbury St Marks CC to expand training facilities on site, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy). Support the Club to secure the site in order to prevent vandalism.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
43	Daisyfields Recreation Ground	SK6 2EX	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Pitch has spare capacity, which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
53	Gotherage Lane Playing Fields	SK6 4HD	Football	Council	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Pitches have spare capacity which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated clubhouse/changing room provision, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy).	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
56	Greave Primary School	SK6 1HR	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
62	Harrytown Catholic High School	SK6 3BU	Football	School	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches. Pitches have spare capacity, which has been discounted due to unsecure tenure. Accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore community use options with the School to secure tenure for clubs. Look to improve ancillary provision offer.	School, FF, CFA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
62	Harrytown Catholic High School	SK6 3BU	Rounders	School	Three rounders diamonds that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	School, RE	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	SK6 1QX	Football	Trust	One poor quality adult pitch. The pitch has spare capacity, however this is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Accompanied by ancillary provision of good quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Trust, FF, CFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
90	Life Leisure Stockport Sports Village	SK6 1QX	3G	Trust	Two standard quality 11v11 size 3G pitches. Three good quality small sided 3G pitches and five standard quality small sided 3G pitches. Both 11v11 size pitches are FA compliant. All pitches are heavily utilised both during the week and at weekends, resulting in very limited spare capacity. Installed in 2012 so at the end of their recommended lifespan.	Resurface pitches to ensure pitches are not lost for community use. Ensure re-testing every three years to ensure that it remains suitable for match play.	Trust, FF, CFA	Key	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
104	Mill Lane Recreation Ground	SK6 1QJ	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Pitch is played to capacity. No accompanying ancillary provision.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore opportunity to develop dedicated clubhouse/changing room provision, providing any proposal is planning policy compliant (i.e., in line with NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy).	Council, FF, CFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
128	Romiley Cricket Club	SK6 4GA	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with 17 grass wickets and an NTP. The senior wickets on site have actual spare capacity during the week whilst the junior wickets are overplayed by 13 match equivalent sessions per season. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary and training provision.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Encourage greater utilisation of the NTP on site for junior matches to alleviate overplay.	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	M	S	L	Protect
129	Romiley Primary School	SK6 4NE	AGP	School	One poor quality small sided sand based AGP, with no sports lighting and unavailable for community use.	Look to resurface pitch for continued school use.	School, EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
175	Werneth School	SK6 3BX	AGP	School	One standard quality full size sand based AGP, with sports lighting and available for community use. Pitch is currently fully booked, with no hockey use of the pitch, all access is currently for football.	When required, look to resurface the pitch and consider surface-type options as part of the Stage E process in collaboration with EH and FF.	School, EH	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

**STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
184	Woodley Cricket Club	SK6 1JW	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality square with ten grass wickets and an NTP. The senior wickets are overplayed by 20 match equivalent sessions whilst the junior wickets are played to capacity at peak time. The Club's lease agreement has expired; it is negotiating with the landowner for another seven year lease. Serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities but without training facilities.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Encourage greater utilisation of the NTP on site for senior matches to alleviate overplay. Ensure a new lease agreement is secured for the use of Woodley CC and explore whether this can be granted for more than seven years (e.g., 25).	Club, ECB, CCB	Local	H	S	M	Protect

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 6: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC)¹¹ helps local authorities estimate the demand that may be generated for the use of playing pitches by a new population. It's designed to assist those developing and implementing a playing pitch strategy by giving a consistent starting point to help estimate the demand from a new population. This can then be refined locally as appropriate through consultation with Sport England/NGBs and using the PPS.

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2040. This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The PPC adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

Experience shows that housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For such large scale developments, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). If this is not the case, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

For a residential development of 300 dwellings or more, Sport England responds to such applications as a non-statutory consultee in line with its planning aim and objectives, its wider Planning for Sport guidance and relevant areas of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, e.g., Section 8; and paragraph 98. In doing so Sport England will assess the resulting demand for sporting facilities in line with its strategy Uniting the Movement and will use the Playing Pitch Calculator (and Built Facilities Calculator) to advise local planning authorities of what is expected as a financial contribution to meet this demand.

The scenario below is an example of how the PPC will show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in Stockport, thus showing how the calculator works and what it provides. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches (rugby).

¹¹<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/playing-pitch-calculator> - please note that you need to register to access the PPC.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Please note that a Local Plan review will soon commence in Stockport and the housing figures used above, will be under review. Therefore, the PPC can be updated throughout the lifespan of the PPS to reflect population projections and change in the average household size. In addition, the PPC can be used on an individual site allocation basis to help determine site specific need. This should also be done in consultation with Sport England and NGBs and using the key findings of this Strategy.

Demand arising from an additional population of 17,331.

The anticipated population increase over the 16 year period (2040) equates to 20.38 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.41 match equivalent sessions on hockey suitable AGP and 114.30 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 37.42 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.96 hours on hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports from a population increase of 17,331

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand (match equivalent sessions) per week ¹²	Training demand ¹³
Adult football	3.77	37.42 hours
Youth football	7.11	As above
Mini soccer	7.83	As above
Rugby union	1.67	1.67 equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.23	0.70 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.18	0.26 hours
Cricket	114.30	-

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ¹⁴	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ¹⁵	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	3.77	£411,048	£80,976	7.55	£1,466,693
Youth football	7.11	£633,283	£127,923	8.65	£1,680,619
Mini soccer	7.83	£232,487	£46,033	0.00	£0
Rugby union	1.67	£273,515	£50,600	3.35	£650,633
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	2.43	£831,130	£152,928	4.87	£945,561
Sand AGPs	0.07	£68,061	£1,770	0.14	£28,120
3G pitches	0.98	£1,111,371	£33,678	1.97	£382,643
Total	23.87	£3,560,894	£493,908	26.53	£5,154,269

¹² As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

¹³ Hours equate to access to a 11v11 floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

¹⁴ Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2022 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

¹⁵ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Overall, an additional 23.87 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from a population increase of 17,331. This would require an expected capital cost of £3,560,894 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £493,908.

Conclusion

For the example scenario above, the tables show, that through housing growth, some demand will be generated for football, rugby union, hockey and cricket. In addition, the tables indicates that, over the course of the 16 year period, housing growth will result in increased demand equating to the potential need for three adult, seven youth pitches and seven mini football pitches, as well as one rugby union pitch and two cricket squares.

The PPS shows that there are shortfalls across adult, youth and mini football pitches, 3G pitches, rugby union pitches and cricket squares. Therefore, the predicted growth is going to increase the shortfalls further. On this basis, any future development of new pitch provision should consider current shortfalls to work out where best to place the new provision to also alleviate overplay.

A decision of this nature should be considered in consultation with Sport England and the appropriate NGBs. Contributions to improving existing sites and increasing the capacity of this provision may also provide a more suitable sporting outcome. The PPS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs should be used to inform this (e.g., to select suitable sites).

To provide the greatest impact, contributions from housing developments could be pooled together to improve key sites. The action plan identifies high priority sites which would likely provide the most benefit from investment. The FF states that they could also be used to deliver priority projects in the LFFP, in conjunction with its own funding, to maximise the impact of this.

PART 7: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date. However, a more tailored approach should also be considered and designed for Stockport based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group.

Delivery

The PPS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Stockport. 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 the Borough 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 the Council's priorities.

The creation of this document should be regarded as part 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.

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 and outdoor sport 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 needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of completing 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 monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue 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. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

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It is agreed that the Council is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up to date in order that area-by-area action plans can be updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

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 it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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.

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


These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings.

The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

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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:

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 9: Apply & deliver the strategy Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
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?		
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 Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?		
Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
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?		
Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		