



**CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL**

**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

**MAY 2013**

**Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration**

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# CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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# CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## GLOSSARY

AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CCC	Carlisle City Council
CFA	Cumberland Football Association
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
IOG	Institute of Groundsman
IRB	International Rugby Board
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LMS	Last Man Stands Initiative
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MUGA	Multi-Use Games Area
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPM	Playing Pitch Methodology
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFU	Rugby Football Union
3G	Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitch

## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy for Carlisle City Council (CCC) and its partners. It builds upon the preceding Assessment Report; providing the Council and its partners a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitches and ancillary facilities over the next 12 years (up to 2025). The Strategy aims to:

- ◀ Provide a comprehensive overview of current and future demand.
- ◀ Take into account and specifically refer to the needs and future requirements of all partners in the City.
- ◀ Consider options and opportunities including hub facilities and changes to existing facilities in order to ensure their viability.
- ◀ Identify opportunities for future development of sports provision and, if necessary, rationalisation of facilities.
- ◀ Set clear achievable options for development.

CCC and its partners should seek to address shortfalls in provision resulting from current and future demand with developers, facility providers in the public, private and voluntary sectors, NGB's and other interested parties as resources allow. It has been written during a period where developing future sports provision may require grant aid applications. Funding agencies are more likely to consider proposals for sports facilities which are in accordance with identified strategic needs.

### 1.1: Structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within Carlisle and provides:

- ◀ A strategic framework for provision, development, improvement, maintenance, and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch facility stock.
- ◀ A site-specific action plan (where work is deemed necessary to maintain or improve quality and accessibility).

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Carlisle, which should be implemented from 2013 to 2025. It also takes account of other facility providers i.e., private clubs and schools (where appropriate). It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, possible partners and sources of external funding are suggested.

There is a need to build key partnerships with schools, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited. This document provides clarity about the way forward, and allows the Council to focus on key issues that it can directly influence and address.

The site-by-site Action Plan provides recommended actions for each site, based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

## 1.2: Strategic framework for playing pitch facility improvements

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

## 1.3: National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community playing pitches 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 aware of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

The following section summarises the key strategic documents relevant to this Strategy and link, where appropriate, to the aims and objectives set out later.

### National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the reformed 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 establishes 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.

Under the promoting healthy communities theme, it is set out 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 and qualitative deficiencies and 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 sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be 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.

Relating to the NPPF, this Strategy is designed to inform the decision making processes for playing pitch provision in Carlisle.

## **Sport England**

### ***A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England***

It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application, which will result in the loss of a playing field, unless it meets one of five exceptions as defined in A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England. Protection of playing fields was further enhanced in 1998 with Circular 9/98 (replaced in 2009 by Circular 02/09) which stipulates that where a local authority is minded to grant planning permission against Sport England's advice on land owned by a local authority or used for educational purposes, the application should be referred to the National Planning Casework Unit who are responsible for referrals to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for possible 'call in'.

As a statutory consultee for the loss of playing fields, Sport England is a key partner. Regional planning officers should be kept informed of developing projects/schemes and can provide essential guidance and advice throughout the process, not just at planning application stage.

### ***Sport England Strategy (2011/12 – 2014/15)***

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

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

### ***Sport England Youth and Community Strategy 2012 – 2017***

Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics.

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

- ◀ Every (4,000) secondary school in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in its area.
- ◀ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ◀ All secondary schools, who wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ◀ At least 150 further education colleges will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.

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

## **National governing bodies of sport**

Consideration has been given throughout the Assessment Report and the Strategy to national governing body facility strategies. A summary of each is summarised below.

### ***The Football Association (FA)***

#### *National Games Strategy*

The FA's National Game Strategy Refresh (2011-2015) provides a strategic framework that sets out the key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. It follows on from the original four year strategy launched in 2008.

The key priorities to focus on up to 2015 include:

- ◀ Focusing resources on retaining and developing the existing number of affiliating teams
- ◀ Raising standards of player and spectator behaviour across the grassroots game.
- ◀ Increasing football opportunities and the profile of women and minority groups.
- ◀ Providing flexible formats of football to suit changing lifestyles of players.
- ◀ Introducing proposed changes to youth football.
- ◀ Maximising investment into facilities.

The Strategy also reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites. Some of the priorities in facility development and provision are identified as:

- ◀ Maximising investment into facilities including Football Foundation grants and other sources of capital.
- ◀ Promoting the protection of Playing Fields by working with Sport England and other agencies in granting covenants and long-term leases and producing resources to County FA's, leagues and clubs.
- ◀ Developing sustainable facility models, new procurement opportunities and cost effective facility designs and options.
- ◀ Managing existing resources more effectively through specific guidance, reviewing delivery models and developing a self-help facility programme for clubs and leagues.

Challenges facing provision recognises that the budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years due to the current economic climate. This has resulted in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and can act as a disincentive to play



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football. The loss of playing fields within the Country has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand.

### *National Facilities Strategy*

The recently published new National Facilities Strategy 2013-15 sets out the FA's long term vision for development of facilities to support the 'National Game'. It aims to address and reflect the facility needs of football within the National Game (defined as all non-professional football from Steps 1-7 of the National League System down to recreational football played on open public space). Facilities are considered to be crucial to the development of the game in England. One of the main issues raised by 'the Big Grassroots Football Survey' (by 84% respondents) was 'poor facilities'.

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

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

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

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

It also commits to:

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

On-going engagement with the FA is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Council should seek to further engage with the FA Regional Facility Manager (North West) as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

### ***The Rugby Football Union***

The recently launched National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for the development of high-quality and well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, it will assist and support clubs and other organisations to continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game.

It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

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

The priorities for investment which met the needs of the game for the previous strategy period remain valid. These are to:

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

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

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

On-going engagement with the RFU is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Council should further engage with the RFU Regional Funding and Facilities Manager (North) as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

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## **English Cricket Board (ECB)**

Grounds to Play, ECB Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013) continues to focus on four pillars, as identified in the previous ECB strategy, Building Partnerships. The pillars are:

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

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

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

The theme of this plan progresses to Grounds to Play and it is in the areas of facilities and coaches where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

On-going engagement with the ECB is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Council should seek to further engage with the Regional Funding and Facilities Manager (North) within the ECB as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

## **England Hockey (EH)**

*'The right pitches in the right places'<sup>1</sup>*

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGP's are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 1990's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGP's for a number of sports.

EH are seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers who have a sound understanding of the following:

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

On-going engagement with England Hockey is an important part of the sustainability and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Council should seek to further engage with the relevant Relationship Managers within England Hockey as part of the delivery of this Strategy.

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<sup>1</sup><http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143&sectionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

## PART 2: SUMMARY FROM THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

This section summarises the key findings from the Assessment Report. The Strategy has been developed in recognition of the consultation findings whilst drawing upon a core series of objectives which should be applied across the board and should not be attributed to any one particular type of facility.

### 2.1 Football summary

- ◀ The audit identifies 31 sites available for community use, providing a total of 94 pitches. Sites with no community usage tend to be education sites. Distribution reflects population density although there are fewer sites in the Rural West Area.
- ◀ Site assessments suggest that generally the quality of pitches across Carlisle is 'good'. Consultation generally supports this. However, the issue of drainage is often highlighted as a problem. It is the main reason cited for poor and deteriorating sites.
- ◀ The majority of clubs responding to the survey report that the number of senior teams has remained static over the previous three years. Only a small percentage report senior teams has increased or decreased.
- ◀ Just over a third of clubs report that if more pitches were available at their home ground they would have more teams. This equates to 1.5 senior, 6.5 junior and 1.5 mini football pitches.
- ◀ Findings suggest that changing accommodation at some sites is in need of refurbishment and improvement.
- ◀ Spare capacity or oversupply expressed in Carlisle is generally for senior football pitches and is either not at peak times or is located at school sites.
- ◀ Sport England analysis (population based) identifies a surplus of one AGP in Carlisle. However, the calculation does not take into account that the AGP at Austin Friars St Monica's has no community use. Taking this out of the calculation, AGPs are operating at capacity in Carlisle.
- ◀ In addition, demand from clubs (and The FA) suggests a need for more 3G provision. For instance, 62% of football clubs report demand to use 3G pitches to support training requirements. In addition, clubs report being unable to book Sheepmount Stadium AGP due to it already being at capacity.

#### Key points to address

- ◀ Over supply of senior pitches and shortfall of dedicated mini soccer pitches.
- ◀ Impact of The FA Youth Development Review - changing format of the game which will include the need for 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9 pitches.
- ◀ Priorities and options regarding how best to address the issue of drainage and flooding at certain sites.
- ◀ Poor quality of changing facilities particularly at some Council sites.
- ◀ Demand for additional 3G AGP provision in the City. Specifically in order to meet demand expressed for football training as well as potential future demand league fixtures.

## 2.2 Cricket summary

- ◀ There are 14 cricket pitches, of which, most are available for community use in Carlisle, accommodating 38 teams (including seniors, juniors and midweek).
- ◀ Site assessments generally score the quality of pitches as good. Two sites are assessed as poor quality; Richard Rose Morton Academy (waterlogged) and Longtown Primary (junior size pitch). Neither site has community use.
- ◀ Demand for additional or better quality practice facilities for training across Carlisle is expressed by clubs. This also includes ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Most sites in Carlisle have spare capacity with the exception of Lanercost CC.

### Key points to address

- ◀ Demand and evidence for appropriate training facilities for clubs in the City.
- ◀ Potential development of two non-turf wickets at Richard Rose Morton Academy in order to accommodate LMS cricket.
- ◀ Sites such as Lanercost CC being played to over capacity.
- ◀ A number of clubs with aspirations for ancillary facility developments.

## 2.3 Rugby summary

- ◀ There are eight rugby union grass pitches available for community use in Carlisle. Rugby union pitches are predominately located in Urban Analysis Area.
- ◀ The pitch at Creighton RFC is also used by a rugby league club (East Cumbria Crusaders) during the season.
- ◀ In total, there are seven senior and 10 junior rugby union teams playing across Carlisle. In addition, the majority of training for senior teams as well as a large number of junior teams occurs on competitive grass rugby pitches in Carlisle (due to a lack of designated training facilities) which further adds pressure on pitches.
- ◀ Quality of provision is in general deemed to currently be of a sufficient level. However, drainage is identified as being an issue at Creighton RFC. Pitch provision at Carlisle RFC is also considered to be suffering from drainage problems.
- ◀ Carlisle RFC is currently in the process of replacing all floodlights on site to allow greater access for training. It also has aspirations to renew drainage and/or look at options regarding a 3G artificial facility. Both the Club and RFU recognise the need for the issue to be addressed.
- ◀ Due to the large number of teams training on match pitches in Carlisle, both club sites in the City are either at capacity or overplayed.

### Key points to address

- ◀ Lack of spare carrying capacity at sites i.e. Creighton RFC is at capacity and Carlisle RFC is overplayed.
- ◀ Deteriorating quality of pitches at both club sites in the City; particularly with regard to flooding and drainage issues.
- ◀ Options to address club requirements for training facilities, especially for Carlisle RFC.

## 2.4 Hockey summary

- ◀ Four AGPs in Carlisle are suitable for competitive hockey (sand based); all are rated as good quality with floodlights.
- ◀ Sport England analysis (population based) identifies a surplus of one AGP in Carlisle. However, the calculation does not take into account that the AGP at Austin Friars St Monica's has no community use. Taking this out of the calculation, AGPs are operating at capacity in Carlisle.
- ◀ Two out of the four sand based AGPs are located at school sites and, due to life spans, will require refurbishment during the time of this Strategy. The exception is the AGP at the Sheepmount Stadium (installed in last five years).
- ◀ Carlisle Hockey Club is the only hockey club in the City. It uses the Sheepmount Stadium as its home ground facility for both matches and training.
- ◀ Junior membership has increased over the last few years and senior membership has remained static.

### Key points to address

- ◀ Continued sustainability of Carlisle Hockey Club as the only hockey club in the City.
- ◀ Likely requirement for refurbishment of the existing AGPs at Richard Rose Academy and William Howard Centre.
- ◀ The Sheepmount Stadium is the key facility currently for hockey use in Carlisle.

## 2.5 Tennis summary

- ◀ There are 37 tennis courts located across nine sites available for community use. Bitts Park is the main Council operated site (facility has no changing accommodation).
- ◀ Quality of provision in tennis courts is in general to a good standard. Only the tennis courts at Hartley Trust Playing Field are noted as poor due to access and maintenance issues.
- ◀ Participation in tennis within Carlisle has remained static over the last few years although clubs report junior participation has increased.
- ◀ Demand for tennis courts is being met in the City. However, further floodlighting and improving court quality would help to increase capacity.

### Key points to address

- ◀ Importance of Bitts Park site as the main Council site providing tennis opportunities. LTA highlights site could benefit in terms of quality and capacity from greater ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Continued support to clubs expressing facility and/or improvement plans.



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## 2.6 Bowls Summary

- ◀ A total of 13 bowling greens are located in Carlisle.
- ◀ There has been a reduction in the number of greens and clubs in Carlisle but generally clubs state participation has remained static. Demand for new provision is felt to be unlikely.
- ◀ Majority of greens are assessed as good. The exception is Gilford Park Bowling Green which is rated as average for quality.
- ◀ Pay and play is available at the two local authority managed sites (Bitts Park and St James Park) but demand is considered to be low.

### Key points to address

- ◀ Continuation to provide appropriate bowling green provision; especially at council managed site such as Bitts Park and St James Park.

## 2.7 Athletics summary

- ◀ There are two athletic clubs in Carlisle; Border Harriers Athletic Club and Carlisle Aspartia Athletic Club. Both are based at the Sheepmount Stadium. There is also Carlisle Tri-Club which provides some opportunities for athletic disciplines.
- ◀ Membership is generally static; although Border Harriers reports a slight increase.
- ◀ England Athletic is looking to increase community interest in the sport by creating a 'doorstep club' based at community centres across the City.
- ◀ Facilities at the Sheepmount are considered to be good. However, some areas are in need of improvement.
- ◀ Plans for a football pitch to be potentially positioned within the running track on the site are highlighted.

### Key points to address

- ◀ Options surrounding the football club demand and potential to accommodate a football pitch within the running track at the Sheepmount.
- ◀ Long term need to consider areas of improvement at Sheepmount particularly with a view to any increase in membership/participation levels.

## 2.8 Golf summary

- ◀ There are six golf courses and a specific driving range in Carlisle providing an array of 18-hole and 9-hole courses. Two of these, Stoney Holmes Golf Course and Swifts Driving Range Golf Club, are currently managed and maintained by Carlisle Leisure.
- ◀ Membership levels are static. However, Eden Golf Club reports a slight decrease.
- ◀ Sites and ancillary facilities across Carlisle are of a good quality.
- ◀ There appears to be a sufficient amount of golf courses in Carlisle given current membership levels and site quality. The closure of Dalston Golf Course is not thought likely to significantly impact on supply/demand.

### Key points to address

- ◀ Continuation to provide appropriate access to golf provision across the City.



## 2.9 Other Facilities summary

- ◀ A total of 21 MUGAs and 7 skate parks, BMX and basketball courts are in the City.
- ◀ The majority of provision is available for community use. However, 11 MUGAs are identified as not being available for community use; all are on school sites.
- ◀ Quality of provision is generally good with only five MUGAs noted as being poor.
- ◀ Only Fir Ends School identifies an aspiration for a MUGA in the future if funding can be secured.

### Key points to address

- ◀ Continue to provide provision of good quality Other Facilities throughout Carlisle as and when opportunities allow.

## 2.10 Schools summary

- ◀ There are 62 playing pitches (including all types) in Carlisle located at school sites, of which 29 are identified as having community use. It should be noted there will be education sites which are available for community use but do not have any users due to issues surrounding quality and access etc.
- ◀ Three secondary and 28 primary schools cite being available for community use.
- ◀ In most instances, where pitches are available and in use, access to school changing accommodation is available for community use.
- ◀ The quality and quantity of outdoor sports facilities at school sites varies across Carlisle. However, a common theme is poor quality drainage of school pitches which often dictates the level of curricular, extracurricular and community use.

### Key points to address

- ◀ Identify any potential opportunities for education sites to meet identified deficiencies of pitch provision including expressed latent demand.
- ◀ Explore proposed and any upcoming education projects such as the Harraby development; establishing how such opportunities can help to meet areas of shortfall in local provision.
- ◀ Establish priorities and options regarding how best to address the issue of drainage and flooding at certain sites.

## PART 3: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

### 3.1: Strategy role

This strategy will help in identification, and prioritisation, of outdoor sports facilities that are of local and City-wide significance and guide CCC and its partners to work collaboratively (i.e., reduce duplication and competition), identify and use limited resources to optimum effect.

### 3.2: Objectives

The proposed vision is based upon a clear, achievable framework of strategic objectives (not in any priority and summarised in the text boxes below) which should be adopted as policy. These are supported by a range of management objectives. The management objectives need to be implemented to enable the policy objectives to be delivered. It is recommended that the Council adopts the following strategic objectives (as policy) to enable it to achieve the vision.

#### **OBJECTIVE 1**

To address quantitative deficiencies to meet existing unmet demand and plan for new provision (as and where required)

#### **OBJECTIVE 2**

To address issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision

#### **OBJECTIVE 3**

To maximise access to all outdoor facilities and in particular educational facilities

#### **OBJECTIVE 4**

To support the development of local leagues and clubs to meet their needs within Carlisle

## PART 4: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The management objectives need to be implemented to enable the policy objectives to be delivered. It is recommended that the Council adopts the following management objectives across a range of departments to enable it to achieve the vision of the Strategy (not in any priority order):

### 4.1: Strategic objectives

#### OBJECTIVE 1

To address quantitative deficiencies to meet existing unmet demand and plan for new provision (as and where required)

- a. Regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.
- b. Rectify inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report through improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities in line with the Action Plan.
- c. Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both latent and potential future demand.
- d. Prioritise new capital development projects from the action plan according to a range of core criteria (such as strategic need, sports development objectives, sustainability of provision and work with target groups)
- e. Work with facility providers to establish an approach to co-ordinate investment to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to avoid/reduce duplication of provision.

**Management objective (a) - Regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.**

It is important that the Council maintains the data contained with the accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental working, including for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results are used to inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

### **Management objective (b) - Rectify inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report through improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities in line with the Action Plan.**

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report through improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities. It is important that the current levels of pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure the carrying capacity of provision now and in the future.

In general, the future deficiencies in provision identified in Carlisle can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites (where possible).
- ◀ The re-designation of pitches for which there is an oversupply.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality and ancillary facilities in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.
- ◀ Provision of new facilities where there is an identified demand (and the above options are not practical).

However, there is a need to protect some senior pitches as this provides the flexibility to provide senior, junior or mini pitches (through different line markings/coning areas of the pitch). Furthermore the re-designation of all surplus adult pitches may lead to a deficiency of adult pitches in the medium to longer term as younger players move up the ages. It is likely that for some sports, particularly football, that the provision of new pitches and facilities will be required in the future to support the predicted future demand.

Although the Council is a lead partner in pitch provision, it should support the needs of all sports clubs and bodies to work together to deliver the recommendations of this strategy.

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

Latent demand is mostly expressed for junior football (6.5 pitches). However, latent demand is also noted for senior (1.5 pitches) and mini (1.5 pitches) football. Some minor latent demand is also expressed for rugby pitches. The merit of additional associated ancillary facilities also needs to be considered in areas of expressed demand.

The Sport England Playing Pitch Model (PPM) used in the Assessment Report highlights an anticipated future surplus of senior football pitches in Carlisle. Whilst these predictions should not be used in isolation, it is in the main attributed to spare capacity across a number of sites, some of which is significant. This type of surplus can be important to overall levels of participation in the context of using it to accommodate predicted growth in football participation.

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Surplus pitches allow others to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate a senior pitch where there is no demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

*Table 4.1: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends*

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	The needs of the game will change significantly from the 2013/14 season with the implementation of the FA Youth Development Review. As a result, pitch demands will change. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).	Consider allocating leases to Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams. Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities. Work with clubs in relation to their pitch demands as a result of the FA Youth Development Review.
	Demand for senior football is also likely to be sustained by the high levels of junior participation onward flow of players and supported by the FA's National Strategy.	Continually invest in the improvement of 'key centres' to improve ancillary facilities (see site by site action plan).
Cricket	Clubs have strong and active senior and junior sections which access a range of club facilities.	A number of clubs with large junior sections are likely to require access to additional pitches and to be supported to make improvements to ancillary facilities.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
Rugby union	The previous RFU Strategic Plan focuses on a 2% growth year on year until 2013 for adults. The Rugby World Cup (2015) is predicted to see a further increase in the demand for rugby provision.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches and ancillary facilities. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate.
AGPs	Demand for AGPs for football continues to increase. Provision of 3G pitches (IRB compliant) will help to reduce overplay of football and rugby pitches.	AGP use for football training purposes is likely to continue to grow. Any significant future growth of hockey is not likely to be met unless new facilities are provided.

### **Management objective (c) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both latent and potential future demand.**

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

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

### **Management objective (d) - Establish an approach to securing developer contributions which prioritises projects according to a range of core criteria.**

It is important that this strategy informs policies and emerging supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development. The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include new provision and/or enhancement of existing appropriate outdoor playing fields and ancillary facilities (including AGPs and sports grounds) as well as subsequent maintenance towards the upkeep for the first ten years. A number of management objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ To continue to ensure that where playing field and sports ground are lost, through alternative development or closure, that the type of sports facilities of the same or improved standard are provided to meet the continued needs of residents.
- ◀ Where pitches are lost due to redevelopment of the site, compensatory re-provision or an equivalent contribution for re-investment into new pitches will be sought as appropriate in an alternative accessible location.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement or equivalent must be completed specifying the amount which will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the Planning Committee, and timing of the Contribution(s) to be paid.
- ◀ Some contributions may need to be ring fenced for use according to the particular terms of the Planning Obligation, where there is opportunity to improve the appropriate sporting facility within the local vicinity. However, for some sports such as for example cricket and rugby a "central pot" for developer contributions across the local authority area may be preferable for the particular sport.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into the appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should also be located on site.

**Management objective (e) - Work with facility providers to establish an approach to co-ordinate investment to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision.**

Some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly. It is important that the Council therefore seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by schools, colleges, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs; whilst avoiding duplication of provision. In delivering this objective the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through existing networks.

## **OBJECTIVE 2**

To address issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision

- f. Adopt a City wide quality standard.
- g. Adopted a tiered approach to the management and improvement of facilities which allows for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach including ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation and car parking.
- h. Invest in key multi-pitch/sport sites.
- i. Projects should seek to improve pitch/surface quality as a priority.
- j. Prepare funding packages as appropriate to secure improvements to key strategic sites.

## **Management objective (f) – Adopt a City wide quality standard**

To support achievement of this objective, the Council should adopt and work towards the following or a similar quality standard for provision:

*'All outdoor sports pitches should be of a suitable standard to meet the needs of its users'*

Priority in the short term (given limited resources) should be directed to 'poor' quality sites. This standard, based on an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, should be used to identify deficiencies and hence investment should be prioritised to those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database, provided in electronic format). The policy approach to these outdoor recreation facilities achieving these standards should be to continually look to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

'Good' quality refers to facilities that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc, have access for disabled people and are supported by good quality ancillary facilities including changing accommodation, toilets and/or car parking.



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‘Adequate’ quality refers to facilities that have, for example adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear, reasonable changing accommodation and the goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. Please refer to the Sport England quality assessments.

## **Management objective (g) – Adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of facilities which allows for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach including ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation and car parking**

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

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

*Table 4.2: Proposed tiered site criteria*

	<b>Strategic Sites</b>	<b>Key Centres</b>	<b>Club/Education Sites</b>	<b>Strategic Reserve Sites</b>
<b>Role</b>	Strategically placed in the City.	Strategically placed in the local authority context.	Strategically placed in the local context.	Strategically placed in the local context.
<b>Number of pitches</b>	Accommodates five or more pitches.	Accommodates three or more pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.	Likely to be single-pitch site with limited demand.
<b>Sports</b>	Single or multi sport provision.	Single or multi sport provision.	Single or multi sport provision.	Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.



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	Strategic Sites	Key Centres	Club/Education Sites	Strategic Reserve Sites
<b>Management</b>	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned	Management control remains within the local authority or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Club either has long term lease/hires the pitch for the entire season or owns site Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains with the Council or existing management body.
<b>Maintenance</b>	Special maintenance in conjunction with NGBs.	Special maintenance in conjunction with NGBs.	Maintenance can be either by the club/school or remain with the local authority.	Maintenance should remain with the local authority or existing management body.
<b>Pitch quality</b>	Pitches to be of a good quality in general	Pitches to be of a good quality in general	Pitches to be of a adequate quality in general	Pitches to be of a adequate quality in general
<b>Ancillary facilities quality</b>	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	Appropriate access changing to accommodate as required.

**Strategic Sites** such as the Sheepmount Stadium already seeks to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for both senior and junior (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for junior football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for junior football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both junior and mini-football matches could be played on these sites and would be an appropriate site to accommodate 9v9 pitches. Initial investment could be required in the short term and has (if required) been identified in the Action Plan.

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

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**Key Centres** such as Melbourne Park and Hammonds Pond already seek to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for both senior and junior (often especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for junior football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for junior football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both junior and mini-football matches could be played on these sites and would be an appropriate site to accommodate 9v9 pitches. Initial investment could be required in the short term and has been identified in the Action Plan.

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

**Club Sites** such as Creighton Rugby Club and Rickerby Park refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis and are primarily more than one pitch sites. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the pitches or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the facilities.

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

**Education Sites** such as Caldew Secondary School and St Michael's Primary School refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a regular basis and are primarily more than one pitch sites. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low. Consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club arranging with the school a lease agreement on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites may require some level of investment, either to the pitches or ancillary facilities. It is anticipated that one of the conditions of schools offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to seek external funding to improve the facilities.

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Pitch quality improvements in most cases relate to installation and/or improving drainage works on sites. Often a site without community use by a team/club is due to a lack of quality in the pitches found on site. Ensuring a sufficient level of quality in pitches and ancillary facilities in order to accommodate teams/clubs needs is vital.

**Strategic Reserve Sites** such as Spider Park and Chances Park Playing Fields could be used for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They could be single-pitch sites with limited usage, or have no recognised current usage. Often this will be due to quality issues limiting the amount of usage of pitches on site.

### **Management objective (h) – Invest in multi-pitch sites**

Consultation highlighted a number of important key sites in Carlisle. These pitch sites are considered to be the most popular. They need to be high quality in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week – ideally to service a range of sports.

The creation of key multi-pitch sites is based on importance in a City-wide context (i.e. or where they accommodate the majority of play). We therefore recommend that sites such as the following be developed as such:

- ◀ Sheepmount Stadium
- ◀ Melbourne Park
- ◀ Down-a-Gate Recreation Centre
- ◀ Hammonds Pond
- ◀ Briars Bank
- ◀ Creighton Rugby Club

To ensure this, sites of this kind are categorised in the tiered approach as key centres.

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

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

Due to local authority budget constraints, it is clear that, across the life of this strategy, not all of those sites currently without changing facilities can be upgraded to have suitable changing facilities. Furthermore in some locations the provision of changing accommodation is not economic or efficient. It is therefore important to prioritise those sites which are being developed as multi-pitch (hub) sites.

### **Management objective (i) – Projects should seek to improve pitch/surface quality as a priority**

It is vital that local clubs and organisations have access to the best facilities possible, both to accommodate current levels of participation and to stimulate new activity. These facilities must meet the minimum specification requirements set out by governing bodies of sport, leagues/competitions as well as (as far as possible) meet the aspirations of sports clubs in Carlisle.

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In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitch stock, it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity (Sport England suggests that a good pitch can accommodate two matches per week). This is determined by assessing pitch quality and allocating a weekly match limit to each.

Sites played at or beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this, for example, overplay at six sites is attributed to 'adequate' or 'poor' pitch quality:

- ◀ Hartley Trust Playing Field
- ◀ Wetheral Playing Fields
- ◀ Park Side/ Hartley Avenue
- ◀ Richardson Street
- ◀ Spider Park
- ◀ Glebe Land

Furthermore, of particular note is the overplay recorded at the Sheepmount Stadium. The site is overplayed due to the large number of fixtures being played despite all pitches being of a good condition. Options to mediate this level of overplay, such as directing play to sites which either have spare capacity or no community use and/or establishing new pitches, should be explored.

Improving pitch quality should not be considered in isolation from maintenance regimes. Projects should seek to improve pitch/surface quality as a priority on sites based on usage, users and site facilities.

Whilst it works both ways in so much as poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being played at overcapacity. Potential improvements may make poor quality sites more attractive and therefore more popular. Sites in Carlisle identified as being of a poor or adequate quality but with spare capacity (and the potential to accommodate further play if pitch quality improves) include:

- ◀ Cumwhinton Primary School
- ◀ Chances Park
- ◀ Keenan Park
- ◀ Richard Rose Morton Academy

### **Management objective (j) – Prepare funding packages as appropriate to secure improvements to key strategic sites**

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

There may be opportunities within the City, to secure planning contributions (both proposed and outstanding Section 106 Agreements) to ensure that future provision is sustainable.

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

**OBJECTIVE 3**

To maximise access to all outdoor facilities and in particular educational facilities

- k. Establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools to maximise community use of educational facilities. Particularly given that gaining access to pitches at schools not currently allowing community use is often difficult.
- l. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through lease arrangements.
- m. Centralised booking services for playing pitches and sports grounds to ensure easy access on pitch availability for local teams, and to aid general promotion of sport and one-stop marketing of provision.

**Management objective (k) – Establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools to maximise community use of educational facilities. Particularly given that gaining access to pitches at schools not currently allowing community use is often difficult.**

Colleges, secondary schools and primary schools where the facilities exist, have an important role in a playing pitch strategy. It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to outdoor sports facilities to the community is limited. The Assessment Report highlighted issues relating to the use of school facilities:

- ◀ Community use is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs.
- ◀ A number of schools are unwilling to allow community use due to the perceived detrimental impact on the quality of pitches and/or issues about access.
- ◀ There are no identified standard community use agreements between clubs and schools for outdoor pitches.
- ◀ There are management issues inherent in developing, implementing and managing community use agreements. Advice and guidance can be obtained from Sport England’s Planning Bulletin 16 – School Sites and Community Provision (2004). ([www.sportengland.org/planningkitbag](http://www.sportengland.org/planningkitbag)).

There are a number of schools identified as not having community use (in the form of competitive match play) in Carlisle. The table below identifies those sites that do not have community use but state provision is available, and sites which do not have community and are not available.

*Table 4.3: Availability of school provision currently not in use*

<b>Community use available/no usage identified</b>	<b>Community use not available</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Austin Friars St Monica School (field only)</li> <li>◀ Cummersdale School</li> <li>◀ Fir Ends Junior School</li> <li>◀ Great Orton School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Houghton C of E School</li> <li>◀ Longtown Primary School</li> <li>◀ Newman School</li> <li>◀ St Bede’s Roman Catholic Primary School</li> </ul>

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Community use available/no usage identified	Community use not available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Hayton C of E Primary School</li> <li>◀ Newlaithes Junior School</li> <li>◀ Newtown School</li> <li>◀ Raughton Head C of E School</li> <li>◀ St Margaret Mary's Catholic Primary School</li> <li>◀ Warwick Bridge Primary School</li> </ul>	

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

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

### **Management objective (I) - Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality development minded clubs through lease arrangements**

As well as improving the quality of well-used, local authority sites, there are a number of sites which have poor quality (or no) ancillary facilities. These are used by a single club on a season-by-season basis. Such sites are therefore considered the 'home ground' of the club, despite not always having a long-term lease. It is recommended that security of tenure should be granted to the clubs playing on these sites (minimum 10 years) so the clubs are in a position to apply for external funding to generate sufficient funds to improve the ancillary facilities.

There is potential for a number of sites in Carlisle to be leased to sports clubs and/or organisations. Each club will be required to meet service and/or strategic objectives set out by the Council. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered, which take into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations in order that they may be able to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, the Council needs to be willing to consider and work with clubs to promote self management of sites.

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Table 4.4: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

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

The Council can further recognise the value of Clubmark/Charter Standard by adopting a policy of prioritising the clubs that are to have access to these better quality facilities. This may be achieved by inviting clubs to apply for season long leases on a particular site as an initial trial.

### **Club outcomes for lease agreements**

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

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

### **Management objective (m) – A centralised booking service to provide a user friendly booking system helping the clubs/public to access and use playing pitches**

A centralised management system should be implemented which assumes overall management of pitch bookings through a one stop booking service for users. This should ideally include secondary school sites and should be centrally managed. Adequate promotion and marketing attached to this will ensure that users are aware of the availability, location and cost of provision.



## OBJECTIVE 4

To support the development of local leagues and clubs to meet their needs within Carlisle

- n. Support high levels of participation at clubs which contribute to the achievement of sports development objectives.
- o. Work with local clubs which have achieved quality accreditation to, where relevant, identify and secure facility improvements, appropriate sites for new facility development and funding opportunities.
- p. Support local clubs to demonstrate sustainability.
- q. Adopt a Community Asset Transfer Policy.

### **Management objective (n) – Support high levels participation at clubs which contribute to the achievement of sports development objectives**

It is important that sports development objectives, to some extent, dictate and are embedded within the outcomes of the Strategy. To this end, the following objectives are suggested for use to monitor and evaluate the future sustainability, and relative success, of facility projects which are identified and supported:

- ◀ Increasing participation
- ◀ Raising standards
- ◀ Workforce development
- ◀ Improving facilities

### **Management objective (o) - Work with local clubs which have achieved quality accreditation to, where relevant, identify and secure facility improvements, appropriate sites for new facility development and funding opportunities**

The Council should adopt a policy/charter which supports quality accredited clubs (<http://www.clubmark.org.uk/files/images/clubmark-charter-large.gif>). The Clubmark/FA Charter Standard and the local Club Registration Scheme help clubs to achieve their own aims and ambitions and to support the complementary objectives and targets of partners in local authorities, schools/school sport partnerships and other community agencies.

Support to accredited clubs may include offering discounted facility hire and priority bookings slots as well as assembling bespoke benefits packages incorporating reduced cost access to courses. The adoption of a charter as policy also benefits partners:

- ◀ **Grow:** Research suggests that Clubmark clubs are better equipped to drive and manage increased levels of participation; particularly, but not solely, for young people.
- ◀ **Meeting targets:** Having Clubmark clubs to work with will assist local authorities to achieve targets for youth participation and school-club links.



- ◀ **Parental confidence:** Being seen to actively address issues such as equity and child protection gives parents confidence when considering or choosing a club for their children - thus helping to boost introductory participation.
- ◀ **Sustaining participation levels:** Clubmark stimulates innovation and improvements to how clubs cater for junior (and all) members. The culture it promotes boosts the morale of players and ensures that volunteers are recognised for their contribution.
- ◀ **Continuous improvement:** Accreditation encourages clubs to adopt better, more organised systems and structures, helping them to run more effectively and efficiently.
- ◀ **Coaches and coaching:** Research suggests Clubmark clubs both deploy more, and work harder to develop the skills of, coaches. This leads to better quality provision and improved player performance.
- ◀ **School-club links:** Increasingly, schools are seeking guarantees of quality and the presence of child-friendly systems and procedures. Clubmark clubs are the first invited to work with local school sport partnerships and individual schools. Teachers and schools staff are actively encouraged to signpost pupils to them.

It is recognised that the City Council already supports such clubs but does not have an adopted policy in place.

### **Management objective (p) – Support local clubs to demonstrate sustainability**

Local sports clubs should be supported to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example, the Council should continue to support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an income through their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>2</sup>. Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally whether volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

### **Management objective (q) – Adopt a Community Asset Transfer Policy**

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

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

## 4.2: Sport specific objectives

Sports development objectives should also guide delivery of sports specific objectives and should be read within the context of the summary findings identified by the Assessment Report.

### **FOOTBALL OBJECTIVE**

Meet identified deficiencies in junior and mini football provision and ensure there is a range of football facilities across the City to service all levels of the game

- ◀ In partnership with Cumberland FA, seek to establish, in a phased approach, a strategic city-wide spread of 3G venues to facilitate training requirements and where junior league matches can take place. This approach will improve quality and sustainability, and, as a result, is likely to reduce demand for junior grass pitches in the future.
- ◀ At least one 3G pitch is required to meet current demand for training. On this basis, the Harraby School site is recommended as the priority site. However, if future demand dictates, development of a second pitch at Richard Rose Morton School should be considered.
- ◀ Furthermore, future consideration to the resurfacing of existing sand based AGPs to 3G surfaces should also be given (e.g. Richard Rose Central and the William Howard Centre).
- ◀ Work with clubs to ensure that grass pitch sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ The anticipated surplus of senior pitches should be considered in contributing, in part, towards addressing the current and future deficit of junior and mini pitches (ensuring the new FA pitch sizes and dimensions are taken into consideration). However, also ensure that some senior pitches are retained for strategic reserve and to accommodate latent demand.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded (i.e. Charter Standard) clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development (as detailed in the management objectives). For example, Stanwix FC at Briars Bank.
- ◀ Continue to support clubs in the management and improvement of their facilities.
- ◀ As far as possible, support clubs with facility development aspirations through the planning and application stages.
- ◀ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing for women's and girls' football.
- ◀ Work to maximise access to education sites to address the shortfall of junior/mini pitches (ensuring the new FA pitch sizes and dimensions are taken into consideration) and ensure site security and access to changing facilities is enhanced.

## **CRICKET OBJECTIVE**

Maintain current provision levels and quality but work to increase access to single team club pitches for those clubs expressing demand and appropriate practice facilities.

- ◀ Protect current levels of provision and seek to improve the quality of cricket pitches (non-turf or grass) where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs to develop their ancillary facilities to further meet local needs. For instance Carlisle CC, Scotby CC, Rockcliffe CC and Lanercost CC all highlight plans for facility improvements.
- ◀ Ensure that any facilities developed support opportunities for senior women's and junior girl's competitive cricket.
- ◀ Support clubs to develop and improve practice facilities, particularly for Carlisle CC, Longtown CC, Great Corby CC, Irthing Vale CC and Lanercost CC.
- ◀ Investment should be primarily targeted and directed to clubs which support high levels of participation and also have ECB Clubmark.
- ◀ Support development of LMS cricket in Carlisle with development of two non-turf wickets at Richard Rose Morton Academy.

## **RUGBY UNION OBJECTIVE**

Work towards meeting identified current and future deficiencies and increase quality as required

- ◀ Protect current levels of provision and work to alleviate pressure on competitive grass pitches to help accommodate current and future demand.
- ◀ Ensure clubs have access to, where required, designated grass floodlit training facilities (on club sites).
- ◀ Support any potential opportunities for development of at least one IRB standard AGP for rugby. This will also help to reduce levels of overplay on existing grass pitches and allow pitches to rest when not in use.

## **HOCKEY OBJECTIVE**

Maintain current levels of provision

- ◀ Work with England Hockey (EH) to support its development programmes aimed at increasing participation.
- ◀ Maximise the availability of AGPs in Carlisle to accommodate both hockey training and competitive play.
- ◀ Ensure the long term use of the Sheepmount Stadium as the main hockey training and match facility in the City.

## **TENNIS OBJECTIVE**

Address quality issues with current facilities

- ◀ Work with the LTA to explore options of developing suitable ancillary facilities at the Bitts Park site.
- ◀ Where demand exists, support tennis clubs to improve court quality and/or install floodlighting (in order to increase the capacity) of existing tennis court provision.
- ◀ Continue to support and encourage junior development at key tennis clubs in order to increase participation levels in the sport.

## **BOWLS OBJECTIVE**

To support and encourage junior bowls development in order to grow and sustain future participation levels in the sport

- ◀ Support clubs (where possible) to improve green quality.
- ◀ Ensure good standard of changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing.
- ◀ Ensure bowling greens and pavilions are safe, secure facilities.
- ◀ Encourage clubs to increase membership levels.
- ◀ Support and encourage clubs to provide pay and play opportunities.
- ◀ Look to develop maintenance arrangements with clubs on all Council bowling greens.

## **ATHLETICS OBJECTIVE**

To improve and maintain current provision

- ◀ Quality of the athletic track facilities should be maintained and improved as required.
- ◀ Further support club and school athletic activities through school club links.

## **GOLF OBJECTIVE**

To support clubs to develop facilities and improve course quality and to promote the sport to junior members

- ◀ Support club development plans.
- ◀ Support National Governing Body and club plans to promote the sport to juniors.
- ◀ Encourage and support clubs to deliver the Community Links programme to help to increase junior participation.

## **MUGA OBJECTIVE**

To consolidate the existing stock

- ◀ Continue to maintain existing stock to current standards through a rolling programme.
- ◀ Through sports development provide regular animation of MUGAs to encourage use and to support participation in sport and physical activity.

**EDUCATION OBJECTIVE**

Work with schools to encourage greater community use, particularly for junior sports at appropriate sites

- ◀ Secure existing community use through implementation of formal community use agreements where they are not currently in existence in order to provide sustainable community access.
- ◀ Ensure appropriate access to changing provision on school sites to support community use of their playing fields.
- ◀ Work with schools where there is no community use or limited use to open up sites (pitches and changing facilities) to help address the deficiencies identified particularly for football, rugby and cricket.

## **PART 5: ACTION PLAN**

### **5.1: Introduction**

The Action Plan seeks to address the surpluses and deficiencies identified in the Playing Pitch Model together with key issues emerging from the Assessment Report. This should be used to prioritise investment and spend developer contributions (where secured).

The actions listed below will help to achieve the aims of increasing levels of physical activity, improving health and wellbeing and transforming sport. They are a set of proposals developed by KKP that CCC and its partners will review in the light of existing staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make.

The Strategy and its actions have been developed during a difficult economic climate creating a period of reduced resources. As a result CCC will need to work with key partners to address shortfalls in provision resulting from current and future demand. Partners such as developers and facility providers in the public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as NGB's and other interested parties will be vital in the ability to delivery provision in the future. The interim population projections mean that the future surpluses and deficiencies for each analysis area are up to 2021.

### **5.2: Justification of sites within the action plan**

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

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

The tables showing the summary of surpluses and deficiencies in each analysis area utilise the capacity data from the Assessment Report. Capacity calculations include school sites identified as already having competitive community usage. It does not include schools without any current community use noted.

It only includes sites that have community use in order to reflect genuine spare capacity at sites. As sites with current community use are more likely to be willing to allow greater levels of club use; having the structures already in place to enable such use.

Conversely schools without and/or unwilling to allow community use are likely to be more difficult to open in order to start to allow club usage.

Subsequently all school sites are included in the action plan. However, the level of influence the City Council has in the management and access of some sites is limited. This has been reflected in the recommended actions for such sites.

## 5.3: Management and development

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

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

The following tables set out a series of recommended actions relating to sport and site specific issues within Carlisle.

## 5.4: Area by area specific action plan

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

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

## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### Rural East Area

Summary of surplus and deficiency in Rural East Area						
	Football			Cricket	Senior rugby union	Total pitches
	Senior	Junior	Mini			
<b>Current</b>	4.5	2.5	-2.0	-1.7	-	3.3
<b>2021</b>	4.4	2.4	-2.1	-1.9	-	2.8

Currently there is a slight oversupply of senior pitches that is attributed to spare capacity across four sites. The site with the most noticeable amount of spare capacity is Rickerby Park with capacity for an additional six matches per week (Saturdays and Sundays). However, this potential availability is split between the different pitch types located on the site.. The deficiency of mini football pitches is attributed to the number of mini teams playing (seven) and the shortage of pitches at peak time (Saturday AM). In addition, latent demand is expressed for junior (0.5) and mini (0.5) football pitches.

In terms of cricket, the shortfall in provision is attributed to the level of midweek cricket at sites in the area. However, non turf wickets are likely to be used for midweek match play. Therefore the need for shortfall in provision to be addressed is not required. The priority for the Council should be to support clubs (where possible) in their respective plans and funding applications for dedicated practice facilities.

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Longtown Cricket Club	1	Club	Training takes place on the grass wickets. Club rates changing rooms as unacceptable.	Support club in sourcing funding opportunities for a dedicated practice wicket as well as improved changing facilities.	Club	M
Great Corby Cricket Club	17	Club	Training takes place on non-turf wicket and issue of unofficial use affects quality.	Support club in sourcing funding opportunities for a practice wicket.	Club	S
Hayton C of E Primary School	21	Education	Site contains one junior and one mini pitch. Both rated as good quality. No community use is present on site but school identifies pitches are available.	Work with the School to explore options for establishing community use. Could help to meet latent demand expressed by Longtown FC and/or Cotehill & Cumwhinton Crusaders FC.	Education	S



## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Irthing Vale Cricket Club	25	Club	Average pitch quality due to issue of unofficial use and training.	Support club in plans for a dedicated practice wicket in order to reduce use of the pitch.	Club	M
Lanercost Cricket Club	27	Club	Played over capacity but junior and midweek teams are likely to use non-turf wicket on site. Considered good quality. Training is on non-turf wicket on square. Club is considering potential of extending the range of sports facilities on site (such as tennis courts).	Morton Academy could in the future provide capacity (with potential new non-turf wickets) to be able to transfer some play and help meet identified deficiency in the Area.	Club	S
Lochinvar School Playing Field	29	Education	Senior, junior and mini football pitches are all rated as average quality. Works are planned to convert the former caretaker's bungalow on site into changing accommodation (no funding secured).	Support Longtown FC (as lease holder) in its plans to create changing facilities on site. Encourage club to improve quality of pitches which will increase the carrying capacity on site and help meet latent demand identified.	Club	S/M  M
Rickerby Park	40	Private	Good quality senior, junior and mini football pitches with some spare capacity. Club reports need for additional car parking and plans to redevelop changing.	Work with the Club to explore funding options for additional car parking and plans to redevelop changing.	Club	S/M
St Georges Field	46	Club/ Brampton Parish Council	Two senior football pitches. Both rated as average quality with spare capacity (Saturday AM and Sunday PM). Changing facilities on site are considered poor.	Consider reconfiguration of one senior pitch to meet deficient for mini pitch provision. Support Brampton FC (as main site user) and/or parish council in any future funding bids to improve ancillary facilities.	Club	S  M/L
The Hartley Trust Playing Field	51	Hartley Trust	Site has one cricket pitch, of good quality, and one senior football pitch of poor quality due to lack of markings and surface quality.	Work with the Trust to establish similar management arrangement for football as with cricket provision on site.	Key centre	S  M

## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Walton Village Green	54	Parish Council	One senior football pitch. Poor condition. Uneven, waterlogged surface and no line markings. No community use is identified.	If any future local demand, remark as two mini pitches to help meet identified deficiency in the Area.	Strategic reserve	L
Down-a-Gate Recreation & Community Centre	55	Community Trust	Site contains senior, junior and mini pitch provision, all of good quality. Warwick Wanderers FC has aspirations to relay pitches and improve changing facilities.	Support the Club to identify funding opportunities for site improvements.	Key centre	M
William Howard Centre	56	Education	Two senior football pitches and one rugby pitch over mark a cricket pitch. Average quality with issues of water logging. No community use of the grass pitches. Site also contains a sandbased AGP facility with community use for football.	If any future local demand, work with the School to explore options for further community use (this would include addressing drainage issues). Consider resurfacing as a 3G pitch at the end of current AGP lifespan.	Education	M  L
Wetheral Bowling Green	75	Club	Club is looking to increase the amount of car parking at the site.	Support the Club in exploring options for additional car parking.	Club	M
Wetheral Playing Fields	78	Wetheral Playing Fields Association/ Wetheral Parish Council	Site contains a senior and junior football pitch. A cricket pitch is over marked with football. All pitches are rated average quality and football pitches are overplayed.	Cotehill & Cumwhinton Crusaders FC is working with Wetheral Playing Fields Association to find funding for a sports pavilion on site.	Club	S/M
Cumwhinton Primary School	81	Education	One junior football pitch, which is rated as poor quality.	Could help to meet latent demand expressed by Cotehill & Cumwhinton Crusaders FC.	Education	S
Warwick Bridge Primary School	82	Education	Contains a poor quality junior pitch. No community use is present on site but school identifies pitch is available.	No current requirement for community use identified.	Education	L
Fir Ends Junior School	90	Education	Average quality junior and mini pitches. No community use identified but school states pitches are available for use. School reports aspiration for a MUGA if funding permits.	Work with school to explore option of attracting community use. Particularly with regard to meeting mini pitch shortfall in the Area.	Education	M

## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Rockcliffe Cricket Club	91	Club	Average quality pitch which is prone to flooding. Changing accommodation on site is small and lacks showers.	Support club in identifying funding opportunities in order to improve pitch/ancillary facilities.	Club	S/M
Linton Bowling Club	107	Club	Club is looking to carry out repair work to roof and improve car park surface.	Support club in identifying funding opportunities in order to improve ancillary facilities on site.	Club	M

## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### Rural West Area

Summary of surplus and deficiency in Rural West Area								
	Football			Cricket	Senior rugby union	Senior rugby league	Junior rugby league	Total pitches
	Senior	Junior	Mini					
Current	3.5	-1.0	-3.0	2.1	2.0	-0.5	-1.5	1.6
2021	3.4	-1.1	-3.1	2.1	2.0	-0.5	-1.5	1.3

There is a slight current and future shortfall of junior and mini football pitches in the Rural West Area which is predominately as result of the large number of teams playing and the shortage of pitches at peak time (Saturday AM).

The Council should seek to increase community use at school sites (where there are existing pitches) to accommodate the current and future deficiency of mini pitches as well as latent demand (of two junior pitches) expressed. There are also a number of schools available for community use but with no competitive usage in the area that should be explored.

The small surplus of senior pitches should be retained to accommodate the new FA pitch dimension and sizes which will result in demand for 11v11 pitches, particularly to accommodate youth football (U13-U18) as well as latent demand for senior (one) and junior (two) pitches.

No shortfall is identified for cricket or rugby union provision in the Rural West Area. However, a small shortfall of rugby league pitches is highlighted. The Creighton RFC site is the home ground for East Cumbria Crusaders; the only rugby league club in Carlisle. A key priority should be to address the drainage issues at site in order for carrying capacity to be increased. This will help to meet identified shortfalls.

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Caldew Secondary School	6	Education	Four senior football pitches, a rugby pitch, cricket pitch and 3G AGP on site. All except the cricket pitch are assessed as good quality. However, standing water was an issue at time of site visits. Spare capacity of football pitches is noted, particularly on Saturday PM.	Work with the School to explore option of increasing community use. Use of the rugby pitch to meet rugby league shortfall may be an option to explore. Senior football pitches could be used to help meet junior pitch shortfall.	Education	S/M

## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Creighton Rugby Football Club	13	Club	Senior rugby union pitch on site is rated average for quality. The Club is looking at options to address drainage issue. Site also contains two senior football pitches and a cricket pitch. All assessed as being in good condition. Spare capacity on the football pitches is noted, particularly for Sunday PM.	Support Creighton RFC in partnership with the RFU in its plans to improve the quality of the main rugby pitch; which will increase its carrying capacity. Retain spare football capacity as strategic reserve and to maintain quality.	Key centre	S
Cummersdale School	15	Education	One average quality mini football pitch. No community use is present on site but school identifies pitch is available.	If any future local demand, work with the School to explore options for further community use to help meet shortfall of mini pitches in the Area.	Education	M
Dalston Recreation Ground	16	Parish Council	Site has a good quality senior football pitch. Spare capacity is noted on Saturday and Sunday PM.	Work with the Parish Council to explore option of increasing community use to accommodate junior shortfall.	Club	M
Hammonds Pond	19	Carlisle City Council	Two senior and two mini football pitches of a good quality as well as an average junior football pitch are on site. Unofficial use is highlighted. Changing facilities on site are poor.	Work with clubs and partners to improve the quality of junior pitch on site. Will increase carrying capacity and help to meet latent demand expressed by Upperby FC for junior pitches. Need to ensure changing facilities are fit for purpose.	Key centre	S M
Raughton Head C of E School	36	Education	Site has one junior football pitch of average condition. No community use but school identifies pitch is available.	If any future local demand, work with the School to explore options for further community use to help meet latent demand expressed by Upperby FC for junior pitches.	Education	S
Great Orton School	87	Education	Average quality junior pitch. Drainage recently improved. No community use but school identifies pitch is available.	If any future local demand, work with the School to explore options for further community use to help meet latent demand expressed by Upperby FC for junior pitches.	Education	S/M

## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### Urban Area

Summary of surplus and deficiency in Urban Area							
	Football			Cricket	Senior rugby union	Junior rugby union	Total area converted into hectares
	Senior	Junior	Mini				
<b>Current</b>	6.5	6.0	-1.5	-0.1	2.0	-1.5	10.7
<b>2021</b>	6.0	5.8	-2.0	-0.2	2.0	-1.6	9.2

The surpluses of senior and junior pitches should be retained to accommodate latent demand (of 4 junior, 1 mini and 0.5 senior football pitches) and to accommodate the new FA pitch dimension and sizes. Education sites could offer additional pitches to accommodate current and future demand. Richard Rose Central Academy is highlighted as having a large amount of spare capacity. Remedial work may be required prior to allowing teams to use them and appropriate community use agreements should be developed at the sites.

The slight deficiency in junior rugby pitches is attributed to demand from Carlisle RFC. A priority should be to address this shortfall and explore options with the Club and RFU as how best to resolve.

Potentially two new non turf wickets will be provided at Richard Rose Morton Academy for the Last Man Stands Initiative.

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Bishop Harvey Goodwin Memorial School	3	Education	Three good quality mini football pitches on site. Spare capacity is noted for Saturday PM and Sundays.	If any future local demand, work with the School to explore options for further community use to help meet shortfall of mini provision and latent demand expressed by Edenvale FC for two additional mini teams.	Education	S
Briars Bank	4	Carlisle City Council	Site has two good quality senior football pitches and an average mini pitch. Drainage issues occur and site is played to capacity.	Ensure continued level of current use and quality of provision. Consider the site for a long term lease/asset transfer agreement with Stanwix FC.	Key centre	S/M

## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
California Road	7	Carlisle City Council	Contains one poor quality senior football pitch. Site has not been able to accommodate play due to drainage issues.	No local current demand identified to continue to maintain this pitch for football.	Strategic reserve	M/L
Carlisle Cricket Club	8	Club	Club has aspiration to build another pavilion as current facility is felt to be too small for size of club. Also, reports demand for dedicated off-pitch practice net.	Support club in plans for any future developments/improvements.	Club	M
Carlisle Rugby Football Club	9	Club	Three senior rugby pitches are all overplayed. They rate good for quality but issues of flooding are noted. Training also occurs on the pitches. Club has aspirations for an IRB compatible AGP.	Support the Club to access funding opportunities for site improvements. Long term potential of an AGP should be explored.	Club	S/M M/L
Chances Park	11	Carlisle City Council	Site has an average quality junior pitch and a poor quality mini pitch. Water logging often means maintenance is difficult. Changing facilities on site are poor.	Consider the site for a long term lease/asset transfer agreement with a local club. Latent demand expressed by clubs such as Pirelli FC and Hesket JFC. Consider improvements to changing facilities only if pitches can be improved	Key centre	S M/L
Clarksfield	12	Carlisle City Council	Site has an average quality junior pitch and a poor quality mini pitch. No current community use is identified.	No local current demand identified to continue to maintain pitch for football. Consider options of future disposal if no use is recognised.	Strategic reserve	M L

## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Harraby Community Centre Playing Fields	20	Education	Two senior pitches and one junior football pitch are located on site. Spare capacity on senior pitches is noted for Saturdays. Proposals for a 3G AGP facility are identified as part of area development.	Development of a new 3G facility on site. Ensure community use is established; as demand for football training facilities is high. Further to existing grass pitches; additional junior pitch provision should be sought in order to meet latent demand expressed by Harraby FC for three junior teams.	Strategic Site	S
Heysham Park/ Beckfield	22	Carlisle City Council	Contains one poor quality junior football pitch. Site has not been able to accommodate play due to drainage.	No local current demand identified to continue to maintain this pitch for football.	Strategic reserve	S/M
Inglewood Junior School	24	Education	Site has two junior and one mini football pitch. School is looking to carry out drainage works on the current mini football pitch. Spare capacity of junior pitches is highlighted.	A community use agreement with a club willing to use site may offer opportunities to access funding and improve quality.	Club/ Education	S
Keenan Park	26	Carlisle City Council	The senior football pitch and two mini pitches are rated as average. Drainage issues on site are noted. Changing facilities on site are poor.	Look to improve the quality of the pitches and consider improvements to changing facilities once pitches are improved.	Key centre	S
Melbourne Park	30	Carlisle City Council	All four senior and two mini football pitches on site are rated as good quality. Changing facilities on site are highlighted as being dated.	Look to address substandard quality of changing facilities on site.	Key centre	S/M
Miltech Stadium	31	Private	Gilford Youth FC are investigating cost of providing additional junior and mini pitches on site before applying for funding.	Explore potential with the Club for wider community access to be permitted.	Club	M/L
Newlalthes Junior School	32	Education	School has one junior pitch (of poor quality). No competitive community use is identified; although it is allowed.	No current requirement for community use identified.	Education	L



## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Newtown School	33	Education	School has one mini pitch of good quality available for community use. No competitive community use is identified.	No current requirement for community use identified.	Education	M
Park side/ Hartley Avenue	34	Carlisle City Council	Site has two average quality mini football pitches.	A community use agreement with Kingstown United (as main user of site) may offer opportunities to access funding to improve quality of site.	Club	S/M
Richard Rose Central Academy Sports Complex	37	Education	There are two senior and two junior football pitches as well as two junior rugby pitches and one cricket pitch. Pitches are all shared with Newman and Trinity schools. Site also contains an AGP. Significant amount of spare capacity is highlighted. Drainage on site is a reported issue.	Work with the School to explore options of providing greater community use. Particularly with meeting demand for rugby and football in the City. Spare capacity of junior pitches could help to meet latent demand expressed by clubs such as Pirelli FC and Hesket JFC. Consider replacement to a 3G surface at end of current AGP lifespan.	Key centre	S
						L
Richard Rose Morton Academy	38	Education	School has four senior football pitches, a rugby pitch and a cricket pitch. All are assessed as poor quality due to flooding issues.	Construction of non-turf wickets as part of LMS initiative could help meet demand expressed by cricket club for additional training facilities. Drainage issues on site should be addressed linked to this.	Education	S/M
			Site could provide future opportunity to be developed as a hub site which could include provision of a full size 3G pitch.	Consider provision of a 3G pitch in the future to service demand for training and competitive football needs.		L
Richardson Street	39	Carlisle City Council	Senior and mini football pitches on site are of an average quality. Drainage issues and unofficial use are noted.	Priority should be to improve quality of the mini pitch (given current shortfalls) in order to increase carrying capacity.	Key centre	S/M

## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
Robert Ferguson Primary School	41	Education	Three poor quality mini pitches are located on site. Community is allowed but no use is highlighted.	If any future local demand, work with the School to explore option of increasing community use if quality can be improved. A community use agreement with a club willing to use site may offer opportunities to access funding and improve quality.	Education	S
Sheepmount Stadium	43	Carlisle Leisure	There are a total of eight senior, four junior and two mini pitches. Site also contains an AGP and running track. All are of a good quality. Site is overplayed.	Configuration of a football pitch within the athletics track should be explored. Consultation with athletic users particularly regarding throwing disciplines is suggested. Ensure site is protected as the main Carlisle hockey facility.	Strategic site	S  L
Spider Park	44	Carlisle City Council	Poor quality junior pitch. Considered to have suffered from drainage and surface issues.	A community use agreement with a club willing to use site may offer opportunities to access funding and improve quality.	Club	M
St Margaret Marys Catholic Primary School	47	Education	Site has a junior and mini pitch. Both of poor quality. No community use is identified but pitches are available.	A community use agreement with a club willing to use such sites may offer opportunities to access funding and improve quality.	Education	S/M
Upperby Primary School	53	Education	Site has a junior and mini pitch. Both of a poor quality. No community use is identified but pitches are available.	May help to meet identified shortfalls and latent demand expressed; particularly for mini pitches.		
Willowholme	57	Carlisle City Council	Not identified as being marked or used for football.	No local current demand identified to continue to maintain this pitch for football.	Strategic reserve	S
Yewdale Primary School	58	Education	Site has a junior and mini pitch. Both of a poor quality. No community use is identified but pitches are available.	No current requirement for community use identified.	Education	S/M

## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Management	Issue to be resolved	Recommended actions	Tier	Priority
St James Park	65	Carlisle City Council	MUGA on site is of a below average quality.	Look to improve quality of facility to similar level of existing provision in City.	Key Centre	M
Bitts Park	66	Carlisle City Council	Site could benefit in terms of quality and capacity from greater ancillary facilities.	Consider with partners, options regarding improvement to ancillary facilities on site.	Key centre	M/L
Newman School	68	Education	Two good quality junior pitches. No community use is allowed.	Work with the School to explore options of providing community use. Particularly with meeting demand for football in the City. Spare capacity of junior pitches could help to meet latent demand expressed by clubs such as Pirelli FC and Hesket JFC.	Education	M/L
Carlisle Bowling Club	71	Club	Current club house is dated and requires maintenance.	Support the Club to access funding opportunities for site improvements.	Club	L
Austin Friars St Monica School	79	Education	School has two senior rugby pitches and an AGP. No community use of provision is permitted.	Work with the School to explore options to offer community use, particularly of rugby pitches to help with junior rugby pitch shortfall in the Area.	Education	S
Petteril Bank Primary School	86	Education	One average quality junior football pitch. Capacity to accommodate an additional match per week.	Sustain current usage and retain spare capacity as strategic reserve.	Education	S
The Glebe Land	88	Stanwix Community Association	Site contains one mini football pitch. Rated as poor quality and as a result is overplayed.	Improve pitch quality in order to increase its carrying capacity. Consider some transfer of play to sites such as Willowholme, Spider Park, etc. Support the Stanwix FC (as only user of site) to access funding opportunities for site improvements.	Club	S/M

## **PART 6: CONCLUSIONS**

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for decision-making across Carlisle up to 2025; both in terms of planning (applications) as well as for sports and recreation development. 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 Carlisle 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 playing pitches and ancillary facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. The Strategy is intended to be flexible and regularly updated using the accompanying database tools provided.

## **PART 7: MONITORING AND REVIEW**

It is important that there is regular monitoring (i.e. quarterly) and review against the actions identified in the Strategy.

The Council can monitor on an annual basis changes in the supply and demand for facilities by updating the assessment database with changes to site and team information.

This is important as regular monitoring of changes in supply and demand can avoid the need for a complete review of the Strategy after three years.

A Playing Pitch Strategy should be subject to a full review every three years under Sport England recommendations. However, regular monitoring of key supply and demand data can extend the life of the Playing Pitch Strategy to five years.

# CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## APPENDIX ONE: FUNDING PLAN

### Funding opportunities

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

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

## CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
EU Life Fund <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</a>	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
National Hockey Foundation <a href="http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/">http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</a>	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: Young people and hockey. Young people and sport in Milton Keynes. Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level. Smaller Charities.

### ***Protecting Playing Fields***

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

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

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

The programmes three priorities are:

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

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

### ***Iconic Facilities Fund***

The Iconic Facilities fund is part of the £135m Places People Play initiative which will deliver an Olympic and Paralympic legacy of increased sports participation by bringing the magic of a home Games into the heart of local communities. It is being delivered by Sport England in partnership with the British Olympic Association, the British Paralympic Association, with the backing of The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

It will direct capital investment into a small number of strategic facility projects that will significantly contribute to an increase in mass participation in sport across England. These facilities will be promoted as best practice and will provide a network of regional sports facilities delivering mass participation across a number of sports.

Iconic Facilities will prioritise funding to projects that provide:

- ◀ Strategic facilities in England for at least two National Governing Bodies of Sport
- ◀ Large scale capital developments resulting in facilities of regional significance for two sports or more; but also demonstrating local delivery
- ◀ Multi-sport facilities, but with a focus on sporting activities that will drive high participant numbers
- ◀ A mix of facility provision to encourage regular & sustained use by a large number of people
- ◀ Indoor and/or outdoor facilities
- ◀ An enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build
- ◀ Confidence in their ability to deliver with detailed designs and planning permission secured
- ◀ A strong project team, led ideally by a Local Authority (providing capital funding)
- ◀ A long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Operating models, which may include an emphasis on community ownership (e.g. social enterprises, trusts)

This may present opportunities to invest in its outdoor sports facilities although will require additional research to identify suitable sites.



## **Funder's requirements**

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

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

## **Indicative costs**

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

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance.aspx)

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