



# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

**MARCH 2023**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BARLA	British Amateur Rugby League Association
CC	Cricket Club
CCB	Cheshire Cricket Board
CFA	Cheshire Football Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FE	Further Education
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
IMS	International Matchball Standard
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LCFA	Liverpool County Football Association
LFA	Lancashire County Football Association
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SE	Sport England
TGR	Team Generation Rates
U	Under
WBC	Warrington Borough Council
WR	World Rugby

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Draft Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Warrington Borough Council. Building upon the preceding updated Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sport 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 that prioritise and can address key issues.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance 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

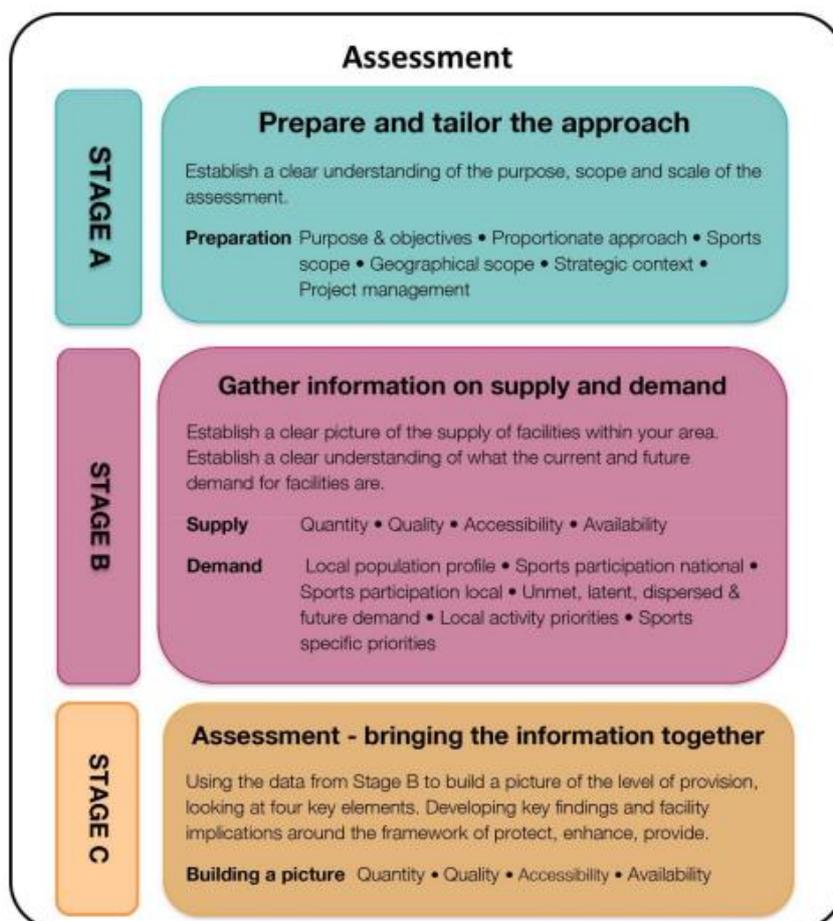
This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is regularly kept up to date.

Please note that only the winter sports of football, rugby union and hockey are currently covered in this Strategy. With all other outdoor sports to be added a later date on completion of Stage B during the summer of 2022.

Sport England's 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' Guidance details the following approach shown in Figure 1.1 overleaf.

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Figure 1.1: Sport England's 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' Guidance approach



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.

## **Agreed scope**

The following types of outdoor sports facilities are covered by the PPOSS:

- ✦ Football pitches
- ✦ Third Generation artificial turf pitches (3G AGPs)
- ✦ Cricket pitches
- ✦ Rugby union pitches
- ✦ Rugby league pitches
- ✦ Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
- ✦ Athletics track
- ✦ Outdoor tennis courts
- ✦ Outdoor bowling greens
- ✦ Cycling
- ✦ Golf courses
- ✦ Other grass pitch sports (Gaelic football, American football, lacrosse and polo)

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## Study area

As a Borough wide assessment, the study area reflects the Warrington Borough boundaries. Further to this sub areas or analysis areas have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. It should be noted that sports catchment areas do not naturally fall within administrative analysis areas and can be either larger or cross over analysis areas. The analysis areas are for reporting purposes only and should not be used to compare provision between areas.

Warrington is surrounded by Wigan to the North, Trafford and Salford to the East, Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East to the South and Halton and St Helens to the West. The PPOSS will examine any cross boundary issues relating to these authorities. PPSs for Wigan (October 2017), Trafford (June 2017), Salford (April 2018), Cheshire West and Chester (October 2021), Cheshire East (March 2017), Halton (May 2021) and St Helens (April 2022) have all been completed by KKP so information relating to these issues is already held internally.

It should also be noted that KKP completed a review of the Trafford PPS in June 2019 and has completed updates of the Cheshire East PPS every year since its completion in 2017.

Warrington is currently split into four neighbourhood areas as shown below and these neighbourhood areas have been used as the analysis areas in the assessment.

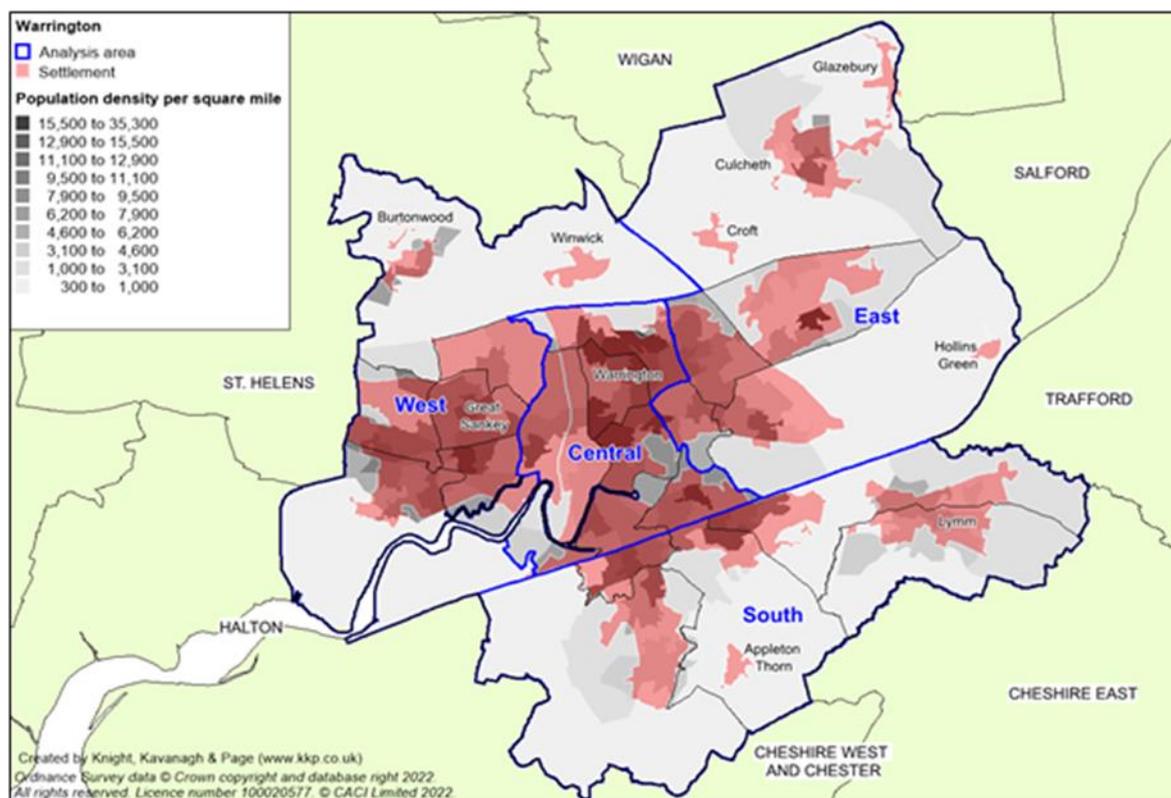
*Table 1.1: Warrington analysis areas broken down by ward*

Analysis area	Ward
West	Burtonwood & Winwick
	Chapelford & Old Hall
	Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall
	Great Sankey South
	Penketh & Cuardley
	Westbrook
Central	Bewsey & Whitecross
	Fairfield & Howley
	Latchford East
	Latchford West
	Orford
	Poplars & Hulme
East	Birchwood
	Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft
	Poulton North
	Poulton South
	Rixton & Woolston
South	Appleton
	Grappenhall
	Lymm North & Thelwall
	Lymm South
	Stockton Heath

Please see Figure 1.2. below for the analysis area boundaries.

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Figure 1.2: Warrington analysis areas



## 1.1: Headline findings

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

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

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

It should be noted that only senior demand has been summarised in the headline findings below for cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey as junior/youth demand for these sports is encompassed in the overall findings for senior demand. Where shortfalls are identified for senior demand, alleviating senior shortfalls is sufficient to also alleviate any identified junior/youth shortfalls for these sports. Similarly, where spare capacity for senior demand is identified, there is also considered to be spare capacity for junior/youth demand.

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

For artificial surfaces, how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, hours in the peak period is used as the comparable unit.

For the other non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, bowls etc) capacity is in accordance with Paragraph B13 of the ANOG guidance.<sup>1</sup>

Future demand is calculated to 2030 to align with Warrington's Local Plan.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>2</sup>	Future capacity total in MES <sup>3</sup>
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
Central	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 4</b>	
	Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>	
	Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	
	Mini 7v7	At capacity	
	Mini 5v5	<b>Spare capacity of 1.5</b>	
East	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 15.5</b>	
	Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	
	Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 9</b>	
	Mini 7v7	At capacity	
	Mini 5v5	<b>Shortfall of 2</b>	
South	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 6</b>	
	Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 5.5</b>	
	Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	
	Mini 7v7	<b>Spare capacity of 2</b>	
	Mini 5v5	<b>Spare capacity of 4</b>	
West	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 11</b>	
	Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 6.5</b>	
	Youth 9v9	At capacity	
	Mini 7v7	<b>Shortfall of 0.5</b>	
	Mini 5v5	<b>Shortfall of 0.5</b>	
<b>Warrington</b>	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 36.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 38.5</b>
	Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 16.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 25.5</b>
	Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 15</b>	<b>Shortfall of 18.5</b>
	Mini 7v7	<b>Spare capacity of 1.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>
	Mini 5v5	<b>Spare capacity of 3</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>

<sup>1</sup> To be added at a later date

<sup>2</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>3</sup> As presented in the assessment report, future demand from population growth can only be applied on a Borough-wide basis.

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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>4</sup>	Future capacity total in MES <sup>5</sup>
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>			
Central	Full size	<b>Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches</b>	
East	Full size	<b>Shortfall of one full size 3G pitch</b>	
South	Full size	<b>Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches</b>	
West	Full size	<b>Shortfall of three full size 3G pitches</b>	
<b>Warrington</b>	Full size	<b>Shortfall of eight full size 3G pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall of nine full size 3G pitches</b>
<b>Cricket</b>			
Central	Senior (Saturday)	Demand is being met	
East	Senior (Saturday)	Demand is being met	
South	Senior (Saturday)	<b>Shortfall of 54</b>	
West	Senior (Saturday)	Demand is being met	
<b>Warrington</b>	Senior (Saturday)	<b>Shortfall of 54</b>	<b>Shortfall of 54</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>			
Central	Senior	Demand is being met	
East	Senior	Demand is being met	
South	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 1.75</b>	
West	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 0.5</b>	
<b>Warrington</b>	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 2.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2.25</b>
<b>Rugby league</b>			
Central	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 0.25</b>	
East	Senior	<b>Spare capacity of 0.75</b>	
South	Senior	Demand is being met	
West	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 1.75</b>	
<b>Warrington</b>	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 1.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2.75</b>
<b>Hockey</b>			
Central	Full size	<b>Shortfall of provision</b>	
East	Full size	Demand is being met	
South	Full size	<b>Shortfall of provision</b>	
West	Full size	Demand is being met	
<b>Warrington</b>	Full size	<b>Shortfall of provision</b>	<b>Shortfall of provision</b>

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Athletics</b>	Supply is considered sufficient to meet demand and the track at Victoria Park Arena is deemed to be of good quality although in need of moss removal to retain its quality.
<b>Tennis</b>	Supply is sufficient to meet current club-based demand although if Stockton Heath LTC's significant future demand aspirations are realised, the Club will be operating considerably above the recommended capacity.
<b>Bowls</b>	There is currently sufficient capacity for crown bowling greens to meet both current and future demand.
<b>Cycling</b>	High demand for cycling is identified within Warrington, both currently and when taking into account latent demand. There is no requirement for dedicated cycling provision.

<sup>4</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>5</sup> As presented in the assessment report, future demand from population growth can only be applied on a Borough-wide basis.

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Sport	Headline findings
Golf	Supply is well placed to meet demand. Notwithstanding the above, there may be a gap in demand in the Borough for informal golf facilities such as a par 3 golf course or another similar shorter format golf facility.

## **Conclusions**

From a quantitative perspective, the existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of additional shortfalls for some pitch/facility types and in some areas where demand is currently being met.

Where demand is being met, this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered to be a solution to addressing current or future demand shortfalls. There is a resultant need to protect all existing outdoor sport provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

For the most part, the grass pitch shortfalls identified can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, pitch re-configuration, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites.

For football in particular, there is likely to be a need for some new provision to completely alleviate existing and future deficits given the considerable shortfalls identified. However, there is also a current theoretical shortfall of eight 3G pitches, increasing to nine 3G pitches after considering future demand. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision can also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play from grass pitches to 3G pitches, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements, so long as said 3G pitches are FIFA/FA approved to accommodate match demand. The location of 3G pitches must serve an identified strategic need and demonstrate clear sporting benefits that outweigh the loss of natural turf playing field and should not affect other pitch sport types. This is to accord with Sport England Playing Fields Policy Exception E5 and paragraph 99(c) of the NPPF.

New provision is also likely to be required to accommodate latent rugby union demand within Warrington.

For rugby league, provision of the 3G pitch at Victoria Park has helped to address previous shortfalls of grass pitches by accommodating club training needs. The small shortfalls that remain can generally be addressed through quality improvements.

For hockey, although there appears to be adequate quantity of hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs) currently being provided in Warrington, there is shortfall of provision due to quality and accessibility issues at key sites. All pitches in the Borough have exceeded their recommended lifespans and are regularly out of action throughout the Winter. There is a priority need for two good quality AGPs and better access agreements are required to accommodate current and future demand.

For non-pitch sports, supply is generally considered sufficient in Warrington and the focus is the need for quantitative improvements at key sites. However, there is potential need for new tennis courts to meet the LTA priority for increasing recreational tennis demand with the Central Area being a key focus due to a lack of provision.

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For golf, although supply is well placed to meet demand, it is identified that there may be a gap in demand in the Borough for informal golf facilities such as a par 3 golf course or another similar shorter format golf facility.

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## PART 2: VISION AND OBJECTIVES

### 2.1: Vision

The Warrington PPOSS seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of:

*“An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports pitches that provides and promotes local opportunities for all Warrington residents to be physically active, irrespective of the level of play.”*

### 2.2: Objectives

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

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

Many of the objectives and actions will need to be delivered and implemented by sports organisations and education establishments in addition to the Council. These partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities can be protected and enhanced, and help implement new provision where evidence suggests it is required.

Delivery of the Strategy is the responsibility of and relies on, *all* stakeholders.

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## PART 3: AIMS

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

### AIM 1

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

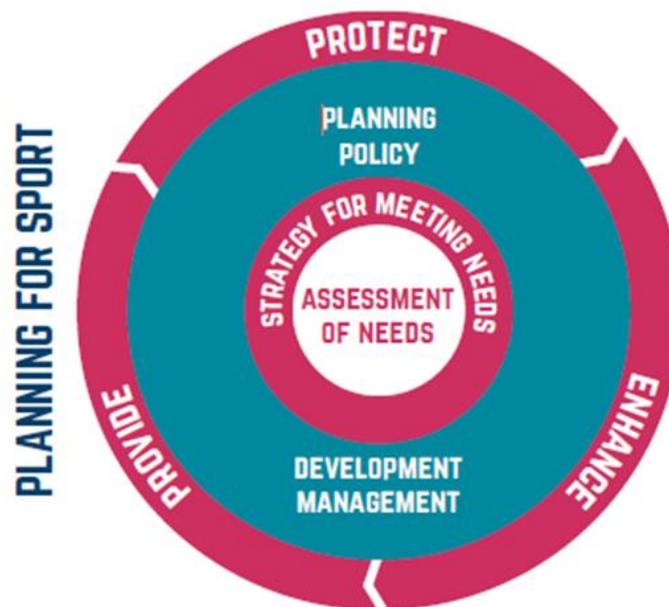
### AIM 2

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

### AIM 3

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

Figure 3.1: Sport England objectives



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

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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### PART 4: 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, scenario questions are tested against the key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This then informs the sport specific recommendations.

#### Football – grass pitches

##### ***Supply and demand summary***

- Overall, there are current capacity shortfalls evidenced for adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches whilst mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches show minimal amounts of actual spare capacity.
- After considering future, exported, latent and unmet demand, existing capacity shortfalls are expected to worsen whilst a shortfall of mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches would be created.
- There is a total of 18 match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity across 25 pitches on eight sites in Warrington with most expressed on adult pitches and in the Central and South analysis areas.
- There are 47 pitches overplayed across 26 sites by a total of 81.5 match equivalent sessions per week; overplay is most prevalent on adult pitches and in the East Analysis Area.

##### ***Supply summary***

- The audit identifies a total of 218 football pitches across 87 sites in Warrington; of these, 182 are available, at some level, for community use.
- In addition, 12 sites have been identified that previously accommodated football provision but where formal pitches are no longer marked.
- Of the community available pitches, 54 (29%) are managed by the Council, 52 (29%) by schools/colleges/universities, 28 (15%) by clubs and 16 (8%) by community interest companies. The remaining 35 (19%) pitches are managed privately/commercially, by Trusts or parish councils.
- In total, 16 pitches are assessed as good quality, 91 as standard quality and 75 as poor quality.
- Tenure is unsecure at many school sites such as Lymm High School, which is well used for community football, whilst Winwick Athletic FC aspires to take on the management and maintenance of the pitches at Winwick Recreation Ground.
- Whittle Hall JFC previously had a community use agreement in place with Chapelford Primary School but the Club withdrew this as the pitches became unsafe for use.
- Where available, changing facilities are generally viewed as being adequate by clubs, with 33% rating provision as good, 34% rating facilities as standard and 33% rating facilities as poor.

##### ***Demand summary***

- A total of 544 teams are identified as playing within Warrington. This consists of 76 men's teams, six women's teams, 230 youth boys' teams, 33 youth girls' teams and 199 mini soccer teams (17 of which are dedicated girls' teams rather than mixed).
- There is a general trend of increasing team numbers, with more clubs reporting a growth in demand compared to those that report a reduction.
- There are two clubs in Warrington competing within the National League System and three competing in the Women's National League System.
- A total of 22 clubs express latent demand linked to a lack of access to adequate grass pitch, training and/or ancillary facility provision.

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- ◀ The nature of the Cheshire Girls Football League means 12 Warrington-based youth and mini girls' teams are exported to play central venue format matches held in Cheshire West and Chester.
- ◀ Lymm Rovers Juniors, Lymm Piranhas and Warrington Rylands football clubs all export demand outside of Warrington due to a lack of available pitches in the Borough.
- ◀ Of the clubs which quantify their potential future demand, there is a predicted growth of 33 teams equating to two adult, four youth and 10.5 mini match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator expects an additional 13 teams to be generated in Warrington through population growth alone.

### Scenarios

#### Improving pitch quality

In total, there are 47 pitches in Warrington across 25 sites that are overplayed by a combined total of 81.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of such provision could increase capacity across the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls in 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 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity
11	Birchwood Academy Trust	(5v5)	1	Poor	1.5	2.5	-
		(11v11)	2	Poor	3	3	0.5
		(9v9)	1	Poor	4	1	-
26	Chaigley School	(9v9)	1	Standard	2.5	0.5	-
33	Culcheth Community Campus	Adult	2	Standard	0.5	1.5	1.5
35	Culcheth Sports Club	Adult	2	Poor	2.5	1.5	-
39	Doe Green Recreation Ground	(5v5)	1	Poor	0.5	3.5	-
40	Elizabeth Park	Adult	2	Poor	1	3	-
48	Grange Sports & Social Club	Adult	1	Standard	1	0	-
53	Great Sankey High School	Adult	1	Standard	2	1	-
55	Great Sankey Parish Playing	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2.5	-
65	Loushers Lane Recreation Ground	Adult	2	Poor	1	3	-

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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity
66	Lymm High School	Adult	3	Good	6.5	6.5	-
		(9v9)	1	Good	2	2	-
70	Mary Ann Meadows	Adult	2	Poor	4	0	-
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Adult	2	Poor	0.5	3.5	-
84	Penketh High School	Adult	2	Poor	4	0	-
86	Pewterspear Sports Pavillion	(11v11)	1	Standard	5.5	3.5	-
90	Ridgeway Grundy Park	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5	1.5
91	Rylands Recreation Club	Adult	1	Standard	2	1	-
		Adult	2	Poor	4	0	-
		(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	-
93	Sandy Lane Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Standard	1	0	-
96	Sir Thomas Boteler High School	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	2	-
98	St Albans Primary School	(11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	0.5	0.5
106	St Gregory's High School	(11v11)	1	Standard	3.5	1.5	-
121	Stocks Lane Playing Field	Adult	1	Poor	2.5	0.5	-
129	University Academy Warrington (Padgate)	Adult	2	Poor	0.5	3.5	2
138	Winwick Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5	-
142	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	Adult	1	Poor	1	1	0.5
143	Woolston Park	Adult	1	Poor	8.5	6.5	-
		(5v5)	1	Poor	0.5	3.5	-
		(9v9)	1	Poor	5.5	2.5	-
145	The Oaks Playing Fields	Adult	1	Standard	2.5	1.5	-

It should be noted that Daten FC and Culcheth Athletic FC have been awarded funding through the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund for support with enhanced maintenance and improved machinery at Culcheth Sports Club and The Oaks Playing Fields respectively. The Football Foundation expects the pitches at both sites to be improved to good quality.

In general, most overplayed pitches could accommodate demand if quality was improved. However, pitches at the following sites would continue to accommodate some level of overplay even if they were improved to good quality.

- ◀ Chaigley School
- ◀ Great Sankey High School
- ◀ Lymm High School
- ◀ Pewterspear Sports Pavilion
- ◀ St Gregory's High School
- ◀ Stocks Lane Playing Field
- ◀ The Oaks Playing Fields
- ◀ Birchwood Academy Trust (youth 9v9 pitch)
- ◀ Rylands Recreation Club (adult pitch)
- ◀ Woolston Park (adult and youth 9v9 pitches)

Some play at these sites should therefore be transferred to sites with spare capacity, to an existing or additional 3G pitch, or, if space and other usage allows, pitch re-configuration could be considered.

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Reducing the overplay through quality improvements would significantly reduce shortfalls on adult and youth pitches, as well as creating additional spare capacity on mini 5v5 pitches. This shown in the table below.

*Table 4.2: Impact on supply and demand if quality improved to good across Warrington*

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	36.5	5.5
Youth 11v11	16.5	8
Youth 9v9	15	1
Mini 7v7	1.5	1.5
Mini 5v5	3	5.5

In addition, future shortfalls would be significantly reduced on adult and youth pitches, as well as almost alleviating shortfalls on mini 5v5 pitches.

*Table 4.3: Impact on future supply and demand if quality improved to good across Warrington*

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Adult	38.5	7.5
Youth 11v11	25.5	17
Youth 9v9	18.5	4.5
Mini 7v7	1.5	1.5
Mini 5v5	3	0.5

### *Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)*

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 strategic sites. To that end, the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP, 2019) identified ten sites for grass pitch improvements that were considered to be in need of investment and that are key for football across Warrington.

The table below identifies what the impact would be on the supply and demand balance of pitches at these sites if quality was improved to good.

*Table 4.4: Impact of LFFP 2019 quality improvements*

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity
2	Appleton Thorn Playing Fields	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	2.5	1
		(5v5)	5	Poor	10	30	5
12	Birchwood Forest Park	Adult	2	Poor	2	6	2
31	Crab Lane Playing Field	Adult	1	Poor	1	3	1
61	Hood Lane Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Poor	1	3	1

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity
70	Mary Ann Meadows	Adult	2	Poor	4	0	-
		(5v5)	1	Poor	2	6	1
		(7v7)	1	Poor	2	6	1
		(9v9)	3	Poor	0.5	9.5	2
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Adult	2	Standard	0	2	-
		Adult	2	Poor	0.5	3.5	-
		(5v5)	1	Poor	0.5	4.5	-
		(7v7)	1	Standard	2	4	-
		(7v7)	1	Poor	1	5	-
		(9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	3.5	0.5
106	St Gregorys High School	(11v11)	1	Standard	3.5	1.5	-
		Adult	4	Standard	0	4	0.5
		(5v5)	2	Standard	3.5	7.5	0.5
		(7v7)	2	Standard	3	7	-
127	Thornton Road Recreation Centre	Adult	2	Standard	0.5	2.5	-
131	Victoria Park	Adult	3	Poor	1.5	7.5	1.5
143	Woolston Park	Adult	1	Poor	8.5	6.5	-
		(5v5)	1	Poor	0.5	3.5	-
		(9v9)	1	Poor	5.5	2.5	-
		(7v7)	2	Poor	0	8	-

Improving quality as set out in the table above would create 16 match equivalent sessions per week of additional actual spare capacity. Despite improvements, overplay would persist on the youth 11v11 pitch at St Gregorys High School and on the adult and youth 9v9 pitches at Woolston Park.

The impact the improvements would have on the overall supply and demand balance is shown in the following table. Overplay would be reduced on adult and youth 9v9 pitches whilst additional spare capacity would be generated on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.5: Impact on current supply and demand if quality improved at 2019 LFFP sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	36.5	23.5
Youth 11v11	16.5	14.5
Youth 9v9	15	9.5
Mini 7v7	1.5	2.5
Mini 5v5	3	9.5

When accounting for future demand, actual spare capacity would be created on mini 5v5 pitches equating to four match equivalent sessions per week whilst shortfalls of all other pitch types would be reduced.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.6: Impact on future supply and demand if quality improved at 2019 LFFP sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential total
Adult	38.5	25.5
Youth 11v11	25.5	23.5
Youth 9v9	18.5	13
Mini 7v7	1.5	0.5
Mini 5v5	3	3.5

As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPOSS, it is recommended that the priority list is updated on the back of this study to account for changes in demand since the initial study was completed. The Warrington LFFP is planned to be updated in 2023. To help guide this process, the table below comments on whether this document provides evidence to support the inclusion of the sites currently featured. It should also be considered that the Football Foundation's new "multi-sport" approach will see 40% of the Foundation's total investment into football facilities focus on providing quality provision and significant added value for other sports.

Table 4.7: Assessing 2019 LFFP priority list (grass pitch improvements)

Site ID	Site name	Comments	LFFP update recommendation
2	Appleton Thorn Playing Fields	Key site of poor quality without overplay	<b>Retain for improvement to provide actual spare capacity</b> Since the production of the assessment report, usage of the site has been withdrawn due to a lack of ancillary provision on site, reinforcing the need for the site's inclusion in the LFFP so potential capacity on site can be utilised.
12	Birchwood Forest Park	Key site of poor quality without overplay	<b>Retain for improvement to provide actual spare capacity</b>
31	Crab Lane Playing Field	Site that previously accommodated up to seven pitches, identified for being improved and reinstated. Since production of the assessment report, three mini 7v7, two youth 9v9 and three youth 11v11 pitches have been remarked on site and Warrington Rylands FC is officially using the site as a home venue for a number of its teams.	<b>Retain for improvement to provide actual spare capacity</b>
61	Hood Lane Recreation Ground	Disused pitch identified for being improved and reinstated	<b>Retain for improvement to provide actual spare capacity</b>
70	Mary Ann Meadows	Key site that is poor quality and overplayed	<b>Retain for improvement to alleviate overplay and provide actual spare capacity</b>
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Key site that has poor quality and overplayed pitches	<b>Retain for improvement to alleviate overplay and provide actual spare capacity</b>

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Comments	LFFP update recommendation
106	St Gregorys High School	Key site that is overplayed	<b>Retain for improvement to reduce overplay</b>
127	Thornton Road Recreation Centre	Key site of standard quality without overplay	<b>Retain for improvement to increase capacity</b>
131	Victoria Park	Key site of poor quality without overplay	<b>Retain for improvement to provide actual spare capacity</b>
143	Woolston Park	Key site of poor quality that is overplayed	<b>Retain for improvement to reduce overplay</b>

In addition to the above, additions should also be sought given the quality issues and shortfalls evidenced across Warrington. In that regard, the following sites should be considered given the number of pitches supplied and the quality/overplay issues identified:

- ◀ Birchwood Academy Trust
- ◀ Grange Sports & Social Club
- ◀ Carlsberg and Tetley Sports and Social Club
- ◀ Hillock Lane Playing Fields
- ◀ Great Sankey Parish Playing Fields
- ◀ Rylands Recreation Club
- ◀ Winwick Recreation Ground
- ◀ Lymm High School
- ◀ The Oaks Playing Fields

PitchPower<sup>6</sup> can be used as a further tool to identify the suitability of these sites to be added to the project list and the level of investment required.

### *Accommodating future demand aspirations*

In addition to future demand derived from population growth and estimated by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, responding football clubs in Warrington also report a potential increase of 33 teams. This scenario considers the impact this would have on football pitches in the Borough if these aspirations were realised.

*Table 4.8: Impact on pitch capacity if future demand aspirations are realised*

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity <sup>7</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Future total	Aspirational demand	Potential total
Adult	7.5	44	36.5	38.5	2	40.5
Youth 11v11	0	16.5	16.5	25.5	2	27.5
Youth 9v9	2	17	15	18.5	2	20.5
Mini 7v7	3	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	2
Mini 5v5	5.5	2.5	3	3	10	13

As seen in the table above, all future shortfalls would be exacerbated if club future demand aspirations are achieved and significantly so in the case of mini 5v5 pitches. Increased shortfalls on the remaining pitch types would be relatively minor in comparison.

### *Providing security of tenure*

Currently, 81 match equivalent sessions per week are played on unsecured pitches across Warrington. If these pitches were to fall out of use or access withdrawn, significant shortfalls would become evident on all pitch formats, except for mini 5v5 pitches where shortfalls would be created albeit relatively minimal.

<sup>6</sup> <https://pitchpower.org.uk>

<sup>7</sup> In match equivalent sessions

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Table 4.9: Current supply and demand balance without unsecure sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	36.5	65
Youth 11v11	16.5	29.5
Youth 9v9	15	28.5
Mini 7v7	1.5	17
Mini 5v5	3	4.5

Most of the unsecured sites are education sites with limited use, although others such as Carlsberg and Tetley Sports and Social Club are also considered unsecure and are used by the community.

At school sites, whilst not always possible, creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that users continue to be provided for in the longer-term. Where there is external investment on sites e.g., by an NGB or Sport England, there are potential opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement.

This also applies to new schools or for existing schools seeking changes to provision that requires planning permission as, via planning consent, the Council can seek the implementation of a Community Use Agreement.

In addition to unsecure sites that are used, there are 19.5 match equivalent sessions per week of potential peak time capacity discounted due to tenure issues. Again, this is mostly identified at schools, particularly those not offering community use. Gaining secured access to these would reduce all current shortfalls and create additional spare capacity on mini pitch types.

Table 4.10: Impact on current supply/demand through securing access to unsecure sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	36.5	33
Youth 11v11	16.5	14.5
Youth 9v9	15	10
Mini 7v7	1.5	4.5
Mini 5v5	3	9

This would also create additional future capacity on mini 7v7 pitches, whilst the expected future shortfall of all other pitch formats would be reduced. This can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.11: Impact on future supply/demand through securing access to unsecure sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential total
Adult	38.5	35
Youth 11v11	25.5	23.5
Youth 9v9	18.5	13.5
Mini 7v7	1.5	1.5
Mini 5v5	3	3

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As it is not deemed possible to gain secured access to all provision, sites that provide a large quantity of pitches or that are already used heavily by the community should be prioritised. An example of this is Culcheth Community Campus.

### *Undertaking all scenarios*

If pitch quality was improved and tenure was secure, in combination and as set out above, it is considered that all current and most future shortfalls could be alleviated (the only outstanding shortfall would be a future shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches).

*Table 4.12: Impact on current supply and demand through actioning all scenarios*

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	36.5	9
Youth 11v11	16.5	6
Youth 9v9	15	6.5
Mini 7v7	1.5	5.5
Mini 5v5	3	18

*Table 4.13: Impact on future supply and demand through actioning all scenarios*

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential total
Adult	38.5	7
Youth 11v11	25.5	15
Youth 9v9	18.5	3
Mini 7v7	1.5	2.5
Mini 5v5	3	12

Carrying out the above would result in there only being requirement for new youth 11v11 pitches to be established (other than those that may be needed to, for example, support housing growth and localised future demand). Alternatively, if additional 3G pitch provision is sought to address shortfalls, the shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches could be addressed by moving this demand to 3G surfaces. Other match demand could also be relocated to new 3G provision, allowing for vacated playing field space to be reconfigured as youth 11v11 pitches to address these shortfalls.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and NPPF paragraph 99).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment to improve quality.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity (or 3G provision).
- ◀ Update the 2019 Warrington LFFP following this study and use it to secure investment into appropriate sites.
- ◀ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Support clubs to access Football Foundation funding to improve grass pitches where presently maintaining them and to take on greater maintenance (and management) of the pitch stock where possible.

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- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements and support negotiation with private landowners and schools to secure appropriate access (e.g., via a community use agreement).
- ◀ Consider the feasibility of requiring Schools to provide Community Use Agreements via Local Plan Policy.
- ◀ Seek to gain access to sites not currently available for community use, particularly where a large quantity of pitches are provided.
- ◀ Consider pitch re-configuration where capacity of one pitch type can be used to reduce shortfalls of another and where it can better accommodate what demand is received.
- ◀ Work to accommodate exported, latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ 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 and key sites for adult and female participation.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites, such as Winwick Athletic FC.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, secure contributions to improve existing sites within the locality in reference to needs within the PPOSS Action Plan.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

### **Third generation turf (3G) pitches**

#### ***Supply and demand summary***

- ◀ In conclusion, there is deemed to be a theoretical shortfall of eight full size 3G pitches in Warrington to meet the current level of training demand.
- ◀ When considering future demand, this is expected to increase to a theoretical shortfall of nine full size 3G pitches.

#### ***Supply summary***

- ◀ There are currently eight full size 3G pitches within Warrington across eight sites, all of which are available to the community and have sports lighting.
- ◀ There are also 18 small-size 3G pitches identified in Warrington across eight sites. All of these are available for community use and all but one is supported by sports lighting (at Penketh High School).
- ◀ There are seven FA/FIFA approved 3G pitches in Warrington which can accommodate competitive matches.
- ◀ In addition, there is one RFL compliant and one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Warrington.
- ◀ An additional pitch is due to be provided at Cardinal Newman High School, replacing the disused AGP on site. Football Foundation funding has been agreed for the conversion but the pitch will also be constructed to be RFL compliant.
- ◀ Of the full size 3G pitches, three are managed by their respective education providers and three by LiveWire on behalf of the Council. The 3G pitch at Lymm Rugby Club is managed by the RFU whilst provision at Victoria Park is managed by the Council.
- ◀ There are five good quality full size 3G pitches in Warrington, two standard quality pitches and one poor quality pitch (University Academy Warrington (Padgate)).
- ◀ Appleton AFC indicates capacity at Broomfields Leisure Centre is limited on matchdays by car parking provision.

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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- ◀ Lymm Rovers Juniors FC reports two additional changing rooms were due to be provided at Lymm High School with the provision of the 3G pitch on site although these are yet to be installed.

### **Demand summary**

- ◀ During the week, minimal spare capacity exists although this is typically on Monday and Friday evenings which is considered to be too close to weekend matches.
- ◀ At weekends, the majority of spare capacity exists before 9:30 and after 15:00, when Warrington JFL matches are preventing from kicking off. Despite this, demand for 3G pitches increases significantly following heavy rain as a large proportion of grass pitches in Warrington are susceptible to flooding and/or drain poorly.
- ◀ Most full size 3G pitches currently available for community use in Warrington are all operating at, or close to, capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of floodlighting).
- ◀ The only exception to this is University Academy Warrington (Padgate), which has quality issues.
- ◀ Of the football clubs that responded to consultation, 21 (95%) indicate a demand for additional training facilities. All these explicitly report that they require additional access to 3G provision although the number of clubs/teams that state they require access to 3G pitches but do not currently do so has not been quantified.
- ◀ A total of 156 teams are identified as being unable to access 3G training facilities within Warrington.
- ◀ Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator expects additional demand for 12.57 hours per week on 3G pitches for football and rugby union training demand through population growth. This equates to 0.33 full size 3G pitches with sports lighting.
- ◀ For rugby union and rugby league, there is also 0.30 match equivalent sessions per week and 0.76 match equivalent sessions per week of training demand respectively which will arise from population increases which also could be accommodated on 3G provision or floodlit senior grass rugby union or rugby league pitches.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Accommodating football training demand*

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every England football accredited club through a partnership agreement. To enable this and to allow for an assessment of the level of provision required to accommodate the theoretical demand, it is calculated that a full size pitch can cater for up to 38 teams.

This analysis considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the analysis area in which they play. The 3G requirement is rounded to the nearest whole number.

The scenario assumes that all pitches are fully available for club use at peak time; however, in practice, some pitches operate commercial small-sided leagues which can reduce available capacity. It also presumes that all football teams should train on full size 3G pitches when in practice a proportion of football training demand must be retained on sand based AGPs to maintain financial and commercial sustainability for such provision.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Using all the above, this would ordinarily indicate a theoretical shortfall of six pitches based on eight currently being provided; however, it is considered that the shortfall should actually be increased due to limited football use of the rugby league 3G pitch at Victoria Park and the rugby union pitch at Lymm Rugby Club. As these pitches provide either limited or no football access, they are not considered to contribute to meeting football training demand. Therefore, it is suggested that the available supply for football is six, therefore the current theoretical shortfall in Warrington amounts to eight full size 3G pitches.

The 3G requirement is rounded to the nearest whole number.

*Table 4.14: Current demand for 3G pitches in Warrington (based on 38 teams per pitch)*

Current number of teams	3G requirement <sup>8</sup>	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Current shortfall
544	14	8	-2	8

When considering future demand for an additional 33 teams (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), the requirement increases to 15 full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 15.2) which means a future shortfall of nine pitches.

*Table 4.15: Future demand (theoretical) for 3G pitches Warrington (based on 38 teams per pitch)*

Future number of teams	3G requirement <sup>9</sup>	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Future shortfall
577	15	8	-2	9

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of full size 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 needs exist across the Warrington, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

*Table 4.16: Current demand for 3G pitches in Warrington by analysis area*

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement <sup>15</sup>	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required <sup>10</sup>	Potential shortfall
Central	129	3	2	-1	2 (1)
East	111	3	2	-	1
South	159	4	3	-1	2
West	145	4	1	-	3 (2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>8</b>

Assessing need by analysis area still shows a theoretical shortfall of eight full size 3G pitches. Each analysis area is deemed to have a current shortfall, ranging from one full size 3G pitch in the East Analysis Area to three full size 3G pitches in the West Analysis Area. It should also be noted that there is no 3G pitch currently located north of the M62 in Warrington, with key settlements in this area including Culcheth in the East Analysis Area and Winwick and Burtonwood in the West Analysis Area.

<sup>8</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number.

<sup>9</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number.

<sup>10</sup> Alterations made based on the expected delivery of full-size 3G pitches at Cardinal Newman High School and Penketh High School.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The Football Foundation is supporting the conversion of the disused AGP at Cardinal Newman High School to 3G. Funding for this development has now been agreed, planning permission has been granted and the pitch is under construction. The pitch will also be constructed to be RFL compliant although without rugby league line markings.

The potential pitch conversion at Penketh High School was said to have been agreed prior to the pandemic and the School is now looking to progress this whilst it has also had discussions with the Football Foundation regarding the provision of a second full size 3G pitch on site which it would like to make World Rugby compliant. The existing AGP is not used for hockey demand and is not known to have ever been accessed for community hockey. The application for this is still in development and so funding support is yet to be confirmed. Any development on site would have to meet Sport England's Playing Field Policy Exception E5 and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.

On the basis that new 3G pitch provision is progressing at Cardinal Newman High School (Central Area) and if conversion of the AGP at Penketh High School (West Area) progresses, this would reduce the shortfall in Central Area to one 3G pitch, the shortfall in West Area to two 3G pitches and the remaining total shortfall in Warrington to six full size 3G pitches.

When considering future demand, the theoretical shortfall of full size 3G pitches increases to nine, with an additional pitch required in the Central Analysis Area to meet future football training shortfalls.

*Table 4.17: Future demand for 3G pitches in Warrington by analysis area*

Analysis area	Future number of teams	3G requirement <sup>15</sup>	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Potential shortfall
Central	142	4	2	-1	3 (2)
East	123	3	2	-	1
South	164	4	3	-1	2
West	148	4	1	-	3 (2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>9</b>

On the basis that new 3G pitch provision is progressing at Cardinal Newman High School (Central Area) and if Penketh High School (West Area) progresses, this would reduce the shortfall in Central Area to two 3G pitches and the shortfall in West Area remains two 3G pitches.

The Warrington LFFP (published in 2019) identified the following projects for full-size 3G pitch development which are yet to be delivered and which still remain possibilities:

- ◀ Woolston Park (East)
- ◀ Grappenhall Village Sports Club (South)
- ◀ A suitable site within the Central Analysis Area
- ◀ A suitable site within the West Analysis Area
- ◀ A suitable site within Culcheth (East)

The Football Foundation notes that following the completion of the LFFP, the feasibility of providing a 3G pitch at Grappenhall Village Sports Club was explored but not deemed viable. Therefore, the site is no longer considered as a potential for future 3G pitch developments.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up to date PPOSS, the priority project list should be revisited following this study and updated/amended based on the findings, if necessary.

Using the FA training model, the above remain warranted based on the current and future shortfalls identified in the PPOSS and should therefore still be considered as priority projects, unless alternatives are now preferred. The impact of the delivering the pitches is shown in the table below.

*Table 4.18: LFFP impact on 3G pitch shortfalls*

Analysis area	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall	Pitches proposed in LFFP	Shortfall if delivered
Central	2	3	1	2
East	2	1	2	-
South	3	2	1	1
West	1	3	1	2

As seen, all but one of the priority projects proposed in the LFFP would reduce the shortfall of 3G pitches in Warrington.

Whilst all other potential projects would reduce the shortfall of 3G pitches, a shortfall of two pitches would remain in each the Central and West analysis areas whilst a shortfall of one pitch would remain in the South Analysis Area.

Other potential new 3G pitch opportunities identified during consultation (notwithstanding that some of these are converting current hockey AGPs) include:

- ✦ Culcheth Community Campus AGP conversion (East)
- ✦ Priestley College AGP conversion and/or new but on grass playing field (Central)
- ✦ Rylands Recreation Club (Central)
- ✦ Grange Sports & Social Club (Central)
- ✦ Sow Brook Playing Fields (South)
- ✦ Woolston Park (East)

It should be noted that the development of a 3G pitch would be subject to obtaining the necessary planning permission where such a proposal would need to ensure that Sport England's Playing Field Policy as well as paragraph 99 of the NPPF are adhered to.

The sites listed above could, in theory, be suitable for future development to meet known shortfalls for 3G pitches. Each of these sites will require a full feasibility to be undertaken to determine if they are suitable in meeting known need. Note this list is a starting point for discussion and should be updated as part of the Stage – E process.

It is also recommended that a Task and Finish Group is established as part of Stage E (Delivery and Implementation) to assess whether existing artificial grass pitches can accommodate current levels of unmet demand and future demand or if enhancements to existing and/or new provision is required.

There is a current and future shortfall of one 3G pitch in East Area which theoretically could be met by a pitch at Culcheth Community Campus, notwithstanding a potential need from a hockey perspective. However, Woolston Park as an option is also located in the East Area and is likely to be a higher priority than Culcheth Community Campus given the hockey issues.

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Given that three of the sites above are located in Central Area, with Cardinal Newman High School 3G pitch in progress, there is not considered enough demand for all three options to be feasible. However, due to its location, it could be argued that a 3G pitch at Priestley College could go some way towards meeting demand identified in South Area in addition to a pitch at Sow Brook Playing Fields. Sites for new 3G pitch development should also be sought within the West Analysis Area to meet potential training shortfalls as the PPOSS has not identified any suitable potential sites.

However, it should be noted that the shortfalls stated in this scenario are for football training alone. The Football Foundation is seeking to meet multi-sport needs within future facility developments and therefore, there may be a case to provide more than the nine full-size 3G pitches required to meet future football training demand. This is dependent on demand from other sports within usage programmes. As previously stated, the 3G pitch that is due to be provided at Cardinal Newman High School will cater for both football and rugby league demand whilst potential developments at Woolston Park, Priestley College and Culcheth Community Campus would also be well placed for rugby league use as well as capturing demand from neighbouring analysis areas.

### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

There is one full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Warrington, located at Lymm Rugby Club. The pitch is well used for rugby union although also accommodates football and rugby league demand.

Given the relatively minimal grass pitch shortfalls remaining for rugby union in Warrington, it is considered that there is no need for future World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision in the Borough and that the one at Lymm Rugby Club meets demand expressed.

### *RFL compliant pitches*

The 3G pitch at Victoria Park is the only RFL compliant pitch in Warrington, with a RFL Community certification. It is used heavily by Warrington Wolves and the Warrington Wolves Foundation as well as six community clubs for training demand and weekend rugby league fixtures.

The new 3G pitch at Cardinal Newman High School to 3G will also be constructed to be RFL compliant although without rugby league line markings.

Culcheth Eagles are pursuing the conversion of the sports lit training area at Shaw Street Recreation Ground to a small size, RFL compliant, 3G pitch that would be used for the Club's training demand as well as being available to hire for football training.

Initial discussions with the RFL and Wolves Foundation anecdotally indicated that there is a shortfall of a further one or two RFL compliant pitches in Warrington. In terms of training demand, there is expected to be an additional 0.76 match equivalent sessions of training demand per week generated from population growth which could be accommodated on 3G provision. As this doesn't warrant the creation of an additional RFL compliant pitch alone, the availability of 3G pitches for rugby league demand should be reconsidered once the RFL compliant 3G pitch at Cardinal Newman High School is online.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### *Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches*

In Warrington, a total of 94 teams (out of 544) are registered as using 3G pitches to accommodate demand on a weekly basis. However, competitive demand for 3G pitches increases drastically after heavy rain as a large proportion of grass pitches in Warrington are susceptible to flooding and/or drain poorly.

The FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches be transferred. The number of teams currently utilising council provision is summarised below, based on peak time usage.

*Table 4.19: Number of teams currently using council pitches*

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Saturday AM	77
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	-
Youth	9v9	Saturday AM	19
Mini	7v7	Saturday AM	11
Mini	5v5	Saturday AM	12
<b>Total</b>			<b>119</b>

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of full size 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, which is shown in the table below.

*Table 4.20: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand*

Format	No. of teams at peak time	No. of matches at peak time	3G units required per match <sup>11</sup>	Total 3G units required	3G pitches required
Adult	77	33.5	32	1,072	16.75
11v11	-	-	32	-	0
9v9	19	9.5	10	95	1.50
7v7	11	5.5	8	44	0.69
5v5	12	6	4	24	0.38

Transferring all matches currently played on council pitches would equate to the need for 19 full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 19.32) as the requirements for adult, youth 9v9 and mini pitch types need to be added together (as peak time is the same). As this is above the number required to accommodate training demand, it is suggested that the transfer of all Council pitch demand to 3G surfaces is not feasible.

An alternative approach to consider is the transfer of all mini football to 3G provision, which is also a priority for the FA and which can maximise the usage of pitches due to the number of matches that can be played at one time and on one day. As such, the table below tests a scenario to enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches based on a programme of play at current peak time (Saturday AM).

<sup>11</sup> Based on pitches are split on a full size 3G pitch

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.21: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

Based on the above programming and separate start times for the formats, the overall need is for ten full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 79 teams playing mini 5v5 football and 91 teams playing mini 7v7 football. As such, it is considered that all mini football pitch demand could be accommodated on 3G pitches if football training shortfalls were alleviated.

The table below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football.

Table 4.22: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – Noon	2 x 9v9	2/4
Noon – 2pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
2pm – 4pm	2 x 9v9	2/4

This demand could also be accommodated on the existing number of pitches as it equates to the need for six full size 3G pitches based on 74 teams currently playing this format within Warrington. It is also worth noting that if all youth 9v9 football was moved to a Sunday and all mini football was retained on a Saturday (or vice versa), it is feasible that all current demand for mini and youth 9v9 football could be accommodated on 3G pitch stock should football training shortfalls be alleviated.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches in accordance with Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and NPPF paragraph 99.
- ◀ Carry out further feasibility work to identify suitable locations for new 3G pitches and ensure this is done in consultation with Cheshire FA, Liverpool FA, Lancashire FA, RFU, RFL, the Football Foundation, Sport England and other relevant NGBs.
- ◀ Update Warrington LFFP based on findings of the PPOSS.
- ◀ Ensure England Hockey is consulted with regarding any proposals for development of new 3G artificial grass pitches or proposed conversion to 3G of existing hockey AGPs, to ensure the sustainability and sufficient supply of existing AGPs for hockey.
- ◀ Support creation of additional 3G pitches above and beyond football training shortfalls if it can satisfy multi-sport demand or explore creation of 3G pitches that are both football and RFL/RFU appropriate when alleviating shortfalls.
- ◀ Establish a PPOSS Task and Finish Group as part of the Stage E process in order to monitor and examine on going developments in more depth.
- ◀ Ensure that new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFL/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria, dependent on need and aspirations based on discussions with relevant NGBs.
- ◀ Ensure all 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that all existing and new pitches that are on the FA register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- ◀ Ensure that all existing and new pitches that are WR/RFL compliant are re-tested when required to sustain certification.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding 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 more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible, particularly from council sites and for mini and youth 9v9 football.
- ◀ Explore potential to establish central venue league play with key leagues, e.g Warrington JFL.
- ◀ Options to deter the future conversion of AGPs to 3G should also be explored, including, but not limited to, the removal of permitted development rights at each site.

### Cricket pitches

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Taking into consideration current demand only, there is an overall shortfall in Warrington for senior cricket totalling 54 match equivalent sessions on Saturdays although spare capacity equating to six match equivalent sessions on Sunday is identified.
- ◀ Spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket totals 60 match equivalent sessions, whilst for junior cricket actual spare capacity of 90 match equivalent sessions is identified.
- ◀ Overplay is evident at one site (Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket Club) and amounts to 54 match equivalent sessions of overplay across Warrington.

#### **Supply summary**

- ◀ In total, there are seven grass cricket squares identified in Warrington, all of which, are available for community use.
- ◀ Six standalone NTPs are identified in Warrington, of which, three are available for community use. The remaining NTPs are disused.
- ◀ All clubs within Warrington own or lease their home grounds, with three clubs owning their sites and two clubs leasing their grounds.
- ◀ The audit of grass wicket cricket squares identified six pitches as good quality, whilst the remaining square is assessed as standard (none are assessed as poor).
- ◀ All clubs in Warrington are considered to have access to changing room facilities at their home ground. However, Glazebury CC is supported by a poor quality facility which is in need of refurbishment/replacement and may have asbestos within the structure.
- ◀ Grappenhall CC has plans to modernise and extend their current pavilion to cater for the growing membership (including new female teams) and also to provide a bigger space for the local community to use.
- ◀ Warrington, Appleton and Glazebury cricket clubs aspire to improve training facilities at their respective home venues.

#### **Demand summary**

- ◀ In total, there are five clubs generating 22 men's, three women's and 25 junior teams.
- ◀ A total of three clubs have plans to increase the number of teams that they field, totalling one senior women's and two junior girls' teams.
- ◀ No additional teams are expected to be generated through population growth alone.
- ◀ Of the six squares identified with spare capacity, none are available for further senior cricket activity on a Saturday.

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Scenarios

### *Accommodating overplay*

Only one site is currently overplayed in Warrington, Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket Club, which entirely causes the shortfall in provision (54 match sessions per season). All remaining squares are played to capacity or have actual spare capacity. Despite this level of overplay, the Club does not utilise the NTP at the neighbouring Lymm High School even though it has a preferential user agreement in place. Therefore, one solution to alleviating overplay would be the utilisation of the NTP at Lymm High School.

Whilst it is not deemed realistic for the Lymm Oughtrington Park CC's 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> men's or 1<sup>st</sup> women's team to be permitted to utilise NTPs, it is feasible that all the Club's remaining teams utilise the provision at Lymm High School. If its friendly team as well as six of its older junior teams were to play home fixtures on the NTP at Lymm High School, this would relieve the grass square of 56 match sessions of demand from the Club's square, alleviating overplay completely as an NTP is considered able to accommodate 60 match equivalent sessions per season.

Therefore, Lymm Oughtrington Park CC should be encouraged to fully utilise the capacity it has available at Lymm High School in order to alleviate overplay at its home ground and therefore across Warrington.

### *Accommodating future demand aspirations*

In addition to future demand derived from population growth and estimated by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, responding cricket clubs in Warrington also report a potential increase of one senior women's (equating to 10 match sessions per season) and two junior girls' teams (equating to 12 match sessions per season). This scenario considers the impact this would have on cricket pitches in the Borough if these aspirations were realised.

*Table 4.23: Impact on Sunday cricket capacity if future demand aspirations are realised*

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions per season)			
		Overplay	Current total	Potential demand	Potential total
Central	10	-	10	-	10
East	20	-	20	-	20
South	30	54	24	10	34
West	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>

As seen in the table above, the potential additional women's team would be located within the South Analysis Area, which already suffers from overplay, exacerbating the existing shortfall. Further, the addition of this team would lead to an overall shortfall in the Borough equating to four match sessions per season.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.24: Impact on midweek cricket capacity if future demand aspirations are realised

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions per season)			
		Overplay	Current total	Potential demand	Potential total
Central	12	-	12	-	12
East	24	-	24	-	24
South	54	54	0	12	12
West	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>

Like the above, the potential two girls' teams would be located in the South Analysis Area, which is currently played to capacity during the week. Therefore, if these teams were to be created, it would lead to a shortfall equating to 12 match sessions per season in the South Analysis Area and reducing Borough-wide spare capacity to 24 match sessions per season.

### Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ✦ Improve quality at sites assessed as standard and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ✦ Encourage Lymm Oughtrington Park CC to fully utilise the NTP at Lymm High School to alleviate overplay of the grass cricket square at Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket Club.
- ✦ Create additional NTPs to support the recreational and informal game, particularly at venues such as Orford Jubilee Hub where there is no official wicket to support delivery by the CCB.
- ✦ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place.
- ✦ Improve the changing facilities where there is a need to do so i.e., at Glazebury Cricket Club.
- ✦ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ✦ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ✦ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.
- ✦ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ✦ 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).

### Rugby union - grass pitches

#### Supply and demand summary

- ✦ There is currently an overall shortfall of rugby union pitches amounting to 2.25 match equivalent sessions, which can be attributed to the South and West analysis areas.
- ✦ As no future demand is expected, the current shortfall is likely to remain.
- ✦ One pitch is considered to have actual spare capacity for increase in senior rugby demand, amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ✦ Overplay totals 2.75 match equivalent sessions and is identified across six pitches at three sites.

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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### **Supply summary**

- ◀ Within Warrington there are seven sites containing a total of 13 senior and four junior rugby union pitches. No mini pitches are identified although the junior pitches at Grappenhall Village Sports Club are used for mini demand. All these pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ Warrington RUFC is working with Grappenhall Sports FC to acquire additional land surrounding Grappenhall Village Sports Club (where both clubs are based) to increase the number of playing pitches and expand car parking on site.
- ◀ Two senior pitches available for community use assessed as good quality, five assessed as standard quality and the remaining six assessed as poor quality. Three junior pitches are assessed as standard quality and one is assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Pitches at Grappenhall Village Sports Club drain into a neighbouring canal, meaning it stops functioning if the water level rises too high. The site is also prone to flooding.
- ◀ Pitches at Thornton Road Recreation Centre drain poorly at one end.
- ◀ The RFU states Lymm RUFC is utilising RFU winter survival loan funding to invest in pitch improvement works at Lymm Rugby Club.
- ◀ Eagle RUFC indicates ancillary provision at Thornton Road Recreation Centre is in very poor condition. The pavilion on site has a leak in the roof which falls onto electrics and is of insufficient size to accommodate all the site's users.
- ◀ Site access and parking facilities are major issues at Grappenhall Village Sports Club.
- ◀ At Bridge Lane, the previous ancillary provision burnt down and there are now only porta loos on site. Warrington RUFC has plans to install basic changing facilities on site and replace the existing sports lighting.
- ◀ The RFU reports Lymm RUFC has plans to improve storage and catering facilities at Lymm Rugby Club, as well as improving the existing clubhouse (with support from England Hockey and England Squash) and car park on site. A fence is also due to be installed to protect cars from the pitch.
- ◀ All rugby clubs in Warrington are deemed to have secure tenure agreements over the short term, albeit Eagle RUFC's agreement is annual which prohibits the club from accessing funding to improve facilities.

### **Demand summary**

- ◀ Three community rugby union clubs play within Warrington, consisting of six senior men's, 14 junior boys' and 12 mini teams.
- ◀ Eagle RUFC utilises portable sports lights in order to train along the side of the rugby pitch at Thornton Road Recreation Centre although this isn't large enough to accommodate all of the Club's training demand.
- ◀ Therefore, some training activity has to take place on the marked pitch. Warrington RUFC uses portable sports lights to train on the pitches at Bridge Lane. It has submitted a planning application for permanent sports lights (Ref: 2021/40497). Lymm RUFC trains on the World Rugby compliant AGP at Lymm Rugby Club.
- ◀ Warrington RUFC believes it could double mini and junior membership if its lack of pitch space and parking facilities were rectified.
- ◀ No future demand is expected through team generation rates or club aspirations.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Thornton Road Recreation Centre*

The single senior pitch at Thornton Road Recreation Centre is currently overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. It is used by Eagle RUFC for match demand as well as half of the Club's training demand. An off-pitch training area accommodates the other half of its training demand although this area is not large enough to host the entirety of this demand. The table overleaf examines what the capacity on the site would be if pitch quality was improved by one increment (from M0 to M1).

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.25: Impact of quality improvement by one increment at Thornton Road Recreation Centre

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Current capacity rating <sup>12</sup>	Improved quality	New capacity rating <sup>13</sup>
127	Thornton Road Recreation Centre	West	1	Senior	No	Poor (M0/D0)	0.5	Poor (M1/D0)	0.5

As seen in the table above, improving pitch quality by just one increment would alleviate overplay and create 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week of spare capacity. Currently, the pitch is maintained by the Council with only cutting and marking taking place. Therefore, discussions between the Club and the Council should take place to determine how the pitch can be better maintained.

It should also be noted that improving the drainage on site by one increment would have the same impact on capacity as increasing maintenance by one increment would. Therefore, consideration should be given as to which method of pitch improvement is more feasible. The RFU notes that an improved maintenance regime being undertaken on site could also simultaneously improve pitch drainage from natural inadequate (D0) to natural adequate (D1). The Club & Council should seek a pitch assessment to be undertaken by the RFU's Rugby Pitch Advisors via the GMA.

### Bridge Lane

Bridge Lane hosts two senior pitches that are currently overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is used by Warrington RUFC for its training demand, as well as some of the Club's junior match demand. The table below examines what the capacity on the site would be if pitch quality was improved by one increment (from M0 to M1).

Table 4.26: Impact of quality improvement by one increment at Bridge Lane

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Current capacity rating <sup>14</sup>	Improved quality	New capacity rating <sup>15</sup>
152	Bridge Lane	South	2	Senior	No	Poor (M0/D1)	1.25	Standard (M1/D1)	0.25

As seen in the table above, improving quality by one increment at Bridge Lane would be insufficient to alleviate overplay although it would be reduced to a minimal level.

<sup>12</sup> Match equivalent sessions include both training and competitive demand

<sup>13</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>14</sup> Match equivalent sessions include both training and competitive demand

<sup>15</sup> Match equivalent sessions

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.27: Impact of quality improvement by two increments at Bridge Lane

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Current capacity rating <sup>16</sup>	Improved quality	New capacity rating <sup>17</sup>
152	Bridge Lane	South	2	Senior	No	Poor (M0/D1)	1.25	Good (M2/D1)	1.75

Improving pitch quality by two increments would alleviate overplay at Bridge Lane and create spare capacity of 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week and actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week for junior rugby. The Club reports that the pitches on site are currently only cut and marked due to a lack of funding. Therefore, support should be provided to ensure the pitches on site can be maintained to a higher standard in order to alleviate overplay. However, if the Club is permitted to install new sports lighting on site, it would be expected that the amount of training activity on site would increase, exacerbating the current problem. Discussions should therefore be held with Warrington RUFC as part of the support to ensure that if an enhanced maintenance regime is to be undertaken on site, an additional 1.75 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week would be sufficient to accommodate any expected increase in demand

### Grappenhall Village Sports Club

An alternative solution to Warrington RUFC's overplay at Bridge Lane could be provided by potential developments at Grappenhall Village Sports Club. The RFU reports Warrington RUFC is looking to create new pitches at Grappenhall Village Sports Club by removing shrubbery and levelling a section of the site to provide additional pitch space. The table below shows the impact providing two additional senior pitches on site.

Table 4.28: Impact of two additional senior pitches at Grappenhall Village Sports Club

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Current quality	Current capacity rating <sup>18</sup>	No. of new pitches	New capacity rating <sup>19</sup>	Actual spare capacity
52	Grappenhall Village Sports Club <sup>20</sup>	South	1	Senior	Yes	Standard (M1/D2)	0.5	3	3.5	2
			3	Junior	No	Standard (M1/D2)	1	3	1	-

<sup>16</sup> Match equivalent sessions include both training and competitive demand

<sup>17</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>18</sup> Match equivalent sessions include both training and competitive demand

<sup>19</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>20</sup> Whilst a drainage system is installed on site, if the water level in the neighbouring canal becomes too high the drainage system cannot work leading to fixtures being cancelled and the site occasionally flooding. Therefore, despite being assessed as M1/D2 quality, capacity figures for a rating of M1/D0 has been applied to all pitches on site.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

As seen in the table above, creating two new senior pitches at Grappenhall Village Sports Club would create an additional three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week and two match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity, providing that the new pitches are built and maintained to the same quality as the existing pitches on site. Additionally, sufficient additional capacity would be provided to alleviate overplay of the junior pitches on site as long as one match equivalent session of junior demand could be reallocated onto the new senior pitches on site.

These potential new pitches would provide enough additional capacity to accommodate all of the existing demand currently located at Bridge Lane at Grappenhall Village Sports Club. However, Warrington RUFC indicates it could field additional teams if it was not restricted by pitch space and parking facilities. It believes it could double mini and junior membership if capacity restrictions were alleviated. The table below shows the level of demand that would be accommodated across both the Club's sites if mini and junior demand doubled.

*Table 4.29: Impact of Warrington RUFC's mini and junior demand doubling*

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Current mini and junior demand	Increased mini and junior demand	Potential total demand
52	Grappenhall Village Sports Club	1	Senior	0	0	1
		3	Junior	5.5	11	11
152	Bridge Lane	2	Senior	3	6	7.25
<b>Total</b>				<b>8.5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19.25</b>

The table above shows that if Warrington RUFC's mini and junior demand did double, a total of 19.25 match equivalent sessions of demand would take place across the clubs two sites. Currently, these sites provide nine match equivalent sessions of pitch capacity per week. As shown earlier, providing two new senior pitches at Grappenhall Village Sports Club would create an additional three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week, taking the total pitch capacity providing across both sites to 12 match equivalent sessions per week.

To fully accommodate this latent demand, a permanent solution to drainage and flooding issues at Grappenhall Village Sports Club would be required in combination with providing new pitches on site and pitch maintenance improvements at both sites to ensure all pitches are of at least M1/D2 quality. It should be noted that additional car parking facilities, in addition to the new pitches, will be required to actualise this latent demand.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and NPPF paragraph 99.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems, particularly at Thornton Road Recreation Centre and Bridge Lane to alleviate overplay.
- ◀ Support Warrington RUFC to provide permanent sports lights at Bridge Lane.
- ◀ Support Warrington RUFC to create two new senior pitches at Grappenhall Village Sports Club.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for Eagle RUFC to allow the Club to access funding to improve facilities.
- ◀ Support ancillary facility improvement aspirations expressed by Warrington and Lymm rugby clubs at Grappenhall Village Sports Club, Bridge Lane and Lymm Rugby Club.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

### **Rugby league – grass pitches**

#### ***Supply and demand summary***

- ◀ There is insufficient supply of rugby league pitches in Warrington to meet demand.
- ◀ Overall in Warrington there is a current shortfall of 1.25 match equivalent sessions and a future shortfall of 2.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

#### ***Supply summary***

- ◀ There are 33 rugby league pitches identified in Warrington across 20 sites. Of these, 28 pitches across 15 sites are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the community available sites, seven are managed by WBC, two are managed by parish councils, four are managed in house by schools/colleges/universities, one is managed privately and one by LiveWire
- ◀ In total, two pitches are rated as good quality (7%), 14 as standard quality (48%) and 12 are deemed to be poor quality (45%).

#### ***Demand summary***

- ◀ A total of 90 teams are identified as playing competitive rugby league in Warrington. This consists of nine senior mens, two senior women's (19 years+), 26 junior boys', 10 junior girls' (12-18 years), 41 primary teams (7-11 years) and two disability teams.
- ◀ The East Analysis Area is where most teams have their match play pitch located (35 teams).
- ◀ There are also a range of rugby league initiatives and formats being played in Warrington including Masters rugby league, Touch Rugby and walking rugby.
- ◀ Rylands Sharks has been displaced from Rylands Sports and Social Club site which has now become a football only site (cricket was also previously displaced from the site). The Club currently play at Bennetts Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Team generation rates applied to population growth (to 2038) predict an additional junior boys and an additional mini mixed team to be generated, in addition to an extra hour of training demand per week.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, seven clubs highlight plans to increase membership amounting to 20 teams in total.
- ◀ There are five match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period. However, four sites are overplayed by a combined 6.25 match equivalent sessions per week. The West Analysis Area has the highest level of overplay (3.75 match equivalent sessions).
- ◀ One of the main reasons for overplay is training on match pitches couple with poor quality pitches. In addition, primary and junior teams playing on senior pitches also contributes to the overplay.

### **Scenarios**

#### ***Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality***

A total of nine pitches across four sites are overplayed by a combined 6.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Improving the quality of these pitches (through increased/improved quality of maintenance regimes or improved drainage capability achieved through greater aeration, decompaction or installation of drainage system) would increase capacity and consequently reduce overall current and potential future shortfalls. The capacity rating for each type and quality rating are identified in the table below:

Table 4.30: Rugby league pitch capacity ratings in match equivalent sessions per week

Pitch quality	Carrying capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)
Good	3
Standard	2
Poor	1

Table 4.31: Impact on overplayed pitches if improved by one quality increment

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Match equivalent sessions per week	
						Current capacity balance	New capacity balance
38	Dallam Recreation Ground	Central	Senior	2	Poor	2.25	0.25
43	Fir Tree Lane	West	Senior	1	Poor	1.25	0.25
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	East	Senior	3	Poor	0.25	2.75
61	Hood Lane Recreation Ground	West	Senior	3	Standard	2.5	0.5

Improving pitch quality through improved maintenance practices by one increment (from poor to standard or standard to good), would create additional carrying capacity of 3.25 match equivalent sessions per week across presently overplayed pitches. Only the pitches at Dallam Recreation Ground and Fir Tree Lane would remain overplayed, albeit only minimally. If these pitches were improved to good quality they would have additional carrying capacity of 1.75 and 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week respectively.

The table below shows the impact improving pitch quality of overplayed pitches by one increment would have on the capacity balance across Warrington.

Table 4.32: Impact of qualitative improvement on current capacity balance for grass rugby league pitches in Warrington (senior pitches)

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week		
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Potential total
Central	2	0.25	1.75
East	3.5	-	3.5
South	-	-	0
West	2.5	0.25	2.25
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>

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Table 4.33: Impact of qualitative improvement on future capacity balance for grass rugby league pitches in Warrington (senior pitches)

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
	Potential total	Future competitive demand	Future training demand	Future total
Warrington	7.5	1	0.5	6

As seen in the tables above, all existing rugby league grass pitch shortfalls would be alleviated by improving pitch quality of overplayed pitches. The South Analysis Area would be played to capacity whilst all remaining analysis areas have some level of actual spare capacity. Overall spare capacity would be generated equating to 7.5 match equivalent sessions, falling to six match equivalent sessions after considering future demand.

Note that whilst it may be possible to meet current shortfalls through improving quality of presently overplayed sites, this may not always be feasible where, for example, pitches are located on public open space, which may present challenges to scale and extent of remedial works able to be conducted.

Whilst improvement of one quality increment may appear realistic to achieve, in practice there are key challenges to the delivery of and investment into improved and more regular maintenance regimes which limit the potential to what level of improvement can be achieved.

This level of improvement to maintenance is considered realistically achievable, however, other measures may be required to reduce shortfalls if quality improvements at all sites cannot be pursued, such as transfer of training demand from grass pitches to off-field grass training areas or new compliant 3G pitch provision able to accommodate contact rugby league activity.

It should also be noted that the RFL is keen to investigate opportunities at existing facilities that would support a multi-sport agenda in partnership with other sports i.e. at Victoria Park and Monks Sports & Social Club. Whilst it is aware additional sites and projects may also come online, it is keen to improve existing rugby league provision across Warrington as long as this is not to the detriment of other sports in the Borough.

### *Accommodating future demand aspirations*

In addition to future demand derived from population growth and estimated by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, responding rugby league clubs in Warrington also report a potential increase of 20 teams, although one of these proposed teams is a disability team that would compete in festivals. Therefore, a potential increase of 19 teams considered in this scenario, that analyses the impact this would have on rugby league pitches in the Borough if these aspirations were realised.

Table 4.34: Impact on pitch capacity if future demand aspirations are realised

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity <sup>21</sup>	Overplay	Current total	Aspirational demand	Potential total
Central	2	2.25	0.25	1.5	1.75
East	1	0.25	0.75	3.25	2.5

<sup>21</sup> In match equivalent sessions

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Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity <sup>21</sup>	Overplay	Current total	Aspirational demand	Potential total
South	-	-	0	-	0
West	2	3.75	1.75	3.75	5.5
<b>Warrington</b>	5	<b>6.25</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>9.75</b>

As seen in the table above, if club future demand aspirations are achieved existing shortfalls would all be exacerbated whilst spare capacity in the East Analysis Area would be lost, with it becoming overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The South Analysis Area would remain at capacity.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing rugby league pitch provision in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and NPPF paragraph 99.
- ◀ Seek to improve pitch quality through improved and more regular maintenance and remediation, to increase capacity to alleviate overplay. Engage and utilise the GMA Pitch Advisory Service to establish recommended programme of works at key sites.
- ◀ Work with clubs to transfer some training demand from match pitches, either to other grass training areas or RFL Community Standard 3G pitch provision, where deemed feasible.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements and support negotiation with private landowners and schools to secure appropriate access (e.g., via a community use agreement).
- ◀ Continue to develop women and girls' participation in clubs and schools so that in future whole new teams can be formed.
- ◀ Support the development of alternative forms of the sport, such as touch or tag rugby, to encourage and open more inclusive routes into participation.
- ◀ Explore opportunity to develop new 3G pitch provision (or added compliancy to existing pitches) to RFL Community Standard compliant specifications for rugby league training and match play use. Increased capacity for contact rugby activity and transfer of use can help to alleviate grass pitch shortfalls. This could include shared programmes which may be funded by other partners.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

### **Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)**

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Three of the community available full size AGPs currently utilised for hockey demand (Culcheth Community Campus, Lymm High School and Priestley College) require protection for continued hockey use as, due to the current state of hockey provision in the Borough, it is not considered feasible for Lymm HC and Warrington to amalgamate onto a lesser number of pitches.
- ◀ There is no known demand for community hockey to be played at Penketh High School due to its location and where clubs are based. The previous PPS also confirmed that this pitch is no longer required to meet hockey demand.

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### **Supply summary**

- ◀ The audit identifies six hockey suitable AGPs in Warrington of which four are available for community use.
- ◀ The full size AGP at University of Chester (Warrington Campus) is no longer available to the community. The AGP at Cardinal Newman High School has now been converted to a 3G pitch.
- ◀ Culcheth Community Campus, Penketh High School and Priestley College all aspire to convert their existing sand based AGPs to full size 3G pitches.
- ◀ All community available hockey suitable AGPs in Warrington are in poor condition and exceed their recommended lifespans.

### **Demand summary**

- ◀ The two hockey clubs in Warrington consist of 15 teams, which as a breakdown consists of six senior men's, six senior women's and three junior teams.
- ◀ Warrington HC exports most of its training demand to Cheshire West and Chester due to a lack of availability within Warrington.
- ◀ Lymm HC suggests that many hockey players in Warrington play for clubs outside of the Borough due to the poor condition of facilities within the Borough. Therefore, it believes it could easily attract new members to the Club if it had access to an improved facility offering.
- ◀ Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator estimates a growth in training demand of 0.50 hours per week and match play demand of 0.20 match equivalent sessions per week from population growth.
- ◀ Warrington HC expects to add a development team next year which will eventually become a third men's team.
- ◀ No Hockey Heroes or Back to Hockey sessions are held in the Borough.
- ◀ There is significant use of hockey suitable AGPs in Warrington for other activities, most notably in terms of football whether that be through formal training or via informal social use. This is as high as 63% of total availability at Culcheth Community Campus.
- ◀ Whilst most pitches do have capacity for an increase in hockey demand, this is primarily at unfavourable hours or on Sundays, when junior matches are played. In reality, there is little capacity for a growth in senior hockey due to the poor quality of pitches across the Borough.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Meeting demand*

The PPS Guidance suggests that a pitch with sports lighting can accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday (peak time). With teams playing on a home and away format, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP). However, due to access and lighting restrictions at Lymm High School the AGP on site is only currently deemed to have capacity for six 'home' teams.

Based on this, with 11 senior teams provided by Warrington clubs<sup>22</sup> and playing at peak time (Saturday) and the potential demand for 12 senior teams (after considering future demand), there is a need for two good quality, full size pitches (rounded up from 1.5) if programmed accordingly and with sports lighting fully available.

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<sup>22</sup> For the 2022/23 season, Warrington HC is regularly fielding two senior men's and two senior women's team whilst Lymm HC is fielding three senior men's and four senior women's teams.

## **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

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This would also allow for latent demand to be catered for (which is anecdotally suggested to be up to three teams although it is not known how much of this demand would take place at peak time) should it be realised by Lymm HC which states that many hockey players in Warrington play for clubs outside of the Borough due to the poor condition of facilities within Warrington. Therefore, it believes it could attract new members if it had access to an improved facility offering.

With four community available pitches currently being provided, it could be suggested that there is a surplus supply of provision to cater for demand. However, this is not currently the case. All pitches in the Borough have exceeded their recommended lifespans and are regularly out of action throughout the Winter. Therefore, overspill sites are currently required to ensure that fixtures can continue to be fulfilled.

Furthermore, some of the pitches with potential spare capacity are not actually fully available due to sports lighting and access issues and/or because of football demand.

When considering training demand, many pitches are used to capacity during midweek, whilst those that have spare capacity are generally only available on Mondays and Fridays, which are undesirable times given their close proximity to weekend matches. With Lymm HC training midweek for a total of eight hours per week and Warrington HC training midweek for a total of three hours per week (although it currently exports two hours per week to The Grange School in Cheshire West and Chester due to availability), it is considered that training demand for both clubs could also be adequately accommodated for on two pitches, should usage from other sports (primarily football) move onto more suitable provision.

Therefore, despite a theoretical surplus of provision, current hockey-suitable facilities in Warrington are insufficient to meet the current level of demand.

As Lymm High School and Priestley College AGPs are the main home grounds of the two hockey clubs, these are considered the priority sites to service hockey in Warrington.

Although in practice two AGPs can accommodate all current and future teams, it is worthy of note that the biggest club is Lymm HC which currently has seven senior teams playing at peak time on a home and away basis and whilst this could adequately be accommodated on one pitch, any future or latent demand would need to play on Sunday or travel to Priestley College where there is adequate peak time availability (Saturday) as Warrington HC has four senior teams. The travel time between the two sites is c15 minutes.

In addition to the above and since the production of the Assessment Report, Leigh Manchester HC (Wigan) had intended to play all home matches at Culcheth Community Campus for the 2022/23 season. However, the pitch recently failed a health and safety assessment meaning hockey can no longer be safely accommodated on site. Therefore, this demand has since left Warrington and relocated to St Helens.

Overall, there is a need for two good quality, full size hockey pitches that are fully available for hockey and with adequate sports lighting to cater for current, future and potential latent demand from Warrington clubs.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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### *Loss of sites due to poor quality*

At Lymm High School, the AGP has recently been rejuvenated and work was undertaken to remove the kinks from the outskirts of the surface. However, the pitch also suffers from poor drainage, freezes over in the winter and leaves silt on top of the playing surface. Despite this, the School currently has no plans to resurface the pitch due to a lack of funding available. The School, in partnership with Lymm HC, wants to retain the AGP on site but requires support to ensure the pitch remains in usable condition. The pitch is already beyond its current lifespan and is likely to require replacement within the next 12 months or there will be a risk of it becoming unusable.

If this happened there would be nowhere else in Warrington which could accommodate this level of use (that also doesn't have similar quality issues) and the Club would likely need to travel outside of the Authority and/or reduce the number of teams it fields.

The AGP at Priestley College is without drainage and has moss growing around the edges. This leads to the pitch being unusable following rainfall and there is little grip underfoot. Users of the site have previously stated the pitch is becoming unplayable. Warrington HC indicates that work has been undertaken to ensure the pitch does not flood as often and it is now better maintained although the surface is said to have been torn with blades and supporting equipment such as nets are tired and dated. The pitch is already beyond its current lifespan and is likely to require replacement within the next 12 months or there will be a risk of it becoming unusable. If this happened there would be nowhere else in Warrington which could accommodate this level of use (that also doesn't have similar quality issues) and due to its size, the Club would most likely fold.

Since production of the Assessment Report (September 2022), Priestley College has withdrawn community use for Warrington HC due to safety concerns regarding the quality of the pitch.

Loss of access to either of these sites would have a further detrimental impact on hockey being retained within the Borough. As Lymm High School and Priestley College AGPs are the main home grounds of the two hockey clubs, these two sites are considered the priority to increase to good quality.

The AGP at Culcheth Community Campus floods and requires drainage improvements. The surface also freezes over in winter. It is used by Lymm HC as an overspill site due to accessibility/quality issues at Lymm High School. The Club reports this is not ideal due to travel time (20 minutes) and would prefer to have all demand at the high school.

From pitch booking information provided, it was determined that 11% of the AGP's usage was for hockey, with 63% coming from other sports (primarily football). The remaining 26% is currently unused. However, since this information was provided, the School has indicated three football clubs have now cancelled their weekly bookings for the pitch due to its poor condition and will instead export training demand to Wigan.

It is identified that Culcheth Community Campus already has the internal funding in place to convert its hockey suitable AGP to a 3G pitch which would be FA approved to accommodate weekend football demand. However, due to the prevalence of hockey demand on site (due to quality and access issues elsewhere), the pitch currently requires protection for hockey demand. Conversion to 3G would not be supported by key partners until such times as it is considered that all hockey demand (current, future and latent/exported) is being met in Warrington.

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At Penketh High School, the pitch has now exceeded its recommended lifespan. It is available to the community but is used solely for football demand. It is not known to have ever been accessed for hockey. As mentioned previously, Lymm HC expresses a reluctance to travel the 20 minute, 7.4 miles to access provision at Culcheth Community Campus from Lymm High School although continues to do so out of necessity. The Club does not have a desire to make the 30 minute (9.2 miles) to Penketh High School and is not known to have done so in the Club's history.

At the time of writing the Assessment Report (September 2022), due to its location in relation to hockey clubs in the Borough, the AGP at Penketh High School was deemed not suitable for hockey use and as such is subject to FF support for conversion to a 3G surface. However, it cannot be deemed surplus to requirements for hockey due to the ongoing and emerging quality issues at the other AGPs in the Borough. Therefore, further discussion with key partners is still required to determine how proposals should progress.

The pitch at University of Chester (Warrington Campus) was built in 2003 and despite being repaired in 2016, still exceeds the recommended surface lifespan and is in need of replacement. The AGP was previously used for student hockey activity on Wednesday afternoons and early evenings as well as by Lymm Hockey Club on Saturdays for matches, though the majority of evening community use under floodlights was for football club training. There was a good level of use in the evenings, with just three hours across the week available, all within the less attractive 5-6pm timeslots on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Despite this, access to the pitch has already been lost as the University is in the process of decommissioning and vacating the site.

With the risk of all AGPs in Warrington being unable to safely accommodate hockey demand imminently or being lost completely due to conversion, the feasibility of installing a full-size, sports lit AGP at Victoria Park is being considered. However, this would have to be constructed on existing playing field land (which is also subject to flood risk), removing the number of available grass pitches on site.

Any development of AGPs in Warrington (regardless of current community access) would have to meet Sport England Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.

### *Addressing accessibility issues*

All Lymm HC training takes place on the AGP at Lymm High School as well as most matches. The Club is unable to play all its fixtures on site as it is closed by site management at 5:10pm (including turning off sports lights and locking toilet and changing facilities) despite the facility being open until 6pm on Saturdays. Further, as the pitch also holds water and is only usable in good weather conditions, it is unplayable after a period of rainfall. As a result, the Club plays at least two matches per week at Culcheth Community Campus AGP (travel time c20 minutes).

Warrington HC plays home matches at Priestley College and has a one hour slot for training on a Thursday evening although this is insufficient to accommodate all teams. It indicates that it is unable to access any further slots as the pitch is also used for football training. Therefore, it exports the remainder of its training demand (totalling two hours per week) to The Grange School in Cheshire West and Chester due to a lack of local availability.

Further to this, the Club is unable to access changing rooms on matchdays as these are closed by the College over weekends and only toilet facilities are accessible. Also, at times sports lights have not been turned on for evening fixtures and access is further limited outside of term time.

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Notwithstanding the poor quality, both sites also have accessibility issues, but are both said to be a site management issue and could likely be resolved moving forward through exploring options for key holder access and sports light timing mechanisms.

In addition, if Priestley College's 3G pitch aspirations move forward (retaining the AGP and installing a new full-size 3G pitch to replace the adult grass pitch on site) most of the current football demand would relocate to the 3G pitch. This should lead to Warrington HC being able to access enough training slots to accommodate all its demand.

Whilst the College has aspiration to replace the AGP with a full-size 3G pitch on site, through consultation it was suggested that the College would be open to retaining the AGP as long as its 3G aspirations on site were supported, instead replacing the adult grass football pitch.

Therefore, given the further decrease in quality on the AGP, any development of a 3G pitch on site should include the full refurbishment of the hockey suitable AGP to ensure a sustainable future model for both sports is achieved. As part of this support, an improved access agreement should be secured for Warrington HC to better access the pitch and ancillary provision on site and ensure sports lights are turned on when required. Initial discussions with the RFL indicates there would also be demand from rugby league for a full-size 3G pitch at Priestley College.

Given the multi-sport element to Priestley College, further discussions should be had with Football Foundation and other NGBs as to the forthcoming multi-sport investment opportunities. As it could be that provision of a 3G pitch (for football and rugby league) and improvements to the existing hockey suitable AGP could be a good funding investment.

It is also recommended that a Task and Finish Group is established as part of Stage E (Delivery and Implementation) to ensure solutions for hockey are identified and implemented in Warrington imminently. With Priestley College already removing hockey usage from the site since production of the assessment report, hockey will be lost from Warrington entirely unless swift solutions are agreed and acted upon as soon as possible.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ As a priority establish a PPOSS Task and Finish Group as part of the Stage E process in order to work with partners to investigate potential solutions to the current poor state of provision to ensure that hockey can continued to be played in Warrington in the longer term.
- ◀ Ensure that all full size hockey suitable AGPs are protected for continued hockey use until such times as demand is met through provision of at least two good quality full size hockey suitable AGPs. Any development proposal should accord with Sport England's 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance' and NPPF paragraph 99.
- ◀ Retain the AGP at Penketh High School until hockey is adequately provided for elsewhere in the Borough.
- ◀ As a priority Lymm High School and Priestley College AGPs should be the focus for refurbishment.
- ◀ Work with providers to explore funding options to improve the quality at Lymm High School and Priestley College.
- ◀ Work with the providers at Lymm High School and Priestley College to explore options to resolve access issues including key holder access and sports lighting timers.
- ◀ Once a pitch is refurbished ensure that a condition of funding is that an appropriate sinking fund is in put in place.
- ◀ Until such times as all hockey demand is adequately met, retain the hockey AGP at Culcheth Community Campus.

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- ◀ Aim to relocate football demand, strategically and sustainably off hockey suitable AGPs, particularly at Priestley College, in order to provide additional capacity for the growth of hockey. This should not be done to the detriment of either sport and should also be in the partnership with the FF/ respective county FA.
- ◀ Ensure planning permission is sought for new/refurbished hockey AGPs including the removal of permitted development rights.
- ◀ Until such times as all hockey demand is adequately met, retain or replace the disused hockey AGP at Padgate Campus. Any development on site would have to meet Sport England Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.

### **Athletics tracks**

#### ***Supply and demand summary***

- ◀ In Warrington, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, with only one track and field club (Warrington Athletics Club) and one running club (Spectrum Striders) regularly accessing the track. All other clubs are primarily road running clubs.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on protecting the facility at Victoria Park Arena and ensuring that it achieves and maintains TrackMark accreditation through quality improvements to the track and throwing cage on site.
- ◀ If the track at University of Chester (Warrington Campus) is to be lost, suitable mitigation, in line with Sport England's Playing Field Policy and NPPF paragraph 99, should be secured.
- ◀ Emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in Warrington, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

#### ***Supply summary***

- ◀ There are two formal athletics track in Warrington located at Victoria Park Arena and University of Chester (Warrington Campus).
- ◀ The track at Victoria Park Arena is fully sports lit and provides all accompanying field event facilities including a hammer cage, javelin, high jump, long jump and shot put area. The hammer cage is said to be in need of modification to bring it up to current standards.
- ◀ The non-technical assessment undertaken by KKP identifies Victoria Park Arena's track and field facilities as good quality, with maintenance carried out to a high standard. Warrington AC and England Athletics report the track is in need of moss removal to retain a good quality surface.
- ◀ The track at University of Chester (Warrington Campus) is without sports lights. No quality issues have been raised although the track is expected to be lost with the University now actively decommissioning the site.
- ◀ The track at Victoria Park Arena is owned and managed by the Council whilst the track at the University of Chester (Warrington Campus) is owned and managed by Chester University.

#### ***Demand summary***

- ◀ Five clubs have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity in Warrington.
- ◀ Victoria Park is the only location where a Park Run takes place in Warrington.
- ◀ All clubs are seen actively looking to grow membership, whilst England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 4,232 people in Warrington.
- ◀ Warrington AC currently has a waiting list in place of five members although it has much larger future demand aspirations, suggesting that there will soon be capacity to accommodate these members. No other clubs have waiting lists in place.

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- ◀ Both Warrington AC and Spectrum Striders have plans to increase membership with both clubs looking to add 20 male and 20 female members although Warrington AC also plans to add 40 junior members.

### **Scenarios**

N/A

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing formal athletics facilities for continued activity.
- ◀ Sustain quality at Victoria Park Arena and ensure it achieves and maintains TrackMark accreditation.
- ◀ If the track at University of Chester (Warrington Campus) is to be lost, ensure any development on site would have to meet Sport England's Playing Field Policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.
- ◀ Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs/groups continue to have home bases to operate from and pursue improved security of tenure where it is required.

### **Tennis courts**

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Where known, supply is sufficient to meet current club-based demand, although further investigation is required into the unresponsive clubs to determine whether they have capacity issues.
- ◀ If Stockton Heath LTC's significant future demand aspirations are realised, the Club will be operating considerably above the recommended capacity.
- ◀ Away from clubs, although no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving the supply in ways that can meet unmet and latent demand identified.

#### **Supply summary**

- ◀ There are a total of 59 tennis courts identified in Warrington across 14 sites, with 55 courts categorised as being available for community use at 12 sites.
- ◀ Disused courts are identified at Padgate Tennis and Bowling Club and Warrington Sports Club.
- ◀ Four new courts are due to be constructed at Lymm Rugby Club, which Manor Road TC will then relocate to. The development will be funded partially through the sale of Manor Road Tennis Club for a housing development.
- ◀ The majority are operated by sports clubs, although education, commercial and private owners also manage tennis courts in Warrington, as well as LiveWire.
- ◀ Most courts have a macadam surface, with 38 being of this type compared to the remaining 21 having an artificial surface.
- ◀ In total, 49 of the courts are serviced by sports lights, representing 83% of the provision and including all courts servicing clubs.
- ◀ Of the courts, 42 are assessed as good quality, 12 as standard quality and five as poor quality.
- ◀ The ancillary facilities servicing Penketh TC are assessed as good quality, whilst Manor Road TC is serviced by poor quality facilities at Manor Road Tennis Club although it expects to be provided with good quality facilities at Lymm Rugby Club following its relocation. Provision is generally considered to be problematic at non-club sites with the exception of The Park Royal.

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### ***Demand summary***

- ◀ There are seven tennis clubs in Warrington.
- ◀ Of the responding clubs, Stockton Heath LTC is the largest with 324 members whilst Manor Road TC is the smallest with 61 members.
- ◀ No court providers report high levels of community access, including the various education providers.
- ◀ A Local Tennis League is in operation in Warrington with seven current participants.

### ***Scenarios***

#### *Meeting increased demand for recreational tennis*

Increasing recreational tennis demand is currently a priority for the LTA, with twice as many people playing casually rather than at clubs. To enable this, it has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

In Warrington, the LTA states the Central Analysis Area is a key focus within Warrington due to a lack of provision and its higher level of deprivation compared to the rest of the Borough. Currently, Beamont Collegiate Academy has the only tennis courts (two) in the Central Analysis Area but are in poor condition and without sports lighting. The courts are available for community use and currently managed by the Academy itself. Despite being available to the community, the customer journey for the hire of Education courts is often unclear meaning there is often little community awareness these courts are open for community use and subsequently, limited community demand.

Therefore, support should be sought to improve court quality and provide sports lighting with a view to providing a Smart Access gate on site to improve the court booking process and activate community usage. If this is not deemed to be feasible or sufficient to accommodate informal and recreational tennis demand, the feasibility of installing in the Central Analysis Area should be explored. In this case, the feasibility of installing tennis courts at sites such as Victoria Park, Orford Park, Bank Park and Poplars Park could be explored. There may also be opportunities to link future tennis court developments with Playzone<sup>23</sup> opportunities within Warrington.

Furthermore, courts at Padgate Tennis and Bowling Club have been disused since the Club folded in 2017. The site accommodates six tennis courts, and its future remains unknown. The LTA reports it would like to see the site reinstated to provide an informal and recreational tennis offer in the East Analysis Area. It states there is a lack of open access tennis facilities across Warrington and Padgate Tennis and Bowling Club is in a great location to actualise latent tennis demand in the Borough. The feasibility of reinstating these courts should therefore be explored, as well as then looking to provide sports lighting and a Smart Access gate on site to facilitate community usage.

#### *Stockton Heath LTC*

As shown in the accompanying assessment report, Stockton Heath LTC currently has 324 members. With seven sports lit tennis courts available at Stockton Heath Lawn Tennis Club, it is deemed able to accommodate 420 members (based on a sports lit court being able to accommodate 60 members). This leaves current spare capacity for 96 members, however, Stockton Heath LTC has plans to add a further 200 members which would lead to the Club operating with 104 members over the recommended capacity.

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<sup>23</sup> <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/playzones-programme>

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To prevent the Club from operating above the recommended capacity if these future aspirations were realised, an additional two sports lit or three non-sports lit courts would need to be accessed. There is no additional land available at Stockton Heath Lawn Tennis Club and it is completely surrounded by housing so no additional courts could be provided on site.

However, the site is located within half a mile of Bridgewater High School (Upper), which has five sports lit tennis courts on of standard quality that are available for community use. The courts are not currently accessed by the community although Stockton Heath LTC are reported by the LTA to have an historic agreement with the School and so are believed to be able to access the courts on site if they wish to. Additionally, following recent improvements at Stockton Heath Lawn Tennis Club, the LTA believes capacity provided on site is more than sufficient to meet current and future demand. Therefore, the Club's current situation should be monitored to ensure that its existing courts remain adequate for its demand.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Retain and protect existing quantity of courts in accordance with NPPF paragraph 99.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs or that are (or could be) well used for recreational demand.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to provide additional courts at park and other local authority sites to improve the year-round recreational tennis offer, particularly in the Central Analysis Area.
- ◀ Protect and improve tennis courts at education sites and explore opportunities for greater community use of education sites where there is demand for tennis to do so, including securing community use agreements.
- ◀ Consider the feasibility of reinstating tennis courts at Padgate Tennis and Bowling Club.
- ◀ Explore the installation of sports lighting where it is not currently provided to increase the capacity of courts.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision servicing courts where demand is, or could be, high.
- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via further utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to provide padel courts and seek to maximise activity given its growing demand.

### **Bowls**

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ There is currently sufficient capacity for crown bowling greens to meet both current and future demand.

#### **Supply summary**

- ◀ There are 39 bowling greens in Warrington located across 29 sites.
- ◀ Most bowling greens are owned and managed by the Local Authority or the respective sports club, operating 17 and 18 greens respectively. The remaining are operated privately.
- ◀ Most (27) greens are rated as good quality, with 12 greens rated as standard quality. No greens are rated as poor quality.
- ◀ Burtonwood BC is currently in the process of fundraising to improve the quality of the green at Burtonwood Bowling Club. Similarly, Irish Club BC has plans to improve the green at The Irish Club Bowling Green.

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- ◀ Of the responding clubs, three have access to good quality ancillary facilities whereas two have standard quality ancillary provision. Despite this, Penketh, Victoria Park and Orford WM bowls clubs are without changing facilities and Irish Club and Penketh bowls clubs state their respective clubhouses are in poor condition.

### ***Demand summary***

- ◀ There are 25 bowling clubs identified as playing in Warrington although only five have responded to consultation requests to date. Where known, membership of the responsive clubs totals 382.
- ◀ The largest club according to known membership is currently Penketh BC, with 117 members, followed by Orford WM BC with 94 members. The smallest club is Irish Club BC with only 20 members.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, all five clubs highlight plans to increase membership, although only four clubs quantify this aspiration. In total, future demand aspirations total 36 members.

### ***Scenarios***

#### *Disused provision*

A total of four disused bowling greens are identified in Warrington. located at the following sites:

- ◀ Culcheth Sports Club (WA3 5SH)
- ◀ Farmers Arms Pub (WA2 0BE)
- ◀ The Red Lion (WA4 6HN)
- ◀ Pierpoints Club (WA4 1NG)

All disused greens are overgrown and are therefore unable to currently be used for bowls. The green at The Red Lion has since been converted into a beer garden. It should be noted that all disused greens are privately owned or owned by sports clubs and are not local authority owned.

All greens listed above have come out of use due to a lack of formal demand. However, because the demand does not exist now, it does not mean it will not materialise over the lifespan of the PPOSS. Office of National Statistics population projections (2018-2043), identify that the number of persons aged 65 and over living in Warrington is likely to increase continuously from 40,052 in 2018 to 56,117 in 2038, representing an increase of 29%. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, it can be said that demand for bowling greens in Warrington is likely to increase with additional pressure placed on the existing stock of provision.

On this basis, it is important that a strategic supply of reserve bowling greens is retained to accommodate for any significant increases in demand in each settlement area. Any development pressure on this list of greens should therefore be only based on an independent needs assessment which adequately meets NPPF Paragraph 99:

- a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b) 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
- c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of greens currently used for outdoor bowls in accordance with NPPF paragraph 99.
- ◀ Protect disused bowling greens due to the potential that they may offer for meeting future needs (unless mitigation is agreed upon and provided in line with paragraph 99 of the NPPF).
- ◀ Improve green quality at sites assessed as poor and standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Seek to improve ancillary facility quality where it is necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.

### **Cycling**

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ High demand for cycling is identified within Warrington, both currently and when taking into account latent demand.

#### **Supply summary**

- ◀ There are no dedicated cycling facilities in Warrington. Warrington Road Club, Wild Bikes Cycling Club and North Cheshire Clarion are on and off-road cycling clubs.
- ◀ The Council, in collaboration with local cyclists, have recommended cycling routes for people to use. This includes the Terry O'Neill Way, Trans Pennine Trail, and Sankey Valley Trail.

#### **Demand summary**

- ◀ Warrington Road Club supports both competitive and non-competitive, on and off-road cycling. The Club currently has 60 members, some of which compete in local road races and time trials.
- ◀ Wild Bikes Cycling Club is a road cycling club that organises a range of rides for its members to cater for all levels of ability. The Club offers two rides on Wednesdays and four rides on Sundays.
- ◀ North Cheshire Clarion is a cycling club based in Warrington which is run by local cyclists. The Club supports both competitive and non-competitive, on and off-road cycling and has over 200 members.
- ◀ North Cheshire Clarion is a British Cycling Clubmark accredited Go-Ride Cycling Club based in Warrington.
- ◀ In Warrington, there is an active group involved in Breeze, known as Warrington Breeze Ladies.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Future developments*

Due to the high demand for cycling identified in Warrington, there is considered scope to ensure that cycling is considered as part of any large housing developments within the Borough.

This does not necessarily mean that dedicated cycling provision is required, with large developments giving consideration to active travel opportunities such as ensuring cycle paths are available on key routes and that the street environment of quieter residential roads is suitable for cycling. Off-road greenway paths should also be considered and regularly maintained to ensure all cycling paths and routes are safe for use.

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### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Ensure cycling routes are adequately maintained in order to continue to accommodate recreational cycling.
- ◀ Support cycling clubs to continue to increase demand.
- ◀ Continue to support Warrington's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to encourage and support increased cycling demand.
- ◀ Look to continue and expand British Cycling programmes such as HSBC UK Go-Ride and HSBC UK Breeze.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for dedicated facilities that promote off-road cycling facilities.

### **Golf**

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ With nine golf facilities in Warrington and a mix of 18-hole and 9-hole courses, as well as two well-equipped driving ranges available to the community, supply is well placed to meet demand.
- ◀ Notwithstanding the above, there may be a gap in demand in the Borough for informal golf facilities such as a par 3 golf course or another similar shorter format golf facility.
- ◀ With average golf membership in Warrington above the national average, it is not considered feasible that this demand could be amalgamated onto a fewer number of courses. Therefore, current demand could not be sustained if any provision was lost.

#### **Supply summary**

- ◀ There are currently nine golf venues in Warrington.
- ◀ Eight golf sites within Warrington provide one standard hole course, with seven 18-hole courses (Birchwood, Walton Hall, Warrington, Leigh, Lymm, Alder Root and True Fit golf clubs) and one 9-hole course (Poulton Park Golf Club) in place.
- ◀ No Par 3 course is provided.
- ◀ Croft Golf Centre and True Fit Golf Centre provide covered and floodlit driving ranges that are available to the community whilst Birchwood Golf Club has a driving range available for members only.
- ◀ The majority of golf facilities are members clubs although Alder Root Golf Club, Croft Golf Centre and True Fit Golf Centre are proprietary facilities. The only municipal golf facility in Warrington is located at Walton Hall Golf Course.
- ◀ Warrington and Leigh golf clubs operate above the national average for membership costs, suggesting they are high-end facilities. Lymm Golf Club is expected to have comparable costs. The remaining sites are below the rate.
- ◀ In terms of quality of the golf facilities, it is relatively good across Warrington with no significant issues identified.
- ◀ Drainage issues on the first and second holes have been rectified at Birchwood Golf Club whilst course improvement works have recently been undertaken at Leigh Golf Club.
- ◀ The clubhouse at Lymm Golf Club has been recently refurbished whilst True Fit Golf Centre is supported by a new bar and bistro.

#### **Demand summary**

- ◀ Average membership across the seven affiliated clubs in Warrington (Birchwood Golf Club, Alder Root Golf Club, Leigh Golf Club, Warrington Golf Club, Poulton Park Golf Club, Walton Hall Golf Club and Lymm Golf Club) exceeds the national average of golf membership.
- ◀ Membership levels across Warrington were static from 2015 to 2018 although from 2018 to 2022, average membership has increased by 29%.
- ◀ Membership has increased collectively across the clubs by approximately 798 members.

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- ◀ England Golf's mapping tool identifies a significant amount of potential demand, with Alder Root Golf Club shown to have the highest population base.
- ◀ Pay and play usage is unknown but is likely to be highest at sites such as Walton Hall, Alder Root and True Fit golf clubs given the operational structure in place and the lower price point.

### **Scenarios**

N/A

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Retain all existing, in use golf provision in accordance with NPPF paragraph 99.
- ◀ Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to provide informal golf opportunities within Warrington to fill a gap in the market and provide a more entry-level offer to further encourage new players to the game.

## PART 5: 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 outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

### OBJECTIVE 1

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

#### Recommendations:

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

### **Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

The PPOSS Assessment shows that all currently used outdoor sports sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because shortfalls would occur both now and, in the future, if they were lost. Consideration should also be given to the protection of underused and poor quality sites from development or replacement as they may offer potential to meet shortfalls.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraph 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ A) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ B) 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
- ◀ C) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Should outdoor sports facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. Council budget restraints), land should ideally be retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future.

Although there are some identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions i.e. for football pitches, most demand is currently being met and most shortfalls are likely able to be addressed through quality improvements. However, qualitative improvements should be secured as a sports development initiative and should not be used to mitigate the loss of playing field arising from a non-sport development. It is therefore, not recommended as a priority to identify 'new' sites for provision.

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The PPOSS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new outdoor sports and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing fields and will use the PPOSS to help assess those planning applications against its own Playing Fields Policy<sup>24</sup>.

Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exception E1 only allows for development of disused playing fields if a Playing Pitch Strategy (in this case PPOSS) shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all playing pitch sport types and sizes.

### *Policy Exception E1:*

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

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

### *Policy Exception E2*

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

### *Policy Exception E3*

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

- ◀ Reduce the size of any playing pitch.
- ◀ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas).
- ◀ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality.
- ◀ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site.
- ◀ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'.

### *Policy Exception E4:*

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

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

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<sup>24</sup>[https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing\\_fields\\_policy](https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy)

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### *Policy Exception E5*

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

### *Disused sites*

Disused sites will also be considered in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions. They provide a potential solution to reducing any identified shortfalls. A disused site is a site where pitches were once, but are no longer, marked out and remain undeveloped.

Any disused playing fields are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to potentially bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

### **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 Warrington for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of such facilities has been classified as secure; however, it is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision and parking where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of use, such as at St Gregorys High School and Penketh High School.

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

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.

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.

Local sports clubs that could be able to manage their own assets should be supported by partners including the Council, NGBs or Active Cheshire 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.

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Relevant clubs could also be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>25</sup>. They should also be signposted to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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).

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 5.1: 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.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to maintain sites to the existing or better standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Local Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e., not those with a 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>

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.

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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### **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 Warrington, 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.

As a priority, community use options should be explored at large education sites offering several pitches, such as Penketh Community Primary School and Stretton St Matthews. Securing access to such sites will help to reduce shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within.

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.

As detailed earlier, NGBs, Active Cheshire 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.

Sport England is also investing £10.1 million to help more schools open their facilities to the public<sup>26</sup>. The funding will help schools deliver extra-curricular activities and open their facilities outside of the school day during evenings, weekends and school holidays. However, large scale capital/building works aren't eligible items for this funding. Funding will be distributed through Sport England's Active Partnership network. In Warrington, Active Cheshire is responsible for the allocation of this funding.

Where new schools are provided, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential impact of the provision. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as courts that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity.

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<sup>26</sup> [New funding to help schools open their sports facilities | Sport England](#)

### OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

#### Recommendations:

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

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

There are several ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality and these are explored below.

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

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

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

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

Pitch providers are encouraged to complete a self-assessment of pitches using the Football Foundation PitchPower app. In August 2022, PitchPower was re-launched, with enhanced capability to support use beyond football pitches and is now accessible for the assessment of natural turf pitches for rugby league and rugby union. Cricket functionality is also set to be added, with this aiming to launch in time for the 2023 season.

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

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### *Football Foundation PitchPower Assessment*

The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app, with an aim to achieve 20,000 football pitches rated as good quality by 2030. Launched in 2020 for football and re-launched in August 2022 with functionality for cricket, rugby league and rugby union pitches, the app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

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

In addition to PPOSS non-technical assessments, new technical assessments were undertaken for Council managed grass football pitches in early 2022 using the PitchPower app, as part of Warrington's engagement with the Football Foundation local authority grass pitch maintenance pilot programme. Consequently, technical recommendations will be established shortly after the completion of the PPOSS for the local authority to act upon in delivering any improvement, whilst this exists at some club managed sites already.

The outputs of these and future PitchPower assessments at football and non-football sites should be reviewed and the PPOSS Action Plan updated at Stage E to reflect new technical assessment evidence and information.

### *Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund*

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment. If a PitchPower assessment categorises pitches as 'poor' or 'basic' they are then eligible to apply for Grass Pitch Funding through the Football Foundation through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)<sup>27</sup>, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030. Clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding.

All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues and charities. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, clubs, leagues and charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure via freehold or a lease/license with more than 12 months to run and permission from the land owner.

The Borough Council is currently part of the pilot process of the GPMF and technical assessments of all Council pitches have been undertaken using the PitchPower app. Opportunities to access the fund to support presently Council managed sites include establishment of a service level agreement with a resident club for maintenance responsibilities, or transfer of long-term management to the club/organisation through leasehold or CAT, both enabling the club/organisation to apply to the fund.

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<sup>27</sup> <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

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Clubs playing within the National League System (NLS) are not eligible to apply for works to pitches used for NLS play but can do so for other community pitches elsewhere onsite. Clubs in the NLS are eligible to apply for maintenance machinery and capital improvements to a first-team pitch via the Premier League Stadium Fund (PLSF).

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

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

Quality in Warrington is variable but generally facilities are assessed as standard quality with the exception of rugby union pitches which are mostly assessed as poor 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.

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. This is a particular problem in Warrington, with numerous sites, such as Victoria Park, residing in high flood risk areas.

If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites (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, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. 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 the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies to women's and girls' demand.

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

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For further information, please refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces: [Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sport](#)

### **Addressing overplay**

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

The FA, RFU and EH all recommend a maximum number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table overleaf.

*Table 5.2: 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
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.

For rugby union, additional sports lighting will 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.

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.

## **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

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### **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. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

It is important that this strategy informs existing policy and decisions on planning applications by setting out a justified and evidenced approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development.

For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. It should be noted that although this is reasonable starting point there are also a number of Council/Local policies and approaches that also need to be taken into consideration as well.

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

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

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

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

Several planning policy objectives could be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement should be made that specifies, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located onsite.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

### OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

#### Recommendations:

- ◀ Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current facility stock.
- ◀ 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 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. 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).
- ◀ Securing community use at education sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage and secure tenure.
- ◀ Exploring lease/management arrangements with appropriate clubs/organisations.
- ◀ Establishing additional sports lighting.

The PPOSS 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.

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

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.

Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, 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 used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for 3G pitches, the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

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.

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## PART 6: 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.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide context. As such, this, for example, 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 6.1: 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.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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**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 PPOSS.

**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.

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

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

### ***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.

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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.

### **Costs**

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

- ◀ (L) -Low - less than £50k
- ◀ (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k
- ◀ (H) -High £250k 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/>

### **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.**

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>28</sup>	Future capacity total in MES <sup>29</sup>
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
Central	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 4</b>	
	Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>	
	Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	
	Mini 7v7	At capacity	
	Mini 5v5	<b>Spare capacity of 1.5</b>	
Warrington	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 36.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 38.5</b>
	Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 16.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 25.5</b>
	Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 15</b>	<b>Shortfall of 18.5</b>
	Mini 7v7	<b>Spare capacity of 1.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>
	Mini 5v5	<b>Spare capacity of 3</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>			
Central	Full size	<b>Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches</b>	
Warrington	Full size	<b>Shortfall of eight full size 3G pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall of nine full size 3G pitches</b>
<b>Cricket</b>			
Central	Senior (Saturday)	Demand is being met	
Warrington	Senior (Saturday)	<b>Shortfall of 54</b>	<b>Shortfall of 54</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>			
Central	Senior	Demand is being met	
Warrington	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 2.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2.25</b>
<b>Rugby league</b>			
Central	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 0.25</b>	
Warrington	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 1.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2.75</b>
<b>Hockey</b>			
Central	Full size	<b>Shortfall of provision</b>	
Warrington	Full size	<b>Shortfall of provision</b>	<b>Shortfall of provision</b>

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Athletics</b>	Supply is considered sufficient to meet demand and the track at Victoria Park Arena is deemed to be of good quality although in need of moss removal to retain its quality.
<b>Tennis</b>	Supply is sufficient to meet current club-based demand.
<b>Bowls</b>	There is currently sufficient capacity for crown bowling greens to meet both current and future demand.
<b>Cycling</b>	High demand for cycling is identified within Warrington, both currently and when taking into account latent demand. There is no requirement for dedicated cycling provision.
<b>Golf</b>	Supply is well placed to meet demand. Notwithstanding the above, there may be a gap in demand in the Borough for informal golf facilities such as a par 3 golf course or another similar shorter format golf facility.

<sup>28</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>29</sup> As presented in the assessment report, future demand from population growth can only be applied on a Borough-wide basis.

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
4	Bank Park	1041547	WA1 1UH	Bowls	Council	Two championship standard artificial greens of good quality. The greens on site are sports lit.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
5	Bank Quay Sports Club	1044324	WA5 1TW	3G	Sports Club	One small-size (30x20) 3G pitch. However, planning application currently exists to replace the pitch with nine storage units.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. If the pitch is to be lost, ensure it is mitigated in line with Sport England Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and NPPF paragraph 99.	Club FF, FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
7	Beamont Collegiate Academy	1008216	WA2 8PX	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are standard quality. Both football pitches are available for community use. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure. The site currently resides in a flood area, although a flood control system is in place to withstand this threat.	Retain for continued curricular and community use. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide actual spare capacity and support local shortfalls.	Education FA FF RFL LTA	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
				Football 3G						L	L	L	
				Rugby league						L	L	L	
				Tennis						H	S	M	
15	Brook Acre Primary School	6015836	WA2 0JP	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
21	Cantilever Park	6016021	WA4 2RS	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch which is unavailable for community use. The site has a secure tenure as it is managed by its respective sports club.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Club FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
				3G						L	L	L	

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
24	Cardinal Newman High School	1201407	WA4 1RX	Football	Education	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches, both of which are played to capacity. The site is situated on a floodplain, creating a consistent challenge with drainage and in the winter, the pitches are deemed unusable, hence the site is unavailable for community use. The school hopes their upcoming drainage funding will resolve this problem, enabling the school to offer the pitches to the community.	Improve pitch quality by securing funding for drainage system and through enhanced maintenance regime, providing higher quality provision for curricular use. Explore options to accommodate community access.	School FA EH FF ECB RFL	Key Centre	H	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
				Hockey	One full-size (91x59) AGP which is currently disused. Football Foundation funding and planning permission has now been granted to provide sports lighting and a soundproof barrier on site as well as converting the surface to 3G. The pitch will also be constructed to be RFL compliant although without rugby league line markings.	With the conversion now underway, continue to support the conversion of the AGP to 3G to support local football and rugby league shortfalls. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment.	H			S	H		
				Cricket	One disused NTP.	Explore the feasibility of reinstating the NTP for curricular use.	L			L	L		
				Rugby league	One poor quality senior rugby league pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	L			L	L		
25	Carlsberg Tetley Sports and Social Club	6007264	WA2 8PU	Football	Commercial	One standard quality adult pitch which is available for community use, but the site operates with an unsecure tenure. The site has been targeted for GPMF funding by Liverpool FA to improve pitch quality.	Retain for continued commercial use and pursuing the creation of a community use agreement to provide security of tenure. Utilise GPMF to enhance the maintenance regime on site, leading to improved quality.	FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
37	Dallam Primary School	6005174	WA5 0JG	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain pitch quality and look to formalise community use agreement to provide actual spare capacity and support local shortfalls.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
38	Dallam Recreation Ground	6006657	WA5 0JG	Rugby league	Council	Two senior rugby league pitches that are of poor quality but available for community use. Bank Quay Bulls state the pitches suffer from dog fouling, litter and broken glass. The pitches have also been damaged by travellers. The pitches are overplayed by 2.25 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Council RFL	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
48	Grange Sports & Social Club	1208219	WA4 1QH	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch, a mini 7v7 pitch and a mini 5v5 pitch, all of which have been assessed as standard quality. The mini 7v7 pitch is operating with actual spare capacity, whilst the mini 5v5 pitch is played to its capacity during peak times and the adult pitch is overplayed. All of the pitches are available for community use. The site is a target for GPMF to benefit Moore United FC.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime, utilising GPMF, to alleviate overplay on site.	Club FA FF ECB	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
				Football 3G		The site also offers a small-sized (34x20) 3G pitch, which is both available for community use and equipped with floodlighting. Moore United are hopeful of acquiring funding to build a full-size 3G pitch on the site, a development which would result in the loss of the site's grass pitch provision.	Explore the feasibility of providing an FA certified full size 3G pitch on site to support local football training shortfalls and continue to accommodate existing match demand from Moore United. Any development on site would need to meet Sport England Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and NPPF paragraph 99.						
				Cricket		One grass cricket square with eight wickets of standard quality. The site is used as second ground by Appleton CC and has spare capacity on Sundays and midweek.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime.						
				Bowls		Two good quality crown bowling greens that are sports lit.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.						
58	Warrington Wolves (Halliwell Jones Stadium)	1208187	WA2 7NE	Rugby league	Sports Club	One good quality rugby league stadia pitch used by Warrington Wolves.	Sustain pitch quality for competitive demand.	Sports Club, RFL	Key	L	L	L	Protect
62	Latchford St James Primary	30010636	WA4 1AP	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use. Explore options to enable community access.	FF, FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
65	Loushers Lane Recreation Ground	6006642	WA4 2RF	Football	Council	Two adult pitches, a youth 11v11 pitch, a mini 7v7 pitch and a mini 5v5 pitch, all of which have been assessed as poor quality. The mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity during peak times and the adult pitch is overplayed. All of the pitches are available for community use. The pitches suffer from poor drainage and dog fouling.	Improve pitch quality by bettering the pitch maintenance and pursue options to install a new drainage system, alleviating the site's drainage deficiencies.	FF FA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
71	Meadowside Primary	30010635	WA2 9PH	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
74	Morley Common	6006674	WA4 6EY	Football	Council	Four standard quality adult pitches, all of which operate with actual spare capacity despite accommodating community usage. The Western Link Road development is intended to run through part of Morley Common, resulting in the loss of an adult football pitch and its current ancillary provision. However, the Council is proposing to reconfigure the site to retain its ancillary provision, with the only loss in playing field being one adult pitch being reduced to a youth pitch.	Retain pitch quality and quantity with any proposed on-site development in line with Sport England's playing field policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	FF FA	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect
76	Oakwood Avenue Primary School	30010634	WA1 3SZ	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
77	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	1039000	WA2 8HE	Football	Community Organisation	Four adult pitches, two mini 7v7 pitches, a mini 5v5 pitch and a youth 9v9 pitch, all of which have been assessed as poor quality. All of the pitches are available for community use. The adult pitch is overplayed. The site is believed to suffer from considerable drainage issues, littering and damages to the playing surface. Orford Juniors FC indicate numerous incidents of vandalism at the site.	Improve pitch quality by pursuing options to better the current drainage system and ensuring a higher standard of site maintenance to alleviate overplay. Explore efforts to deter intruders entering the site and damaging the surface.	FA FF Club	Hub	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
				3G		One standard quality full-size (110x70) FA approved 3G pitch which is available for community use and equipped with floodlighting. The pitch has recently reached its 10-year recommended lifespan. The pitch accommodates league matches outside of its peak hours and Woolston Rovers FC currently use the site for training purposes.	In the coming years the pitch will need resurfacing, thus the pitch requires regular maintenance to ensure that the pitch quality does not deteriorate.			H	S	H	
78	Our Lady's Primary	30007025	WA4 1JD	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use and is played to its capacity during peak hours.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
82	Peel Hall Park	6006639	WA2 0LX	Football	Council	<p>One adult pitch and one youth 9v9 pitches, both of which are available for community use and have been assessed as poor quality.</p> <p>In November 2021 the Secretary of State granted planning permission for the development of land at and around Peel Hall for a new residential neighbourhood comprising up to 1,200 dwellings, local employment uses and the provision of a site for a new primary school and open space including sports pitches with ancillary facilities.</p> <p>This planning permission makes provision for a mechanism to secure compensation for the loss of the Mill Lane Playing Field to residential development by increasing and improving pitch provision at and adjacent to the existing Radley Common Recreation Ground to meet existing and future demand as a result of the approved development. This is to be based on the approval of a Sports Strategy submitted by the applicant which is to be informed by the Warrington Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy &amp; Action Plan or any update of that document.</p>	Ensure pitches on site are sufficiently mitigated in line with Sport England's playing field policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	Council FA FF	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
87	Priestley College	1009555	WA4 6RD	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch which is available for community use and has discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.	<p>Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of providing security of tenure.</p>	School FA EH	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				Hockey		<p>One full-size (111x66) AGP which is available for community use and offers floodlighting. The pitch is in poor condition and in need of resurfacing. Warrington HC has recently been removed from the site by the College due to perceived safety concerns. The site also offers a small-sized (36x24) AGP which is equipped with floodlighting but is currently disused.</p> <p>Priestley College aspire to convert the full-size AGP into a full-size 3G pitch, despite previous PPS guidance advising the pitch to be protected for its hockey provision. The College is said to be open to retain the AGP as long as 3G aspirations are supported on site and would therefore replace the existing adult football pitch on site. Warrington HC play on the AGP and have expressed their insufficient access to the site due to the high degree of football on the playing pitch.</p>	<p>Ensure that the AGP on site is retained for hockey demand and the pitch is resurfaced to improve pitch quality.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of providing an additional full size 3G pitch on site to relieve capacity on the AGP for Warrington HC and support local football training shortfalls.</p> <p>Any development would need to be in line with Sport England's playing field policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.</p>	FF		H	L	H	
88	Radley Common (Closed)	6006660	WA2 0NA	Football	Council	Having been closed for five years, possibility exists for this site to be brought back into use. Could accommodate c5 pitches.	Demand exists in the area to reintroduce pitches to support with local shortfalls. Explore options/feasibility.	FA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
91	Rylands Recreation Club	6006671	WA2 7RZ	Football	Sports Club	<p>Three adult pitches, two mini 5v5 pitches, a mini 7v7 pitch and a youth 9v9 pitch, all but one of the pitches have been assessed as poor quality. One adult pitch was deemed to be in better condition than the rest, receiving a standard quality assessment.</p> <p>It is believed that overplay has been the cause of most of the pitch's abject quality assessment.</p> <p>Warrington Rylands FC is looking to acquire funding to provide a full-size 3G pitch on site although this would lead to a loss of grass playing field provision.</p> <p>The site is a target for GPMF to benefit Warrington Rylands FC.</p>	<p>Improve pitch quality to better to provide an overall higher standard of provision for Warrington Rylands, utilising GPMF.</p> <p>Reduce community access to the adult pitch, alleviating the current overplay.</p> <p>Support the installation of a 3G pitch on site to reduce local shortfalls. Ensure the pitch is FA approved to continue to accommodate match demand. Any development would need to be in line with Sport England's playing field policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.</p>	Club FA EH FF	Key Centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
				Hockey		<p>One standard quality small-sized (40x33) AGP which is available for community use and offers floodlighting.</p>	<p>Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.</p>			L			

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
96	Sir Thomas Boteler High School	1201388	WA4 1JL	Football	Education	Two adult pitches, a youth 9v9 pitch and a mini 7v7 pitch, all of which have been assessed as poor quality. The adult pitch has a slight capacity to field increased demand, whilst the mini 7v7 pitch is played capacity and the youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	School FA, FF RFL	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
				Rugby league		Two standard quality senior rugby league pitches that are available for community use. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure on site.	Look to formalise a community use agreement to provide security of tenure.			L	L	L	
98	St Albans Primary School	30004975	WA5 0JS	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of which have been assessed as standard quality and are available for community use. The latter however is currently overplayed on.	Retain pitch quality and explore offloading a proportion of the mini 7v7 usage onto the youth 11v11 pitch, alleviating the current overplay.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
101	St Barnabas Primary School	30010633	WA5 1TG	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
102	St Benedicts Primary School	30010632	WA2 7SB	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
				Rugby League		One junior rugby league pitch of standard quality which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.			L	L	L	
103	St Bridgets Primary School	6007301	WA2 0ER	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
104	St Elphin's Park	1027789	WA1 3AS	Bowls	Council	Two good quality crown bowling greens.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
105	St Elphins Primary	30010631	WA1 2GN	Football	Education	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches, both of which are currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
116	St Stephens Primary School	30010630	WA2 9HS	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
131	Victoria Park	6006593	WA4 1DG	Football	Council	Three poor quality adult pitches, all of which are available for community use. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to provide actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Council FA FF Clubs	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				3G		One good quality full-size (125x72) RFL and FA certified 3G pitch. The pitch was only recently installed in 2021 and is exclusively used by Warrington Wolves, Rylands RLFC, Crosfields RLFC, Woolston Rovers RLFC, Latchford Giants RLFC and Latchford Albion RLFC for rugby league provision.	Sustain pitch quality for the continued use by its affiliated sports clubs.	RFL BCGBA		L	L	L	
				Rugby league		Two senior rugby league pitches in poor condition (located adjacent to changing room block and skatepark in separate area). They suffer from dog fouling, animal damage, an uneven surface and potholes. Posts on the pitch closest to the changing rooms are also no longer straight and deemed unsafe. This pitch was also damaged following Neighbourhood Weekender being held on site and has not been usable since. Pitches are played to capacity at peak time. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.			M	S	L	
				Bowls		Two good quality crown bowling greens, one of which has sports lighting. The site is used by Victoria Park BC and is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The site is operating around the recommended capacity.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.			L	L	L	
132	Victoria Park Arena	1011303	WA4 1DG	Rugby league	Council	One good quality senior rugby league pitch which is sports lit and available to the community. The pitch is played to capacity at peak time by Warrington Wolves PDRL & LDRL. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site.	Council RFL EA	Hub	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				Athletics		An eight lane, 400m synthetic track. The track is fully sports lit and provides all accompanying field event facilities including a hammer cage, javelin, high jump, long jump, pole vault and shot put area. The track and accompanying facilities are in good condition although Warrington AC reports the hammer cage on site is in need of modification to bring it up to standard and states the track is in need of moss removal to retain a good quality surface. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The track hosts Warrington AC and Spectrum Striders, catering for a total of 460 members.	Sustain track quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support Warrington AC to update the hammer cage on site.			L	L	L	
206	Victoria Park Stadium	30010637	WA4 1DG	Rugby league	Council	One good quality senior rugby league pitch which is sports lit. The pitch is used by Latchford Albion & Giants senior team for matches although has one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site.	Council RFL	Hub	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
135	Westy Park	6006571	WA4 1TA	Football	Council	One adult pitch and a mini 5v5 pitch, both of which have been assessed as standard quality and are available for community use. Furthermore, both pitches currently operate with actual spare capacity and hence can facilitate further demand.	Sustain quality and explore opportunities to utilise the actual spare capacity that exists via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.	Council FA RFL	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
				Rugby league		One poor quality senior rugby league pitch that is available for community use but currently unused. The site is without ancillary provision.				Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime and explore the feasibility of providing changing rooms to attract usage.	L	L	
136	Whitecross Community Centre	1044322	WA5 1PT	3G	Community Organisation	One small-sized (54x29) 3G pitch which is available for community use and equipped with floodlighting.	Retain for continued community use.	FF BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
				Bowls		One crown bowling green of good quality.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.			L	L	L	
163	Bewsey Park	-	WA5 0AN	Bowls	Council	Three good quality crown bowling greens.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
164	Brooklands Hotel Bowling Green	-	WA5 1PQ	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown bowling green which is sports lit.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
165	Workingmen's Mission Recreation Club	-	WA5 1TY	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality crown bowling green.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
167	Bulls Head Public House	-	WA1 2SX	Bowls	Private	One standard quality crown bowling green which is sports lit.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Private BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
174	The Irish Club Bowling Green	-	WA2 7AL	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown bowling green. The Irish Club BC has plans to further improve the green on site. It is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. The green is operating at the minimum recommended capacity.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support the Irish Club BC to realise future demand aspirations.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
175	Orford Park	6006653	WA2 8DN	Bowls	Council	Two good quality crown bowling greens that are sports lit and serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
177	Walkers Sports and Social Club	-	WA2 8PU	Bowls	Sports Club	Two good quality crown bowling greens that are sports lit.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## EAST ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>30</sup>	Future capacity total in MES <sup>31</sup>
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
East	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 15.5</b>	
	Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	
	Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 9</b>	
	Mini 7v7	At capacity	
	Mini 5v5	<b>Shortfall of 2</b>	
Warrington	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 36.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 38.5</b>
	Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 16.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 25.5</b>
	Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 15</b>	<b>Shortfall of 18.5</b>
	Mini 7v7	<b>Spare capacity of 1.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>
	Mini 5v5	<b>Spare capacity of 3</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>			
East	Full size	<b>Shortfall of one full size 3G pitch</b>	
Warrington	Full size	<b>Shortfall of eight full size 3G pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall of nine full size 3G pitches</b>
<b>Cricket</b>			
East	Senior (Saturday)	Demand is being met	
Warrington	Senior (Saturday)	<b>Shortfall of 54</b>	<b>Shortfall of 54</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>			
East	Senior	Demand is being met	
Warrington	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 2.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2.25</b>
<b>Rugby league</b>			
East	Senior	<b>Spare capacity of 0.75</b>	
Warrington	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 1.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2.75</b>
<b>Hockey</b>			
East	Full size	Demand is being met	
Warrington	Full size	<b>Shortfall of provision</b>	<b>Shortfall of provision</b>

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Athletics</b>	Supply is considered sufficient to meet demand and the track at Victoria Park Arena is deemed to be of good quality although in need of moss removal to retain its quality.
<b>Tennis</b>	Supply is sufficient to meet current club-based demand.
<b>Bowls</b>	There is currently sufficient capacity for crown bowling greens to meet both current and future demand.
<b>Cycling</b>	High demand for cycling is identified within Warrington, both currently and when taking into account latent demand. There is no requirement for dedicated cycling provision.
<b>Golf</b>	Supply is well placed to meet demand. Notwithstanding the above, there may be a gap in demand in the Borough for informal golf facilities such as a par 3 golf course or another similar shorter format golf facility.

<sup>30</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>31</sup> As presented in the assessment report, future demand from population growth can only be applied on a Borough-wide basis.

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8	Bennetts Recreation Ground	1208180	WA2 0DF	Rugby league	Parish Council	Two standard quality senior rugby league pitches. They are used by Rylands Sharks for match demand although have one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity per week. Serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Parish Council RFL	Local	L	L	L	Protect
11	Birchwood Academy Trust	1038726	WA3 7PT	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11 pitches, a youth 9v9 pitch and a mini 5v5 pitch, all of which have been assessed as poor quality and are available for community use. All of the site's pitches are significantly overplayed, with special concern for the rate of demand experienced on both of the youth pitches.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Where overplay cannot be alleviated through quality improvements, look to offload demand to sites with spare capacity.	School FA FF ECB	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
				Football 3G		One good quality full-size (101x63) FIFA certified 3G pitch. The pitch itself was last resurfaced in 2019, hence the pitch's highly regarded quality assessment.	Retain for continued curricular usage and seek FA testing every three years so that it can continue to be used for matches.			L	M	L	
				Cricket		One disused NTP.	Explore the feasibility of reinstating the NTP for curricular use.			L	L	L	
12	Birchwood Forest Park	6006700	WA3 6PL	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches, both of which are available for community use but are subject to regular drainage issues.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to provide actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving drainage on site.	Council FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
18	Bruche Primary School	6006742	WA1 3TT	Rugby league	Education	One mini rugby league pitch of poor quality that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	School RFL	Local	L	L	L	Protect
29	Christ Church Primary School	30010623	WA2 0QJ	Football	Education	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches, both of which are currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
31	Crab Lane Playing Field	6006658	WA2 0XR	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which was identified as disused. However, Warrington Rylands FC are believed to be using the site for training sessions.  The site previously hosted two youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches in addition to the adult pitch. However, since production of the assessment report, three mini 7v7, two youth 9v9 and three youth 11v11 pitches have been remarked on site and Warrington Rylands FC is officially using the site as a home venue for a number of its teams.  Quality issues prevent more of the site being used, with limited car parking and poor quality ancillary facilities also on site.	Look to improve pitch quality and supporting facilities to reintroduce site in line with LFFP recommendations to support local shortfalls.	Council FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

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32	Croft Primary School	30010622	WA3 7DG	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect	
33	Culcheth Community Campus	1042568	WA3 5HH	Football	Education	Two adult pitches, one youth 11v11 pitch and two youth 9v9 pitches, all of which have been assessed as standard quality. All of the pitches are available for community use thanks to the installation of a drainage system, ensuring regular demand is seen at the site. The adult pitch is slightly overplayed.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Look to formalise security of tenure to provide actual spare capacity.	School FA EH FF RFL	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance	
				Hockey		One poor quality full-size (105x70) AGP with floodlighting which is available for community use. The AGP is regarded as poor quality having not been resurfaced since 2004 and is subject to regular drainage issues. Aspirations exist for the AGP to be converted into a full-size 3G pitch and internal funding is available should plans progress further.				Protect the AGP for hockey demand until sufficient capacity for hockey is provided across the Borough. Once the AGP on site is no longer needed for hockey, support its conversion to 3G.	H	S		H
				Rugby league		One standard quality senior rugby league pitch. It is currently unused although spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.				Sustain pitch quality for curricular demand.	L	L		L
35	Culcheth Sports Club	1208231	WA3 5SH	Football	Sports Club	Two poor quality adult pitches, both of which are available for community use and are overplayed. Daten FC is receiving GPMF and has received funding for maintenance equipment in order to facilitate a sufficient standard of maintenance and improve pitch quality.	Support the club to improve pitch quality on site in order to alleviate overplay.	Club FA FF LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance	
				Tennis		Four standard quality artificial tennis courts that are sports lit. The courts are used by Culcheth TC.				Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	L	L		L
45	Glazebury Cricket Club	1208221	WA3 5LS	Cricket	Private	One good quality grass wicket square with ten wickets. Drainage improvement works to the outfield are ongoing. The square has spare capacity on Sundays and midweek. Glazebury CC has a rolling annual agreement in place for the site although is happy with this as it pays a peppercorn rent. Ancillary provision on site is of poor condition and potentially contains asbestos. It does not have the funds to repair the provision itself but cannot attract external funding due to its short-term usage agreement for the site.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Encourage the Club to secure a long-term lease agreement for the site to enable it to attract external funding and improve ancillary provision on site.	Private ECB	Local	H	M	M	Protect Enhance	

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46	Gorse Covert Primary School	30010621	WA3 6TS	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
59	Hillock Lane Playing Fields	6006830	WA1 4NF	Football	Council	One adult pitch, two youth 9v9 pitches and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of which have been assessed as poor quality. The site is subject to poor drainage, making the pitches largely unplayable during the winter months. The site operates in conjunction with Woolston Park and together, the feasibility of providing a 3G on site is being explored.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to provide actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of installing a drainage system on site. Consider the feasibility of providing a 3G pitch on site.	Council FA FF RFL	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
				Rugby league		Three poor quality senior rugby league pitches that are available for community use. Woolston Rovers reports heavy use of the pitches has caused the ground to become compacted and hold water. The pitches are currently overplayed by 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.			M	S	L	
64	Locking Stumps Primary School	6006835	WA3 7PH	Football	Education	Two mini 5v5 pitches of standard quality that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site.	School FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
72	Monks Sports & Social Club	6006830	WA1 4NF	Football	Sports Club	One poor quality adult pitch which is available for community use. The site's ancillary provision is believed to be of poor quality, with Woolston Rovers FC reporting a lack of functioning shower facilities.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to provide actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site.	Club FA FF RFL	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
				Rugby league		One standard quality senior rugby league pitch which is played to capacity at peak time by Woolston Rovers. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site.			L	M	M	
				Bowling green		One standard quality bowling green	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.			Private BCGBA	L	L	
75	Newchurch Primary School	1043282	WA3 4DX	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
80	Padgate Hall	6006696	WA1 4JN	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches, both of which are available for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Council FA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

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95	Shaw St Recreation Ground	30003532	WA3 5EX	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is available for community use and is currently played to its capacity. The site is believed to suffer from drainage and maintenance issues with Village Club FC reporting that they support the maintenance of the pitch before use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to provide actual spare capacity. Explore the feasibility of installing a drainage system on site.	Council FA FF RFL	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
				Rugby league		Two standard quality senior rugby league pitches although there is also a sports lit training area on site. The pitches suffer from dog fouling and litter. Pitches are played to capacity at peak time by Culcheth Eagles. Culcheth Eagles aspires to convert the sports lit training area to a small-size, RFL compliant, 3G pitch.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of providing a small size 3G pitch on site.			M	S	M	
109	St Lewis Primary School	30004410	WA3 7BD	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
112	St Oswalds Primary	30005864	WA1 3LB	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
114	St Peter's Primary School	30003357	WA1 4PQ	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to formalise security of tenure to provide actual spare capacity.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
129	University Academy Warrington	6006740	WA2 0LN	Football	Education	Two poor quality adult pitches, both of which are available for community use but are currently overplayed.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to formalise security of tenure to provide actual spare capacity.	School FA FF ECB	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
				Football 3G		One poor quality full-size (102x63) FA approved 3G pitch which is available for community use outside of curricular hours. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2009 and thus has exceeded its recommended 10-year lifespan.	Pitch needs resurfacing immediately as it has surpassed its 10-year lifespan and is reported to be of poor quality.			H	S	H	
				Cricket		One standalone NTP in adequate condition.	Sustain wicket quality through dedicated maintenance regime.			L	L	L	
130	University Of Chester (Warrington Campus)	1200698	WA2 0DB	Football	Education	One adult pitch which has been closed to the community since the covid pandemic. The University plans to decommission the pitch in the summer of this year.	If lost, replace football pitch like for like on new playing field land to meet Sport England Planning Policy and Guidance and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	University FA FF EH RFL EA	Key Centre	M	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
				Hockey		One full-size (98x60) AGP which is currently unavailable for community use despite being equipped with floodlighting. The University plans to decommission the pitch in the summer of this year.	If lost, replace hockey AGP like for like on new playing field land to meet Sport England Planning Policy and Guidance and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.			H	S	H	

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				Rugby league		One standard quality senior rugby league pitch which has been closed to the community since the covid pandemic. The University plans to decommission the pitch in the summer of this year.	If lost, replace rugby league pitch like for like on new playing field land to meet Sport England Planning Policy and Guidance and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.			M	S	H	
				Athletics		One 350m synthetic athletics track without sports lighting. The track is no longer available for community use and the University plans to decommission the track in the summer of this year.	Secure appropriate mitigation in accordance with Sport England Planning Policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF for the loss of the athletics track on site to improve and provide alternate athletics provision within Warrington.						
139	Woolston C of E Primary School	30003263	WA1 4QL	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is available for community use and played to its capacity during peak hours.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	School FA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
141	Woolston Learning Village	6009647	WA1 4LS	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FF, FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
142	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	1004972	WA1 4PN	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is available for community use yet is currently overplayed.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Council FA, FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
143	Woolston Park	6006539	WA1 4LN	Football	Council	One adult pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch, one mini 5v5 pitch and two mini 7v7 pitches, all of which have been assessed as poor quality and are available for community use. Excluding the mini 7v7 pitch, all of the site's pitches are overplayed, with special concern for the youth 9v9 and adult pitch. The site operates in conjunction with Woolston Park and together, the feasibility of providing a 3G on site is being explored.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay. Explore options to relocate demand to alternate sites with actual spare capacity to alleviate overplay. Consider the feasibility of providing a 3G pitch on site. Any development proposal should accord with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	Council FA FF	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
145	The Oaks Playing Fields	30002464	WA3 6BN	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch, three youth 9v9 pitches, two mini 7v7 pitches and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of which have been assessed as standard quality and are available for community use. The adult pitch is currently overplayed on, whilst all of the mini pitches are played to capacity during peak hours. The youth 9v9 pitch has slight actual spare capacity to facilitate further demand. The site is leased by Culcheth Athletic FC which received plant machinery grant funding from the FF via support from Lancashire FA.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime via GPMF to reduce overplay. Explore options to offload community access of the adult pitch to sites operating with spare capacity.	Club FA	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
150	Kings Leadership Academy	30006176	WA1 4PF	Football	Education	One good quality youth 11v11 pitch and one poor quality mini 5v5 pitch. The latter is currently unavailable for community use, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch accommodates community use.	Improve pitch quality of the mini 5v5 pitch and explore options to enable community access to the mini 5v5 pitch. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	School FA FF	Key Centre	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
				3G		One small-sized (45x32) 3G pitch which is available for community use and equipped with floodlighting.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.						
151	Warrington Wolves Training Dome	-	WA2 0DB	3G	Sports Club	One small-sized (42x31) 3G pitch which is available for community use and equipped with floodlighting.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. If the pitch is to be lost, ensure it is appropriately mitigated.	Club FF, FA RFL	Local	L	L	L	Protect
155	Birchwood Golf Club	1101068	WA3 7PB	Golf	Sports Club	An 18 hole, par 72 golf course as well as a four bay driving range which is only available to club members. Drainage issues were previously prevalent on the first and second holes on site but this has now been rectified.	Sustain course quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
158	Rixton Tennis Club	30007248	WA3 6HE	Tennis	Sports Club	Three standard quality macadam tennis courts that are sports lit. The courts are used by Rixton LTC.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
161	Leigh Golf Club	1012466	WA3 4BG	Golf	Sports Club	An 18 hole, par 69 golf course. Significant investment has recently been made to improve course quality.	Sustain course quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
168	King & Queen Public House	-	WA1 3SP	Bowls	Private	One standard quality crown bowling green.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Private BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
169	Alford Hall Social Club	-	WA1 3NJ	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown bowling green.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
170	St Oswalds Club	-	WA1 3LB	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown bowling green that is sports lit.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
171	Padgate Tennis & Bowls Club	-	WA1 4HU	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality crown bowling green that is sports lit.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
173	Woolston Social Club	-	WA1 4AD	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality crown bowling green that is sports lit.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
178	Poulton Park Golf Club	1101074	WA2 0SH	Golf	Sports Club	A nine hole, par 35 golf course.	Sustain course quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
189	Croft Bowling Association	-	WA3 7JE	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown bowling green that is sports lit.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
198	Croft Golf Centre	1101069	WA3 7AW	Golf	Commercial	A 20 bay driving range facility with is sports lit and available for pay and play.	Sustain range quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Commercial EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
199	Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex	1006790	WA3 7PQ	Tennis	Sports Club	Four good quality macadam tennis courts that are without sports lighting. It hosts a parks tennis league with Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
205	Longbarn Bowling Green	-	WA2 0QX	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality crown bowling green.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>32</sup>	Future capacity total in MES <sup>33</sup>
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
South	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 6</b>	
	Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 5.5</b>	
	Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	
	Mini 7v7	<b>Spare capacity of 2</b>	
	Mini 5v5	<b>Spare capacity of 4</b>	
Warrington	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 36.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 38.5</b>
	Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 16.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 25.5</b>
	Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 15</b>	<b>Shortfall of 18.5</b>
	Mini 7v7	<b>Spare capacity of 1.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5</b>
	Mini 5v5	<b>Spare capacity of 3</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>			
South	Full size	<b>Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches</b>	
Warrington	Full size	<b>Shortfall of eight full size 3G pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall of nine full size 3G pitches</b>
<b>Cricket</b>			
South	Senior (Saturday)	<b>Shortfall of 54</b>	
Warrington	Senior (Saturday)	<b>Shortfall of 54</b>	<b>Shortfall of 54</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>			
South	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 1.75</b>	
Warrington	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 2.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2.25</b>
<b>Rugby league</b>			
South	Senior	Demand is being met	
Warrington	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 1.25</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2.75</b>
<b>Hockey</b>			
South	Full size	<b>Shortfall of provision</b>	
Warrington	Full size	<b>Shortfall of provision</b>	<b>Shortfall of provision</b>

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Athletics</b>	Supply is considered sufficient to meet demand and the track at Victoria Park Arena is deemed to be of good quality although in need of moss removal to retain its quality.
<b>Tennis</b>	Supply is sufficient to meet current club-based demand although if Stockton Heath LTC's significant future demand aspirations are realised, the Club will be operating considerably above the recommended capacity.
<b>Bowls</b>	There is currently sufficient capacity for crown bowling greens to meet both current and future demand.
<b>Cycling</b>	High demand for cycling is identified within Warrington, both currently and when taking into account latent demand. There is no requirement for dedicated cycling provision.

<sup>32</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>33</sup> As presented in the assessment report, future demand from population growth can only be applied on a Borough-wide basis.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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Sport	Headline findings
Golf	Supply is well placed to meet demand. Notwithstanding the above, there may be a gap in demand in the Borough for informal golf facilities such as a par 3 golf course or another similar shorter format golf facility.

**WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Appleton Cricket Club	1208227	WA4 5JG	Cricket	Sports Club	One grass cricket square of good quality with 16 wickets. The outfield is said to be undulated and drains poorly although the Club is working to rectify this. It has capacity for additional midweek cricket. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities although the Club is looking to rework its second, older pavilion on site into a social and function space.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support the Club to improve outfield quality and improve social facilities on site.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
2	Appleton Thorn Playing Fields	6006624	WA4 4QZ	Football	Council	One adult pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of which have been assessed as poor quality and are available for community use. Since the production of the assessment report, usage of the site has been withdrawn due to a lack of ancillary provision on site. Therefore, pitches are not currently marked. Appleton AFC aspires to take on management of the site although there is limited car parking and no ancillary provision on site. The site is capable of hosting one adult and five mini 5v5 pitches as well as the two rugby union pitches that are currently unused.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to provide actual spare capacity, in line with LFFP recommendations. Explore options to provide ancillary provision and extended car parking facilities on site to ensure potential capacity can be utilised. Explore the opportunities for a community asset transfer (CAT) to Appleton AFC.	FA FF RFU	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
				Rugby union		Two poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitches, both of which are available for community use but are not equipped with floodlighting. The pitches are currently unused.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.			L	L	L	
3	Appleton Thorn Primary School	30010624	WA4 4RW	Football	Education	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches, both of which are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
13	Bridgewater High School (Lower)	6008836	WA4 5JL	Football	Education	Two standard quality adult pitches, one poor youth 11v11 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are available for community use. Previously, an additional adult pitch existed. However, the pitch is no longer marked out, being cited as unusable throughout winter due to drainage issues.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure. Explore the feasibility of improving drainage on site.	School FA FF	Key Centre	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
14	Bridgewater High School (Upper)	1201097	WA4 3AE	Rugby league	Education	One poor quality senior rugby league pitch which is available for community use. The pitch is played to capacity through curricular demand.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School RFL LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
				Tennis		Five standard quality macadam tennis courts that are sports lit.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.			L	L	L	

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
17	Broomfields Leisure Centre	1004929	WA4 3AE	3G	Education	One good quality full-size (110x64) FIFA certified 3G pitch which is available for community use and equipped with floodlighting. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2020, hence its highly regarded quality assessment. The insufficient car parking facilities are currently limiting the degree of provision which Appleton FC can utilise on site. The site is being considered for a second 3G pitch by the FF.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Seek FA testing every three years so that it can continue to be used for matches. Explore the feasibility of expanding car parking provision on site. Consider the feasibility of providing a second 3G pitch on site, ensuring sufficient parking facilities are provided so the pitch could be fully utilised. Any proposal would need to accord with Sport England's Playing Field Policy and Guidance and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	School FF FA	Key Centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
26	Chaigley School	1009860	WA4 2TE	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is available for community use but is currently overplayed on due to excessive demand for the site. The site has identified space for two youth 11v11 pitches to be installed. The site is said to have insufficient parking facilities.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay. Explore the feasibility of installing additional pitch provision on site to alleviate overplay.	School FA FF LTA	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
				Tennis		One poor quality tennis court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular demand.			L	L	L	
28	Cherry Tree Primary School	30002952	WA13 0NX	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use and is played to its capacity during peak hours. The pitch itself is believed to drain poorly.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	School FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
40	Elizabeth Park	6006709	WA4 2SY	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches, both of which are available for community use but are overplayed on. The site is reported to flood from early November through to late April and has insufficient parking facilities.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
49	Grappenhall Cricket Club	1208216	WA4 3ER	Cricket	Sports Club	One grass cricket square of good quality with 18 wickets. The square is played to capacity throughout the week. The CCB indicates Grappenhall CC has a masterplan to improve the pavilion at Grappenhall Cricket Club by rebuilding or refitting the existing building on site.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support the Club to improve ancillary facilities on site.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	M	M-H	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	
52	Grappenhall Village Sports Club	6006853	WA4 3HQ	Football	Sports Club	Two good quality adult pitches, a standard quality adult pitch, five standard quality mini 5v5 pitches and one good quality youth 11v11 pitch. Significant actual spare capacity has been identified on the mini 5v5 pitches. Grappenhall Sports FC report interest in acquiring additional land surrounding the site to facilitate an increased number of playing pitches, whilst expanding the car parking provision also.	Sustain quality and explore opportunities to utilise the actual spare capacity that exists via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites. Support Grappenhall Sports FC to acquire additional land to increase playing field and parking provision on site.	Club FA FF RFU LTA	Key Centre	M	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide	
				Rugby union		One senior pitch and three junior pitches, all of which are assessed as standard quality. The senior pitch has minimal spare capacity whilst the junior pitches are overplayed by one MES per week. The car parking is believed to be insufficient to meet the demand which the pitches yield. Warrington RUFC believes they could double their mini and junior membership numbers if capacity restrictions at the site were alleviated. Warrington RUFC plan to create new pitches by removing shrubbery and levelling a section of the site.				Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support the Club to create additional playing field and parking provision on site. Additional changing provision is also likely required due to increased demand generated from the above developments.	M	L		H
				Tennis		Eight good quality macadam tennis courts of which five are sportslit. The site is used by Grappenhall Village LTC. Pay and play is available on site. Two padel courts are also under construction.				Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Encourage Grappenhall Village LTC to implement Smart Access on site. Support the Club to provide padel courts on site.	M	M		M
60	HM Prison (Thorn Cross)	1041556	WA4 4RL	Football	HMP	One adult and two mini 7v7 pitches, all of standard quality. The pitches are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for internal use.	HMP	Local	L	L	L	Protect	
66	Lymm High School	1004947	WA13 0RB	Football	Education	Three adult pitches, three mini 7v7 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which were assessed as good quality and available for community use. The adult pitches are significantly overplayed on due to excessive demand. A professional groundsman is employed by the school to maintain the site, although the site sits on a high-water table and thus the site floods regularly.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to offload community use to sites operating with spare capacity, alleviating the current overplay.	School FA FF Club RFU EH ECB	Hub	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide	

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				Football 3G		One good quality full-size (100x63) FIFA certified 3G pitch, available for community use and equipped with sports lighting. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2020, hence its high regarded quality assessment. Lymm Rovers Juniors FC report two additional changing rooms were due to be provided at Lymm High School with the installation of the 3G pitch on the site but these are yet to be constructed.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime for continued curricular and club usage, whilst seeking FA testing every three years so that it can continue to be used for matches. Follow up on the addition of changing room facilities.			M	M	M	
				Rugby union		Four standard quality senior pitches, all of which are available for community use but are not equipped with sports lighting. However, the pitches are deemed to be unused for rugby union provision outside of its curricular demand. At capacity, high level of school demand.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.			L	L	L	
				Hockey		One poor quality full-size (100x60) AGP which is available for community use and equipped with floodlighting. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2009 which is reflected in the pitch's low-regarded quality assessment. It drains poorly, freezes over in the winter and leaves silt on top of the playing surface. The surface has recently been rejuvenated although the School does not have the funds to resurface the pitch. The Club is unable to play all its fixtures on site as sports lights are currently turned off at 5:10pm on weekends despite the facility being open until 6pm on Saturdays. Lymm Hockey Club hires the pitch out on an annual basis with a priority access agreement which has been in place since 2005.	Support the School to resurface the AGP as soon as feasibly possible. Ensure appropriate site management procedures are put in place at the School to allow Lymm HC to play all fixtures on site.			H	S	H	
				Cricket		One standalone NTP in good condition. It is available for community use and Lymm Oughtrington Park CC has a preferential user agreement in place.	Sustain wicket quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Encourage Lymm Oughtrington Park CC to utilise the NTP on site to alleviate overplay of its home ground.			H	S	L	

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
68	Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket Club	1208197	WA13 0RB	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass cricket square with 12 wickets. A tree on site that was previously within the outfield boundary recently came down in a storm. This has left the outfield in need of refurbishment and the Club is putting money aside for its repair. The square is overplayed by 54 match sessions per season. Ancillary facilities on site are of standard quality although the Club aspires to provide disabled access and toilets as well as dedicated women and girls changing facilities as female players currently have to utilise the same provision as the men.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support the Club to improve outfield and ancillary facility quality, particularly for female and disabled users. Encourage Lymm Oughtrington Park CC to utilise the NTP at Lymm High School to alleviate overplay of the site.	Sports Club ECB	Local	H	M	M-H	Protect Enhance
69	Lymm Rugby Club	1036099	WA13 0AS	3G	Sports Club	One good quality full size (115x75) FA approved pitch which is available for community use and equipped with floodlighting. The pitch was installed in 2020, hence its highly regarded quality assessment.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment. Ensure the pitch remains WR compliant to continue to accommodate rugby union matches and training.	Club FA FF RFU LTA	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
				Rugby Union	Two senior pitches and one junior pitch, all of which have been assessed as good quality. All of the pitches are available for community use but lack floodlighting. The Club is looking to utilise RFU winter survival loan funding to invest in pitch improvement works. Lymm RUFC have planning permission to construct a new clubhouse at the site. It plans to sell the existing clubhouse, a section of the car park and the caravan storage area for housing in order to fund the new clubhouse. Actual spare capacity exists at the site, indicating that Lymm RUFC could accommodate an extra senior team.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Support the Club to provide improved ancillary provision on site.	M			L	H		
				Tennis	Manor Road TC has been working with Lymm RFC to provide four new tennis courts at Lymm Rugby Club for which planning permission has been granted. To fund this development, Manor Road TC will sell its existing home site (Manor Road Tennis Club) which has two courts. An LTA loan has also been granted to help cover the costs of the additional courts, which will be supported by sports lighting. Beams will also be installed above the courts to allow temporary domes to cover the courts throughout the winter, supporting year-round play. Manor Road TC expects the development to be complete by March 2023.	Support Lymm RFC and Manor Road TC to provide new tennis provision on site.	H			S	H		

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
90	Ridgeway Grundy Park	6006649	WA13 0QP	Football	Council	One adult pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of which have been assessed as poor quality. The adult pitch is overplayed and the mini pitch is reported to no longer be safe for use. The ancillary facilities at the site have been closed since the covid pandemic and water for the toilets has been turned off. Since the production of the assessment report, the site is now reported to host increased demand following Appleton Thorn Playing Fields no longer being marked and Sow Brook Playing Fields no longer being permitted to host adult football.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Explore options to reinstate ancillary provision on site.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
93	Sandy Lane Recreation Ground	6006597	WA13 9HR	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch which is available for community use and is currently overplayed. Lymm AFC is looking to secure funding to replace ancillary provision on site and has planning permission to do so. Since the production of the assessment report, the site is now reported to host increased demand following Appleton Thorn Playing Fields no longer being marked and Sow Brook Playing Fields no longer being permitted to host adult football.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Explore the feasibility of supporting Lymm AFC to improve ancillary facilities on site.	FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
97	Sow Brook Playing Fields	6006596	WA13 9DJ	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches, both of which are available for community use. The site is surrounded by a brook and experiences regularly flooding, making the pitches only usable from Spring to Summer. Since the production of the assessment report, open age sport has been withdrawn from the site due to the aforementioned drainage issues, meaning only junior sport can now be hosted. Lymm Piranhas JFC aspire to work with the Council to build a full-size 3G pitch.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime, providing actual spare capacity throughout spring and summer. Explore feasibility of improving drainage on site.	FA FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
120	Statham Primary School	30010625	WA13 9BE	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
123	Stretton St Matthews	30010626	WA4 4NT	Football	Education	One adult pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of which have been assessed as standard quality, yet are currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
126	Thelwall Junior School	6011496	WA4 2HX	Football	Education	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitch, both of which are currently unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
133	Warrington Sports Club	1036168	WA4 6SJ	Football	Sports Club	Three good quality adult pitches, all of which are available for community use and are operating with actual spare capacity and hence can facilitate further demand. The pitches are overmarked on a cricket outfield.	Sustain pitch quality and explore opportunities to utilise the actual spare capacity that exists via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.	Club FA ECB	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
				Cricket		Two good quality grass cricket squares with 14 and ten wickets respectively. Both squares are at capacity on Saturdays but have spare capacity on Sundays and midweek. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities. The Club has a four-lane training net facility on site which is in poor condition. The Club is looking to refurbish the facility.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support the Club to improve training facilities on site.			L	L	L	
157	Lymm Lawn Tennis Club	30007066	WA13 0PX	Tennis	Sports Club	Nine good quality macadam tennis courts which are sports lit are used by Lymm TC.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
159	Walton Hall Golf Course	1101075	WA4 5LU	Golf	Council	An 18 hole, par 72 golf course.	Sustain course quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Council EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
160	Warrington Golf Club	1101076	WA4 5HR	Golf	Sports Club	An 18 hole, par 71 golf course. The course is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The Club has a waiting list in place for male full playing and full playing restricted membership although spaces are available for female members.	Sustain course quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support the Club to accommodate unmet demand.	Sports Club EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
162	Lymm Golf Club	1101073	WA13 9AN	Golf	Sports Club	An 18 hole, par 71 golf course. The course is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The Club states its full membership package is now full so a waiting list has been implemented.	Sustain course quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support the Club to accommodate unmet demand.	Sports Club EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
183	The Stag Public House	-	WA4 6EG	Bowls	Private	One standard quality crown bowling green which is sports lit.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Private BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
184	Walton Gardens	-	WA4 6SN	Bowls	Council	Two good quality crown bowling greens.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
185	Alexander Park	-	WA4 2UT	Bowls	Council	Two standard quality crown bowling greens.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
186	Grappenhall Ex-Servicemens Club	-	WA4 2QG	Bowls	Private	One good quality crown bowling green which is sports lit.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Private BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
188	Oughtrington Bowling Green	-	WA13 9JG	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown bowling green.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
193	The Park Royal	1001165	WA4 4NS	Tennis	Private	Three good quality macadam courts that are sports lit and available for community use. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Private LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
195	Manor Road Tennis Club	30009009	WA13 0AY	Tennis	Sports Club	Two poor quality macadam courts that are sports lit. Manor Road TC has not been maintaining the courts on site due to its imminent relocation to Lymm Rugby Club. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision. The courts are used by Manor Road TC and has capacity for 59 additional members.	Support the Club to relocate to Lymm Rugby Club.	Sports Club LTA	Local	H	S	L	-
201	Stockton Heath Lawn Tennis Club	30007249	WA4 5BY	Tennis	Sports Club	Seven good quality artificial tennis courts that are sports lit. There is also a Smart Access gate installed on site. It currently has capacity for 96 additional members although if Stockton Heath LTC's future demand aspirations are realised, the site will be overplayed by 104 members.  Two mini tennis courts are also located on site. Stockton Heath LTC reports they are in need of resurfacing although it is also considering converting them into pickleball courts.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Monitor future growth of Stockton Heath LTC to ensure future demand does not lead to a decline in court quality.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	M	L	Protect

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

## WEST ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>34</sup>	Future capacity total in MES <sup>35</sup>
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
West	Adult	Shortfall of 11	
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 6.5	
	Youth 9v9	At capacity	
	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 0.5	
	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 0.5	
Warrington	Adult	Shortfall of 36.5	Shortfall of 38.5
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 16.5	Shortfall of 25.5
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 15	Shortfall of 18.5
	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5
	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3	Shortfall of 3
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>			
West	Full size	Shortfall of three full size 3G pitches	
Warrington	Full size	Shortfall of eight full size 3G pitches	Shortfall of nine full size 3G pitches
<b>Cricket</b>			
West	Senior (Saturday)	Demand is being met	
Warrington	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 54	Shortfall of 54
<b>Rugby union</b>			
West	Senior	Shortfall of 0.5	
Warrington	Senior	Shortfall of 2.25	Shortfall of 2.25
<b>Rugby league</b>			
West	Senior	Shortfall of 1.75	
Warrington	Senior	Shortfall of 1.25	Shortfall of 1.25
<b>Hockey</b>			
West	Full size	Demand is being met	
Warrington	Full size	Shortfall of provision	Shortfall of provision

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Athletics</b>	Supply is considered sufficient to meet demand and the track at Victoria Park Arena is deemed to be of good quality although in need of moss removal to retain its quality.
<b>Tennis</b>	Supply is sufficient to meet current club-based demand.
<b>Bowls</b>	There is currently sufficient capacity for crown bowling greens to meet both current and future demand.
<b>Cycling</b>	High demand for cycling is identified within Warrington, both currently and when taking into account latent demand. There is no requirement for dedicated cycling provision.

<sup>34</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>35</sup> As presented in the assessment report, future demand from population growth can only be applied on a Borough-wide basis.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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Sport	Headline findings
Golf	Supply is well placed to meet demand. Notwithstanding the above, there may be a gap in demand in the Borough for informal golf facilities such as a par 3 golf course or another similar shorter format golf facility.

**WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
6	Barrowhall Community Primary School	30009848	WA5 3TX	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and a youth 11v11 pitch, all of which has been assessed as standard quality. All of the pitches are available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
20	Callands Primary School	30004974	WA5 9RJ	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use and is played to its capacity during peak hours.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
36	Dakota Park	30002781	WA5 3SR	Football	Council	One adult pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of which have been assessed as poor quality and are available for community use. The pitches drain well but suffer from dog fouling.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Council FA ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
				Cricket		A standalone NTP in adequate condition.	Sustain wicket quality through dedicated maintenance regime.			L	L	L	
39	Doe Green Recreation Ground	6006731	WA5 2UA	Football	Council	One mini 5v5 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of which have been assessed as poor quality and are available for community use. The mini 5v5 pitch is currently overplayed.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
42	Evelyn St Primary School	30010627	WA5 1BD	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which is currently unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Explore options to enable community access.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
43	Fir Tree Lane	-	WA5 4LH	Rugby League	Parish Council	One senior and one junior rugby league pitch, both of poor quality. The senior pitch is overplayed by 1.25 MES per week whilst the junior pitch is played to capacity. The site is without ancillary provision, with users instead accessing Burtonwood Community Centre for changing facilities.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Parish Council RFL	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
47	Gorseley Recreation Ground	1041558	WA5 4HW	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of which have been assessed as standard quality and available for community use. Previously, there had been one poor quality adult pitch which is now disused. The Parish Council has closed changing facilities on site. FC Burtonwood aspires to renovate these facilities but does not have support from the Parish Council to do so.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Support FC Burtonwood to improve ancillary facilities on site.	Parish Council FA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

**WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
54	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	1004942	WA5 3AA	3G	LiveWire	One standard quality full-size (112x76) FA approved 3G pitch which is available for community use and equipped with floodlighting. The pitch itself was last resurfaced in 2018.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Seek FA testing every three years so that it can continue to be used for matches.	LiveWire FF LTA	Local	L	M	L	Protect
				Tennis		Four good quality macadam courts that are sports lit and available to the community. A Local Tennis League is in operation on site.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.			L	L	L	
55	Great Sankey Parish Playing Fields	30006214	WA5 3AA	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which have been assessed as poor quality due to significant drainage issues. Both pitches are available for community use but are unusable during the summer months due to their drainage insufficiencies.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of implementing a new drainage system; alleviating drainage impediments during the summer months and providing consistent usage of the site all-year round.	Parish Council FA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
61	Hood Lane Recreation Ground	6006656	WA5 1ET	Football	Council	One disused adult pitch. The site is said to be uneven and have issues with drainage. The site previously featured in the 2019 LFFP for pitch and ancillary improvements although will not be retained for the updated LFFP, with a 3G conversion instead being considered.	Explore the feasibility of reinstating the pitch or converting the pitch to 3G. If conversion is sought, explore multi-sport opportunities, particularly with rugby league with significant rugby league demand on site. Any development proposal should accord with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	Council FA FF RFL BCGBA	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
				Rugby League		Three standard quality senior rugby league pitches. The pitches are serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities. The pitches are overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week due to match and training demand from Crosfields and Warrington Wolves' women and girls.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site.			M	S	L	
				Bowls		Two good quality crown bowling greens used by Crosfields BC and Penketh Tavern BC.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.			L	L	L	
70	Mary Ann Meadows	6006708	WA5 8XT	Football	Council	Two adult pitches, one mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and three youth 9v9 pitches, all of which have been assessed as poor quality. All of the pitches at the site are available for community use and both of the adult pitches are significantly overplayed on. In recent years, maintenance quality is deemed to have declined and the site has been subject to significant drainage issues.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Explore the opportunities for a community asset transfer (CAT) to Cromwell Athletic FC. Examine the feasibility of improving ancillary and parking provision on site.	FA	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

**WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						Cromwell Athletic FC has expressed interest in taking on maintenance and management of the site and is already said to invest in the maintenance of the site in addition to the Council's maintenance work. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities and insufficient parking facilities.	Any development proposal should accord with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.						
84	Penketh High School	1103349	WA5 2BY	Football	Education	Two poor quality adult pitches, both of which are available for community use and are significantly overplayed.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	School FA FF RFU EH	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
				3G		One small-sized (37x20) 3G pitch which is available for community use but without sports lighting. In addition to the potential conversion of the AGP on site, the School is set to go through a redevelopment programme with the Department for Education between 2023-2025. Proposals will lead to existing grass playing field being replaced, which may provide opportunities for additional artificial pitch surfaces.	Retain the AGP until hockey is adequately provided for elsewhere in the Borough. In the meantime, consider the feasibility of providing additional 3G provision on site. Any development proposal should accord with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.			M	M	H	
				Rugby Union		One poor quality senior pitch which is available for community use but is not equipped with floodlighting. Despite being available for community use, rugby union provision is not currently utilised by the community.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.			L	L	L	
				Hockey		One poor quality full-size (92x55) AGP which is available for community use and equipped with floodlighting. The AGP has not been resurfaced since 2012. The pitch is deemed surplus to requirements for hockey and is not known to have ever been used for community hockey. The School is in discussions with the Football Foundation regarding the conversion of the AGP into a full-size 3G pitch. In addition, the ancillary provision at the site is expected to be refurbished along with the planned 3G conversion.	Support the conversion of the AGP on site to support local football training shortfalls.			H	S	H	
85	Penketh South Primary	30010628	WA5 2PN	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
94	Sankey Valley St James Primary School	30004976	WA5 1XE	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of which are deemed to be standard quality and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
106	St Gregorys High School	1201378	WA5 1HG	Football	Education	Four adult pitches, two mini 7v7 pitches, two mini 5v5 pitches and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are deemed to be standard quality and available for community use. Significant overplay is identified on the youth 11v11 pitch. The site is well used by the community and is an option for 3G pitch development by the Football Foundation.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Explore options to offload some community use of the youth 11v11 pitch to sites operating with spare capacity, alleviating the current overplay. Consider the feasibility of providing a full-size 3G pitch on site. Any development proposal should accord with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.	School FA ECB	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
				Cricket	Education	A standalone NTP which lies disused.	Explore the feasibility of reinstating the wicket for curricular demand.			L	L	L	
115	St Philip Westbrook Church of England Primary School	30004973	WA5 8UE	Football	Education	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches, both of which are available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
118	St Vincents	30005350	WA5 2PN	Football	Education	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches, both of which are available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
121	Stocks Lane Playing Field	6006618	WA5 3JT	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is available for community use and is currently overplayed.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Explore options to offload some community use to sites operating with spare capacity, alleviating the current overplay.	FA	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
127	Thornton Road Recreation Centre	6006626	WA5 2TH	Football	Sports Club	Two standard quality adult pitches, both of which are available for community use. Eagle Sports FC reports an insufficient number of changing rooms at the site. Ancillary provision contains asbestos and has insufficient ventilation and a leaking roof.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Improve ancillary facilities on site through refurbishment or re-provision in line with LFFP recommendations.	Club FA RFU	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
				Rugby Union	Sports Club	One poor quality senior pitch which is available for community use but is not equipped with sports lighting. In addition, the pitch is slightly overplayed, accommodating demand from Eagle RUFC.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Look to secure a long-term tenure agreement for Eagle RUFC on site.			M	S	L	

**WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
138	Winwick Recreation Ground	1041553	WA2 8LQ	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch, one mini 5v5 pitch, two mini 7v7 pitches and a youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are deemed to be poor quality. The site is subject to drainage issues, damages from rabbits and is overplayed. Winwick Athletic FC has engaged in PitchPower but has not yet applied for any funding. It has expressed an aspiration to take on the site from the Parish Council.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to utilise PitchPower reports to attract improved maintenance funding. Explore the opportunities for a community asset transfer (CAT) to Winwick Athletic FC.	Parish Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
156	Penketh Tennis Club	30009004	WA5 2HR	Tennis	Sports Club	Three artificial tennis courts that are sports lit and available for community use. The clubhouse on site has recently been improved and is considered to be in good condition. The site has spare capacity for additional members.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
182	Penketh Bowling Club	-	WA5 2SG	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality crown bowling green. The green is supported by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
191	Burtonwood Bowling Green	-	WA5 4LH	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality crown bowling green. The green is supported by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain green quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
197	Alder Root Golf Club	1101067	WA2 8RZ	Golf	Commercial	An 18 hole, par 71 golf course. The Club is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain course quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Commercial EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
202	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	1000510	WA5 1HH	Tennis	Commercial	Four good quality artificial tennis courts that are sports lit but unavailable to the community.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Commercial LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
204	True Fit Golf Centre	30010629	WA5 2UW	Golf	Commercial	An 18 hole, par 70 golf course and a 22 bay, sports lit driving range which is available for pay and play. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain course quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Commercial EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect

### PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2038. This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC)<sup>36</sup> 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.

As identified earlier under Recommendation (h) – Secure developer contributions, for playing pitches, the Borough Council should use Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality.

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.

The scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for 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 training demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey match play and training demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches.

Over the 18 year plan period from 2021 to 2038, a minimum of 14,688 new homes will be delivered to meet Warrington’s housing needs. This equates to an average of 816 homes per annum. The majority of these be delivered within the existing main urban area of Warrington, the existing inset settlements and other sites identified in the Council’s Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). Combined, these have identified deliverable capacity for a minimum of 11,785 new homes.

The scenarios that will be run based on the aforementioned housing growth are as follows:

- ◀ **Scenario One** – additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from 11,785 dwellings across Warrington.
- ◀ **Scenario Two** – additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from the minimum of 2,400 dwellings to be delivered in the South East Warrington Urban Extension within the Plan Period (South Analysis Area).
- ◀ **Scenario Three** - additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from the minimum of 1,310 dwellings to be delivered at Fiddlers Ferry within the Plan Period (West Analysis Area).
- ◀ **Scenario Four** – additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from the minimum of 310 dwellings to be delivered at Thelwall Heys within the Plan Period (South Analysis Area).

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<sup>36</sup> <https://www.activeplacespower.com/>

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

For reference, the indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.25<sup>37</sup> per dwelling.

Please note that the examples used in each of the abovementioned scenarios have been provided on the basis that there is no adjustment in future demand (from participation growth) over and above population growth. It is suggested that this is monitored and updated as part of the Stage E review to monitor the likely impact on future participation levels. Furthermore, the below scenarios are using ONS data for predicted future growth in order to give a base understanding of the impact of housing demand.

Additionally, the below scenarios/recommendations are based upon the PPC which only takes into consideration the five pitch sports of football (grass and 3G), cricket, rugby league, rugby union and hockey (AGPs). It does not take into consideration the requirement of other sports facilities mentioned within the document such as tennis, bowls, golf, cycling and athletics. Nor does it consider the requirement for open space/recreational playing fields areas. Therefore, master planning for these elements within housing developments will need to take place outside of PPOSS, however, this document can help guide these discussions.

**Scenario One** – additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from 11,785 dwellings across Warrington.

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 11,785 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.25 per household is 26,516 people. This population increase equates to 39.15 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, accumulative 0.94 match equivalent sessions for hockey and 56.54 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 68.36 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 2.74 hours for hockey on AGPs. There are also 1.63 and 4.18 match equivalent sessions per week of training on floodlit grass pitches for rugby union and rugby league, respectively.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 11,785 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 11,785 dwellings	
	Match demand (MES) per week <sup>38</sup>	Training demand <sup>39</sup>
Adult football	5.15	68.36 hours
Youth football	16.52	
Mini soccer	12.51	
Rugby union	1.44	1.63 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	3.53	4.18 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.75	2.26 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.19	0.48 hours
Cricket	56.54	-

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

<sup>37</sup> The occupancy rate of 2.25 is in line with figures taken from Warrington Borough's Profile from 2016/17.

<sup>38</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>39</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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 <sup>40</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>41</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	5.15	£499,732	£105,443	10.3	£1,724,076
Youth football	16.52	£1,281,771	£269,172	22.23	£3,720,093
Mini soccer	12.51	£303,329	£63,699	0	£0
Rugby union	1.44	£196,106	£41,967	2.89	£483,261
Rugby league	3.53	£394,036	£87,082	7.06	£1,182,109
Cricket	1.23	£353,158	£71,338	2.47	£413,015
Sand based AGPs	0.19	£151,762	£4,705	0.38	£63,082
3G	1.8	£1,736,151	£66,224	3.6	£601,982

**Scenario Two** – additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from the minimum of 2,400 dwellings to be delivered in the South East Warrington Urban Extension within the Plan Period (South Analysis Area).

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 2,400 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.25 per household is 5,400 people. This population increase equates to 7.97 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, accumulative 0.19 match equivalent sessions for hockey and 11.52 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 13.92 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.56 hours for hockey on AGPs. There are also 0.33 and 0.85 match equivalent sessions per week of training on floodlit grass pitches for rugby union and rugby league, respectively.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 2,400 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 2,400 dwellings	
	Match demand (MES) per week <sup>42</sup>	Training demand <sup>43</sup>
Adult football	1.05	13.92 hours
Youth football	3.36	
Mini soccer	2.55	
Rugby union	0.29	0.33 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.72	0.85 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.15	0.46 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.04	0.10 hours
Cricket	11.52	-

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

<sup>40</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>41</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

<sup>42</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>43</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.4: 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 <sup>44</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>45</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	1.05	£101,773	£21,474	2.1	£351,117
Youth football	3.36	£261,044	£54,819	4.53	£757,625
Mini soccer	2.55	£61,772	£12,972	0	£0
Rugby union	0.29	£39,937	£8,547	0.59	£98,416
Rugby league	0.72	£80,246	£17,734	1.44	£240,738
Cricket	0.25	£71,921	£14,528	0.5	£84,111
Sand based AGPs	0.04	£30,907	£958	0.08	£12,847
3G	0.37	£353,574	£13,487	0.73	£122,596

**Scenario Three** – additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from the minimum of 1,310 dwellings to be delivered at Fiddlers Ferry within the Plan Period (West Analysis Area).

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 1,310 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.25 per household is 2,947 people. This population increase equates to 4.35 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, accumulative 0.1 match equivalent sessions for hockey and 6.28 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 7.6 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.3 hours for hockey on AGPs. There are also 0.18 and 0.46 match equivalent sessions per week of training on floodlit grass pitches for rugby union and rugby league, respectively.

Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 1,310 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 1,310 dwellings	
	Match demand (MES) per week <sup>46</sup>	Training demand <sup>47</sup>
Adult football	0.57	7.60 hours
Youth football	1.84	
Mini soccer	1.39	
Rugby union	0.16	0.18 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.39	0.46 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.08	0.25 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.02	0.05 hours
Cricket	6.28	-

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

<sup>44</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>45</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

<sup>46</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>47</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.6: 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 <sup>48</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>49</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.57	£55,536	£11,718	1.15	£191,598
Youth football	1.84	£142,446	£29,914	2.47	£413,419
Mini soccer	1.39	£33,707	£7,079	0	£0
Rugby union	0.16	£21,794	£4,664	0.32	£53,706
Rugby league	0.39	£43,791	£9,678	0.79	£131,372
Cricket	0.14	£39,248	£7,928	0.27	£45,900
Sand based AGPs	0.02	£16,866	£523	0.04	£7,011
3G	0.2	£192,937	£7,359	0.4	£66,898

**Scenario Four** – additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from the minimum of 310 dwellings to be delivered at Thelwall Heys within the Plan Period (South Analysis Area).

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 310 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.25 per household is 697 people. This population increase equates to 1.03 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, accumulative 0.02 match equivalent sessions for hockey and 1.49 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 1.80 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.07 hours for hockey on AGPs. There are also 0.04 and 0.11 match equivalent sessions per week of training on floodlit grass pitches for rugby union and rugby league, respectively.

Table 7.7: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 310 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 310 dwellings	
	Match demand (MES) per week <sup>50</sup>	Training demand <sup>51</sup>
Adult football	0.14	1.80 hours
Youth football	0.43	
Mini soccer	0.33	
Rugby union	0.04	0.04 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.09	0.11 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.02	0.06 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.00	0.01 hours
Cricket	1.49	-

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

<sup>48</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>49</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

<sup>50</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>51</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

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Table 7.8: 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 <sup>52</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>53</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.14	£13,137	£2,772	0.27	£45,324
Youth football	0.43	£33,697	£7,076	0.58	£97,803
Mini soccer	0.33	£7,976	£1,675	0	£0
Rugby union	0.04	£5,156	£1,103	0.08	£12,707
Rugby league	0.09	£10,361	£2,290	0.19	£31,083
Cricket	0.03	£9,284	£1,875	0.06	£10,858
Sand based AGPs	0	£3,989	£124	0.01	£1,658
3G	0.05	£45,646	£1,741	0.09	£15,827

## The most appropriate way to meet the estimated demand

It is important that the above results are looked at alongside the findings of the Assessment Report, and the recommendations and actions of the Strategy. By doing so, the most appropriate way of meeting the estimated needs can be determined and any resulting proposals justified.

Although the PPC focuses on pitch sports it should also be noted that there may be a future requirement to create new non pitch sports provision such as tennis, bowls, golf, cycling and athletics and as such the same process should be followed to fully determine the need for non-pitch sports to be secured in developments.

The approach should include:

- ◀ Using the Assessment Report and related Strategy to understand the nature of the outdoor sports within an appropriate catchment of the new population along with issues, recommendations and actions relevant to that area.
- ◀ Looking at the different ways in which the needs could be met, including for example:
  - ◀ Enhancing existing provision to increase capacity, supported by suitable management and maintenance arrangements to ensure the greater capacity is maintained over the longer term;
  - ◀ Undertaking works, and ensuring long term maintenance and access arrangements, to secure new or greater community use of existing provision;
  - ◀ Providing new outdoor sports as an extension on current sites.
  - ◀ Providing new (natural and/or artificial grass pitches).

If the decision is taken to provide new pitches, then the calculator takes the estimated needs for matches and training activity and converts this into an estimate of the likely pitch provision required to meet the needs of population projections. Indicative costs are also provided to provide this level of pitch provision in addition to costing for associated changing room provision.

For non pitch sports, securing developer contributions to deliver improvements/new provision should be guided by the site by site Action Plan and in consultation with the relevant NGB.

<sup>52</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>53</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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### **Conclusion**

For the scenarios above, the tables show that, through housing growth relating to the aforementioned developments, demand will be generated for football, rugby union, rugby league cricket and hockey. The level of demand generated for football, rugby union, rugby league and cricket is such that new provision is warranted across the Borough in order to accommodate the increase in demand from population growth. However, at the largest proposed development, the South East Warrington Urban Extension, new provision for only football and potentially rugby league would be warranted as a direct result of these developments.

For 3G pitches, the requirement for new provision does not exceed the shortfall that is already required to meet future demand. Instead, as the demand generated from the housing growth at specific developments does not equate to a whole pitch, contributions would be better focused on supporting 3G pitch development aspirations elsewhere in the Analysis Area of said development. The PPOSS 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).

This is particularly the case for football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey as there is a lack of supply to meet current and future demand. With housing growth in the area expected to exacerbate these shortfalls, off-site contributions should be sought to increase capacity for these sports, whether that be through pitch quality improvements or ancillary improvements to ensure underused sites can be fully utilised.

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. This includes:

- ◀ Appleton Thorn Playing Fields
- ◀ Birchwood Academy Trust
- ◀ Cardinal Newman High School
- ◀ Chaigley School
- ◀ Culcheth Community Campus
- ◀ Dallam Recreation Ground
- ◀ Glazebury Cricket Club
- ◀ Grange Sports & Social Club
- ◀ Lymm High School
- ◀ Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket Club
- ◀ Lymm Rugby Club
- ◀ Morley Common
- ◀ Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub
- ◀ Penketh High School
- ◀ Priestley College
- ◀ Rylands Recreation Club
- ◀ St Gregorys High School
- ◀ Stocks Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Thornton Road Recreation Centre
- ◀ University Academy Warrington
- ◀ Woolston Park

However, if high priority sites in the local area of the development cannot be identified for investment, contributions should be pooled in order to fund the creation of new provision, particularly for cricket and hockey, in consultation with Sport England and the relevant NGB to ensure the potential provision would be utilised and sustainable.

For non-pitch sports, supply is generally considered sufficient in Warrington and the focus is the need for quantitative improvements at key sites.

However, the scenarios do identify the potential need for new tennis courts to meet the LTA priority for increasing recreational tennis demand with the Central Analysis Area being a key focus due to a lack of provision and its higher level of deprivation compared to the rest of the Borough. The feasibility of installing tennis courts at sites such as Victoria Park, Orford Park, Bank Park and Poplars Park could be options together with the potential for bringing back into use Padgate Tennis and Bowling Club.

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For golf, although supply is well placed to meet demand, it is identified that there may be a gap in demand in the Borough for informal golf facilities such as a par 3 golf course or another similar shorter format golf facility.

Due to the high demand for cycling identified in Warrington, there is considered scope to ensure that cycling is considered as part of any large housing developments within the Borough. This does not necessarily mean that dedicated cycling provision is required, with large developments giving consideration to active travel opportunities such as ensuring cycle paths are available on key routes and that the street environment of quieter residential roads is suitable for cycling. Off-road greenway paths should also be considered and regularly maintained to ensure all cycling paths and routes are safe for use.

In terms of qualitative improvements, the action plan identifies key sites which would likely provide the most benefit from investment. This includes:

- ◀ Victoria Park Arena – athletics track
- ◀ Stockton Heath Tennis Club
- ◀ Beamont Collegiate Academy (tennis courts)
- ◀ The Irish Club Bowling Green
- ◀ Grappenhall Village Sports Club (tennis courts)

As detailed earlier, the Council should work with the relevant NGB to fully determine need on development by development basis. For example, on request, England Golf will provide detailed assessments as to how courses may be affected as a result of large scale developments.

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

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

#### ***Delivery***

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Warrington. 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 Council 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 PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch 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 PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.

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

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

It is important that there is regular 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 PPOSS 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 PPOSS 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 PPOSS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g., the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

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
<b>Step 9: Apply &amp; deliver the strategy</b>		
◀ 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?		
<b>Step 10: Keep the strategy robust &amp; up to date</b>		
◀ 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?		

### APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

#### National context

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

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

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

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

#### ***Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)***

Sport and physical activity make people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

#### *Tackling inequalities*

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

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Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

### ***National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2021)***

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Active Cheshire Connected***

This Autumn Active Cheshire will be launching its new strategy '**Active Cheshire Connected**'. This sets out a new direction for Active Cheshire, where it will play a system leader role and focus heavily on partnership working to drive systemic change, with sport and physical activity as one solution to tackling inequalities. The vision of the strategy is **more people to be more active, more often, living longer, happier, and healthier lives**. Impact will be measured based on:

- ◀ More Healthy, More Active people
- ◀ Greater Health Equity
- ◀ Increased participation in Physical Activity, Sport and Movement
- ◀ High-Quality Partnerships with key stakeholders
- ◀ A coordinated, functioning physical activity system

Synergy will be seen between Active Cheshire Connect and Sport England's Uniting the Movement. This is intentional, with a shared purpose around tackling inequalities, removing

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barriers to physical activity, and embedding sustainability, to allow our communities to thrive through improved health and wellbeing and equal opportunities.

The strategy demonstrates Active Cheshire's commitment to being driven by data and insight. Data and insight will sit at the heart of everything it does, driving direction, resource deployment and investment based on where there is most need within local communities. It will look to create shared ownership of this across the local sport and physical activity system and embed a learning culture through its **'Listen, Learn, Create, Innovate, Share, Reflect'** cycle.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

### ***Time for Change: The FA Strategy (2020-2024)***

The new FA strategy aims to take the FA and English football forward with bold leadership and ambitious targets to build on the progress of the last four years. It identifies six Game Changer objectives and eight Serve the Game objectives which demonstrate its determination to substantially change the fabric of the game and address key societal issues.

The Game Changer objectives are:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Serve two million + through a transformed digital platform
- ◀ Equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Deliver 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free from discrimination
- ◀ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and Women's Super League

These are underpinned by its eight Serve the Game objectives, which are:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high performance workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

### ***The FA: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Service > two million through a transformed media platform
- ◀ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free of discrimination
- ◀ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and BFAWSL

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment

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- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

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

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

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

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

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### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards***

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

#### Game Objectives:

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

#### Driving Objectives:

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

### ***England Hockey Strategy***

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

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- ◀ **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**
  - There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
- ◀ **IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)**
  - The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

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

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

### ***Rugby Football League Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021***

The RFL's most recent strategy aims to establish rugby league as "a growing sport, available throughout the country, that is recognised as providing positive experience for all participants and spectators, in environments that are welcoming, inclusive, vibrant, safe and comfortable - encouraging people to return again and again, featuring:

- ◀ Financially viable and sustainable professional clubs creating stable employment opportunities, showcasing local, national and international playing talent, and leading the sport's development - and making a difference - in their own communities;
- ◀ Welcoming community clubs, putting players first, offering recreational enjoyment for children and adults alike in a safe and inclusive environment;
- ◀ A central organisation that stands out for excellence, innovation, mutual respect, integrity and inclusion that understands its role in servicing the wider sport;
- ◀ A sports that lives its values in all its decisions and actions.

This vision is underpinned by 13 core principles, including:

- ◀ **An integrated whole sport.** Each constituent part of the sport will have a responsibility to ensure the good health of the entire game;
- ◀ **Return on investment.** Investment will be targeted to ensure the sustainability of member clubs, and growth in the number and quality of players thus seeking an effective return for the game;
- ◀ **Financial parameters.** Financial distributions will be undertaken to ensure the whole of the game will move forward together;
- ◀ **Geographic expansion.** Geographic expansion of the sport should be carried out in a proportionate and sustainable manner.

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

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

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

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

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### ***Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy***

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

#### **Objectives**

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
  - Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
  - The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

#### **Strategies**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## APPENDIX 2: TAILORED APPROACH FOR WARRINGTON STAGE E

What?	Who?	When?
<p>1. Internal steering group meeting</p> <p>Meeting between council officers internal steering group members to discuss and log key changes in provision, covering:</p> <p>New pitch provision Pitch improvements Pitch re-configuration Pitch loss/threat Community access agreements (e.g. Education/private sites) Plans for future provision</p> <p>The outcomes from the meeting and updates to documents should be recorded.</p>	Warrington council	Bi-annually
<p>2. Sport England and NGB update meetings</p> <p>The council to hold series of update meetings with individual sports NGBs to discuss and log:</p> <p>Any changes in club and team details Any changes in sport format Any site specific updates Changes to supply and demand data The application and use of the PPOSS e.g. In delivery of new or improved provision, funding opportunities, programmes and initiatives Any new issues and opportunities.</p> <p>In addition to the above, a specific Artificial Grass Pitch Task and Finish Group is required to be set up in Warrington to review any AGP feasibility work.</p>	Warrington council NGBs Sport England	Annually for each sport, to fit with affiliation process (generally October for winter sports and June for summer sports)

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What?	Who?	When?
<p>3. Prepare annual PPOSS progress paper</p> <p>Based on the outcome of actions above, a short annual PPOSS progress and update paper should be produced, highlighting:</p> <p>The delivery of PPOSS recommendations and any changes in priority; Changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area and other supply and demand information with implications for PPOSS key findings; Details of any developments of a specific sport or particular format; Details of any new or emerging issues and opportunities; Any issues with the application of the PPOSS and lessons learnt; Actions needed to keep the PPOSS 'live' and up to date.</p> <p>Based on the above, the annual progress paper will also consider if a partial or full update of the PPOSS is required.</p> <p>Alternatively, both the assessment report and the strategy can be updated to take into account and referencing all of the above.</p>	PPOSS steering group	Annually
<p>4. Circulation and agreement</p> <p>Circulate the annual progress paper or updated PPOSS document to the steering group for comment and agreement with opportunity to hold a further meeting to discuss findings and issues.</p>	PPOSS steering group	Annually
<p>5. Publish paper</p> <p>Make annual progress paper or updated documents available online; report any significant findings to appropriate committee if considered necessary.</p>	Warrington council	Annually – following completion of all of the above