



CHESHIRE EAST

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CSP	County Sports Partnership
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
IOG	Institute of Groundmanship
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PF	Playing Field
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under
ESAR	Everybody Sport and Recreation
ONS	Office for National Statistics
IMS	International Match Standard
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Cheshire East, which has been developed in accordance with Sport England methodology. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, the Strategy has been researched by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) under the direction of a steering group led by the Council and including a range of sports organisations.

A Steering Group has led and will continue to lead the PPS to ensure the delivery and implementation of its recommendations and actions. It is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England, Greater Sport, pitch sport National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), namely the Football Association (FA), Cheshire County Football Association (CFA), England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Cheshire County Cricket Board (CCCB), the Rugby Football Union (RFU), England Hockey (EH) and English Lacrosse.

The Strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities, as appropriate, directing open space contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy.
- ◀ Informing the protection and provision of playing pitches.
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing playing pitch areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches).
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches.
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for playing pitches.
- ◀ Providing the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of playing pitches.

Agreed scope

The PPS covers the following playing pitches including accompanying ancillary facilities:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ◀ Cricket squares
- ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ◀ Hockey pitches (Sand/water based AGPs)
- ◀ Lacrosse pitches.

Study area

Cheshire East is a unitary authority with a population of 370,100 and an area of 116,638 hectares.

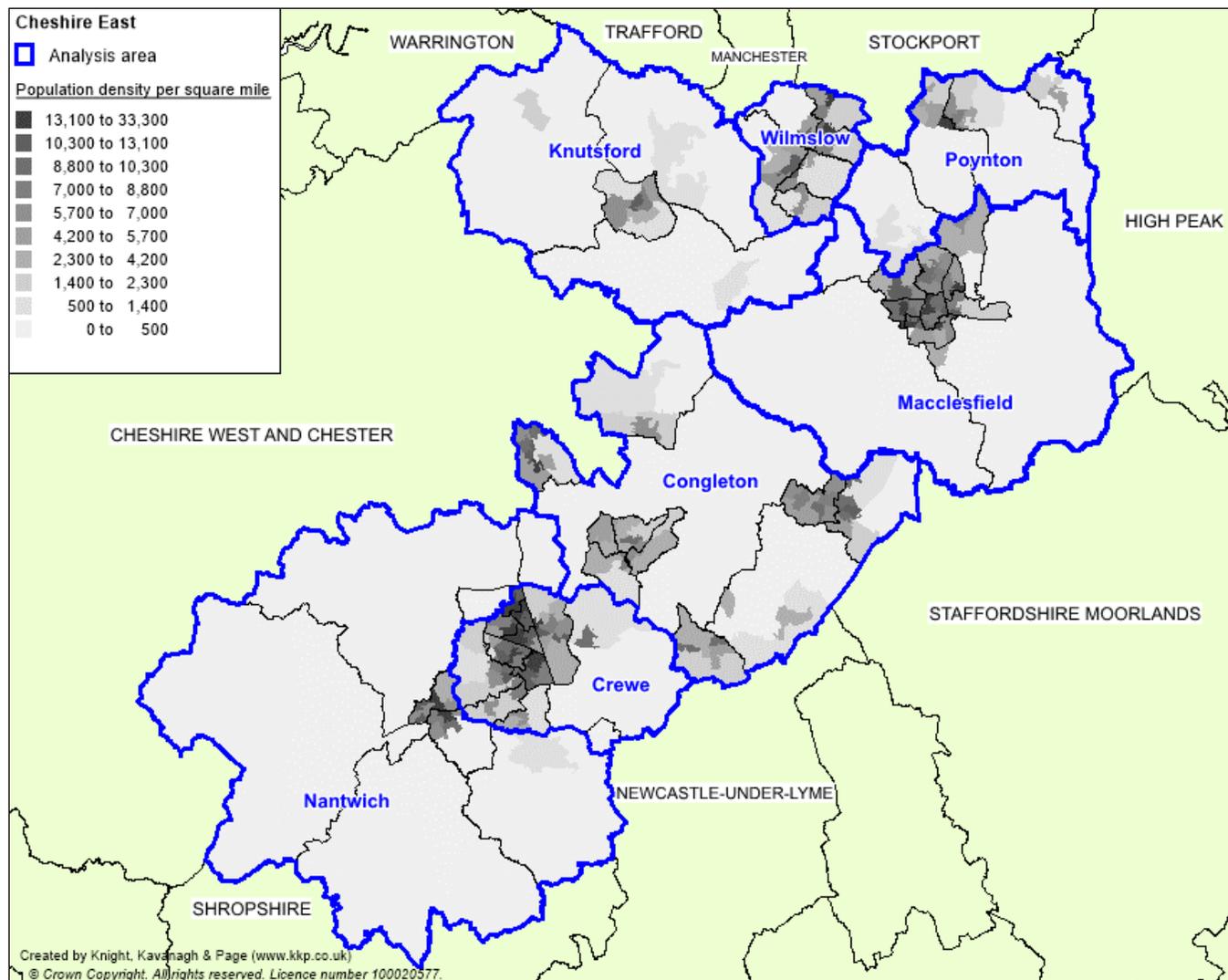
In addition to Cheshire West and Chester on the west, it is bounded by the Manchester conurbation to the north and east, Warrington to the north-west and Staffordshire and Shropshire to the south. It contains the major towns (population above 20,000) of Crewe, Macclesfield, Congleton and the commuter town of Wilmslow, as well as other significant centres of population (over 10,000) in Sandbach, Poynton, Nantwich, Middlewich, Knutsford and Alsager.

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This strategy covers the whole Borough boundary area of Cheshire East; however, the data gathered has been presented in such a way as to be further analysed by smaller analysis areas. For this purpose, seven analysis areas have been agreed upon based on local area partnerships: Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Knutsford, Nantwich, Poynton and Wilmslow.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

1.1: Structure

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

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitch facilities.
- ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A range of sport by sport and local authority wide scenarios to help inform policy recommendations and prioritisation of actions.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendation which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, if applicable, the rationalisation of playing pitches.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends numerous priority projects for Cheshire East that should be implemented over the course of its lifespan. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement, with potential partners and possible sources of external funding identified in light of limited council resources.

The recommendations made in this strategy must be translated into local plan policy so that there is a mechanism to support delivery and secure provision and investment into provision where the opportunity arises.

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships between the Council, NGBs, Sport England, education providers, leisure contractors, maintenance contractors, 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 can be limited (except in terms of Section 106 agreements and developer contributions). This document will provide clarity with regard to the way forward and will allow organisations to focus on the key issues and objectives that they can directly influence and achieve.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the Council and supported by the Steering Group. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off, Sport England and NGBs will consider it to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document and kept up to date, its lifespan can be extended to five years.

The PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that was built up during its development. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. To assist this, all information, databases and other tools used to inform the Strategy will be handed over to the Council and full training will be offered to assist in utilisation. Part 7 of this strategy report contains a suggested process for carrying out the update and monitoring. The Steering Group will need to agree the process prior to adoption of this strategy.

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1.2: Context

The rationale for undertaking this study is to identify current levels of provision within Cheshire East across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand. The primary purpose of the PPS is therefore to provide a strategic framework that ensures the provision of playing pitches meets the local needs of existing and future residents.

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ◀ Protect playing pitches against development pressures on land in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public sector cuts.

This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust, and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 73 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

The Cheshire East Local Plan needs to be based upon a robust evidence base. Paragraphs 73 of the NPPF requires "planning policies to be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of needs. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required." Paragraph 74 of the NPPF require assessments to be used to inform the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields."

Paragraph 76 and 77 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

¹<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/forward-planning/>

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Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively. The Council is currently preparing a Built Facility Strategy. This assesses current and future need for built sports facilities. A Playing Pitch Strategy will complement the objectives and action plan associated with the Built Facility Strategy and other corporate strategies:

Corporate and strategic:

- ◀ It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. The PPS will act as a tool for Manchester Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for pitch sports in the future.
- ◀ It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities a playing pitch strategy can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants. Current funding examples include the Sport England Funding Programmes, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery.

Planning:

- ◀ The Playing Pitch Strategy will provide important evidence to support the Cheshire East Local Plan.
- ◀ It will support strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being in the emerging Cheshire East Local Plan.
- ◀ Evidence for Community Infrastructure Levy and Developer Contributions

Operational:

- ◀ It can help improve management of assets management, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- ◀ The Action Plan will identify sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.
- ◀ An assessment of all pitches (in use and lapsed) will be undertaken to understand how pitches are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

Sports development:

- ◀ It helps identify which sites have community use and whether that use is secure or not.
- ◀ It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed to address any identified deficits in pitch provision.
- ◀ It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use. This includes information about both pitches and sports teams / user groups.
- ◀ It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams / community needs.

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1.3: Headline findings

The following table highlights the quantitative headline findings identified in the preceding Assessment Report.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2030) ²
Football (grass pitches)	Congleton	Shortfall of 1.5 adult and 2 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 2.5 adult, six youth 9v9 and 5.5 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.
	Crewe	Shortfall of 1.5 adult, 1.5 youth 11v11 and 0.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 2 adult, 1.5 youth 11v11, 1 youth 9v9 and 1.5 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.
	Knutsford	Shortfall of 1 adult, 3 youth 11v11 and 2.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 1 adult, 4.5 youth 11v11 and 3 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.
	Macclesfield	Shortfall of 2 adult, 1 youth 11v11 and 2.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 3 adult, 1 youth 11v11, 2.5 youth 9v9 and 1 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.
	Nantwich	Current demand is being met.	Shortfall of 1.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.
	Poynton	Shortfall of 1.5 adult and 1.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 1.5 adult and 1.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.
	Wilmslow	Shortfall of 4.5 adult, 2 youth 9v9 and 2 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 4.5 adult, 1 youth 11v11, 2.5 youth 9v9 and 3 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.
	Cheshire East³	Shortfall of 12 adult, 4 youth 11v11, 11.5 youth 9v9 and 2 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 14.5 adult, 10.5 youth 11v11, 20 youth 9v9 and 11 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.
Football (3G pitches) ⁴	Congleton	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch in Alsager, Congleton and Sandbach.	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch in Alsager, Congleton and Sandbach; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Crewe	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch.	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing

² Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

³ Figures for Cheshire East as a whole do not equate to a culmination of shortfalls in each analysis area as it also accounts for actual spare capacity of pitch types (which reduces or negates shortfalls) and also includes TGR figures (which are for Cheshire East as a whole).

⁴ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training.

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2030) ²
	Knutsford	Current demand is being met.	Current demand is being met; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Macclesfield	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch.	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Nantwich	Current demand is being met.	Current demand is being met; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Poynton	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch.	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Wilmslow	Shortfall of 2 3G pitches.	Shortfall of 2 3G pitches; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Cheshire East⁵	Shortfall of 4 full size 3G pitches.	Shortfall of 5 full size 3g pitches; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
Cricket	Congleton	Shortfall of 43 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 67 match equivalent sessions.
	Crewe	Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions.
	Knutsford	Shortfall of 8 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 20 match equivalent sessions.
	Macclesfield	Shortfall of 9 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of nine match equivalent sessions.
	Nantwich	Shortfall of 18 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 30 match equivalent sessions.
	Poynton	Shortfall of 12 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 24 match equivalent sessions.
	Wilmslow	Shortfall of 20 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 32 match equivalent sessions.
	Cheshire East	Shortfall of 121 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 193 match equivalent sessions.
Rugby union	Congleton	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions.
	Crewe	Current demand is being met.	Current demand is being met.
	Knutsford	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions.
	Macclesfield	Current demand is being met.	Current demand is being met.
	Nantwich	Shortfall of 3.75 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 4.75 match equivalent sessions.

⁵ Please note that these figures differ from the figures in each analysis area as it is for the Borough as a whole, whereas analysis area figures account for each team staying within their respective analysis area.

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2030) ²
	Poynton	Shortfall of 2.25 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 3.25 match equivalent sessions.
	Wilmslow	Current demand is being met.	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
	Cheshire East	Shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions.
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	Congleton	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
	Crewe	No existing demand.	No future demand discovered.
	Knutsford	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
	Macclesfield	Current demand is being met.	Latent demand identified by Macclesfield HC.
	Nantwich	Current demand is being met.	Latent demand identified by Crewe Vagrants HC.
	Poynton	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
	Wilmslow	Exported demand identified by Wilmslow HC.	Latent demand identified by Alderley Edge HC.
	Cheshire East	Exported demand identified by Wilmslow HC.	Latent demand identified by Macclesfield, Crewe Vagrants and Alderley Edge hockey clubs.
Lacrosse	Congleton	No existing demand.	No future demand discovered.
	Crewe	No existing demand.	No future demand discovered.
	Knutsford	No existing demand.	No future demand discovered.
	Macclesfield	No existing demand.	No future demand discovered.
	Nantwich	No existing demand.	No future demand discovered.
	Poynton	Current demand is being met.	Latent demand expressed by Poynton Lacrosse Club.
	Wilmslow	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
	Cheshire East	Current demand is being met.	Latent demand expressed by Poynton Lacrosse Club.

Conclusions

The existing position for all pitch sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of shortfalls for some pitches and for some areas where demand is currently being met. As such, there is a need to protect all existing playing pitch provision until demand is met; or there is a requirement to replace any lost provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost.

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The only exception to the above is in the case of sports provision being replaced by a different form of sports provision (e.g. a sand-based AGP being replaced by a 3G AGP) on the assumption that no clubs are left without alternative provision and providing that this is agreed upon by Sport England and the appropriate NGBs.

In the main, there are no pitch surpluses and the majority of shortfalls expressed can be reduced by employing a range of measures including improving pitch quality to increase capacity; however, in isolated cases, some clubs definitely require additional provision, such as Knutsford RUFC in line with the potential development at Knutsford Academy.

In some instances, there may also be a requirement for access to existing unused pitches, such as those located at currently unavailable school sites, pitch re-configuration, the restoration of disused or lapsed pitches (if feasible) or the creation of new provision, particularly in key housing growth areas. This is especially the case when considering how unrealistic it may be to improve all current pitches to good quality given financial constraints that providers are working under.

As there is no surplus provision, qualitative improvements to mitigate the loss of a playing field will not meet the requirements of planning policy i.e. paragraph 74 of the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy. In cases where an alternative development leads to the loss of playing field or part of a playing field, a quantitative replacement will be required in addition to qualitative improvements.

In relation to football, there is a shortfall of 3G pitches that can only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play and thus reducing overplay, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.

For cricket, new provision in the form of non-turf wickets that can be incorporated onto existing sites will help reduce grass wicket shortfalls without the requirement for entirely new squares. The increase in non-turf wickets should be used to transfer junior cricket from grass wickets.

Definitions

Pitch capacity

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. Pitch quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage but can also be impacted upon by maintenance levels and unofficial use, amongst other factors.

As a guide, the FA, the RFU and the ECB have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting current quality. This does not apply to EH as there is no limit to how often a sand-based AGP can be used, with capacity instead limited by availability and current usage levels.

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Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches

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

Match equivalent sessions

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

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for sport. For cricket pitches, it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season.

Shortfalls

Shortfalls are expressed in match equivalent sessions rather than converted to pitches as it is possible that shortfalls could be accommodated in various ways (e.g. through pitch improvements) and not just by providing more pitches.

For a full glossary of terms, please refer to Appendix Three.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 2: VISION

2.1 Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Cheshire East Playing Pitch Strategy. It seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of:

'An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports pitches that provides and promotes local opportunities for participation by all residents at all levels of play from grassroots to elite'

To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy has the following aims - to;

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

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PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 1.2 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all stakeholders.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

AIM 2

To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

AIM 3

To **provide** new playing pitches where there is current or future demand to do so

Figure 1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England 2015

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for each playing pitch sport; resulting in sport specific recommendations.

Football – grass pitches

- ◀ There is a current and future shortfall of adult, youth 11v11, 9v9 and 5v5 pitches, with minimal spare capacity existing only on 7v7 pitches.
- ◀ In total, 19.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exists across 26 sites in Cheshire East, with most expressed on 7v7 pitches and in Congleton.
- ◀ Overplay occurs on 43 pitches across 24 sites equating to 40.5 match equivalent sessions.

Summary

- ◀ There are 331 grass football pitches within Cheshire East across 189 sites, of which, 245 are available for community use across 132 sites.
- ◀ 83 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) play on adult pitches.
- ◀ The King's School plans to sell both its Westminster Road and Fence Avenue sites for housing as it looks to consolidate to one site, with no plans in place to replace the football pitches (as replacement indoor provision is deemed sufficient).
- ◀ A planning application is in place at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will include grass pitch provision.
- ◀ Egerton Youth Club has planning permission to develop five adult pitches on land adjacent to its current site that it leases from a local landowner.
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club is in negotiations with a local landowner to purchase nearby land that will be used to relocate all on-site provision, including the football pitches.
- ◀ There are four lapsed and nine disused sites.
- ◀ In total, 16 community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 158 as standard quality and 71 as poor quality.
- ◀ Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 17 are serviced by good quality facilities, 60 by standard quality facilities and 65 by poor quality facilities
- ◀ Congleton Rovers FC, Styal FC and AFC Prestbury Nomads all report an intention to improve clubhouse facilities.
- ◀ Crewe, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes and Vale Juniors football clubs express an aspiration to acquire their own sites on a long-term lease.
- ◀ In addition to Crewe Alexandra FC, which is a professional club, a further ten clubs in Cheshire East play on the football pyramid.
- ◀ 557 teams from within 124 clubs play within Cheshire East; these comprise 123 adult men's teams, eight adult women's teams, 264 youth boys' teams, eight youth girls' teams and 154 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ AFC Macclesfield, Alsager Town FC and Wistaston Blackcats FC express exported demand that would prefer to play within Cheshire East.
- ◀ Five clubs report latent demand amounting to 16 teams and eight match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Team generation rates (2030) predict a growth of six youth boys' teams, whilst future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 41 teams and 20.5 match equivalent sessions.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

Improving pitch quality on overplayed pitches (i.e. through increased maintenance or drainage improvements) to either standard or good quality will increase capacity and therefore help to accommodate expressed overplay. The majority of overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality increased to good; the only exceptions are the adult pitches at Bollington Cross Playing Field, Deva Close and Reaseheath College and a 9v9 pitch at Egerton Youth Club. Some play at these sites should, therefore, be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity.

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁶	Good quality capacity rating ⁷
11	Back Lane	Adult	2	Poor	2	
		Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
17	Bollington Cross Playing Field	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
30	Chorley Hall	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
34	Congleton High School	Adult	2	Standard	1.5	0.5
		Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	1	1
		Youth (9v9)	2	Standard	1.5	2.5
41	Deva Close	Adult	1	Standard	2	1
44	Egerton Youth Club	Youth (11v11)	3	Standard	3	3
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	2.5	0.5
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Adult	3	Poor	4.5	1.5
		Youth (9v9)	2	Poor	1.5	1.5
64	King George V Playing Field	Adult	1	Poor	1	1
70	Lacey Green Primary Academy	Mini (5v5)	1	Standard	2	
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	Adult	2	Standard	0.5	1.5
80	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	Adult	3	Poor	1.5	4.5
103	Poynton Sports Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
105	Reaseheath College	Adult	1	Good	1	1
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Adult	1	Poor	1.5	0.5
120	Styal Playing Fields	Adult	1	Standard	1	
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
139	Willaston White Star Football Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5

⁶ Match equivalent sessions

⁷ Match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁶	Good quality capacity rating ⁷
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Youth (11v11)	2	Poor	1	5
178	Christ the King Primary	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
		Mini (7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2.5
225	St Paul's Catholic Primary	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1
231	Vernon Primary School	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
248	Jasmine Park	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1
249	Mount Vernon	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5

In addition, there are currently ten match equivalent sessions of spare capacity discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to poor quality. Improving pitch quality at these sites will provide and increase overall actual spare capacity, which can be used to accommodate demand from currently overplayed sites as well as latent and future demand.

Given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches. Not only can this alleviate over play of grass pitches but it can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use.

Providing security of tenure

Currently 44 match equivalent sessions are played on unsecured pitches throughout Cheshire East. If these pitches were to fall out of use, shortfalls would be exacerbated.

The majority of unsecured use is located at educational sites. Whilst not always possible, creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term. Where there is external investment on school sites, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement as is the case at the King's School.

Should unsecured provision be permanently lost, replacement provision of an equal or greater quantity and quality at a suitable location is required.

Securing access to currently unavailable sites

By opening up sites currently unavailable for community use, an additional six match equivalent sessions of spare capacity on adult pitches would be created, as well as ten match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and 13 match equivalent sessions on 9v9 pitches. For mini football, 37 match equivalent sessions would be available on 7v7 pitches and 12 match equivalent sessions would be available on 5v5 pitches.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Reconfiguring pitches

If youth 11v11 demand was to be transferred away from adult pitches, spare capacity would be created on adult pitches in each analysis area.

Table 4.2: Capacity if youth 11v11 demand was removed from adult pitches

Analysis area	Current adult capacity (match equivalents)	Future adult capacity (match equivalents)	Youth 11v11 demand on adult pitches (match equivalents)	Current adult capacity if removed (match equivalents)	Future adult capacity if removed (match equivalents)
Congleton	1.5	2.5	12	10.5	9.5
Crewe	1.5	2	7	5.5	5
Knutsford	1	1	3	2	2
Macclesfield	2	3	4.5	2.5	1.5
Nantwich			4	4	4
Poynton	1.5	1.5	4	2.5	2.5
Wilmslow	4.5	4.5	7	2.5	2.5
Cheshire East	12	14.5	41.5	29.5	27

Although some of this spare capacity should be retained as strategic reserve i.e. to help protect/improve quality, there are likely to be opportunities to reconfigure adult pitches to better cater for youth 11v11 demand and to reduce youth pitch shortfalls.

Future developments

The loss of grass football pitches at the King's School (Westminster Road and Fence Avenue) will not affect the overall picture of provision as the current facilities are unavailable for community use. It may, however, affect curricular and extra-curricular activity.

The creation of grass football pitches at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) will reduce shortfalls in Congleton and will offer a replacement to the increased number of pitches that were in active use when the Campus was open. The site will also offer a viable alternative to the exported demand expressed by Alsager Town FC as well as the latent demand reported by the Club.

The creation of an increased number of grass football pitches at Egerton Youth Club will alleviate overplay on the site's current pitch stock, which, as aforementioned, cannot be fully achieved through quality improvements.

Enabling potential developments at Poynton Sports Club and Sutton Lane will reduce shortfalls in Poynton and Middlewich respectively. The potential development at Sutton Lane will also allow Middlewich Town FC to field its expressed latent and future demand, whilst the potential development at Poynton Sports Club will alleviate overplay on the site's current stock of pitches.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Conclusions

If pitch quality, overplay and security of tenure is addressed and if access to existing pitches is maximised, there would be no current requirement for new grass pitch provision over and above developments already proposed, providing that no pitches are permanently lost (with the exception of the King's School). That being said, there remains a need at certain sites for pitches to be reconfigured, particularly in relation to a lack of youth 11v11 pitches. Furthermore, proposed housing growth may result in enough future demand existing for an increase in provision, the need for which should be assessed on an individual basis.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore pitch reconfiguration to accommodate more youth 11v11 pitches where possible.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity or to sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Work to accommodate displaced, latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at key sites that are currently serviced by poor provision (e.g. Poynton Sports Club and Sutton Lane).
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ In the longer term, explore opportunities for access to an increased number of 3G pitches to cater for grass pitch shortfalls.

3G pitches

- ◀ With 557 football teams currently playing in Cheshire East, there is a need for 13 full size 3G pitches. This means that there is a current shortfall of four pitches (discounting Reaseheath Training Complex and Reaseheath College).
- ◀ When considering future demand for an additional 41 teams, the shortfall increases to five full size 3G pitches.
- ◀ Alternatively, if each team was to remain within its respective analysis area for training, there is a shortfall of eight full size 3G pitches.

Summary

- ◀ There are 11 full size 3G pitches within Cheshire East, all of which are floodlit and ten of which are available to the community (Reaseheath Training Complex is not).
- ◀ In addition, there are also five small sized 3G pitches.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ A planning application is in place at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will include provision of a full size, floodlit 3G pitch.
- ◀ Subject to planning and funding, Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is to undergo a development that will result in one of its grass pitches being replaced by a full size, floodlit 3G pitch; this will predominantly be used for rugby union.
- ◀ Eight of the 11 full size 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Reaseheath College is still to undergo necessary performance testing in order to become World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ Since production of the Assessment Report, the 3G pitch at Congleton High School has undergone testing and is awaiting World Rugby approval. If approval is granted, the pitch can be used for full contact rugby union activity.
- ◀ Cumberland Arena is significantly over ten years old (having been installed in 2002) and will be resurfaced in the summer.
- ◀ Each FA approved pitch is in use for match play; 98 teams currently play home matches on them. This is a considerably high number when compared to the majority of other local authorities.
- ◀ Cumberland Arena is also in current use for competitive matches, despite it not being on the FA register and despite its age making it unlikely to pass certification.
- ◀ Priority should not only be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches but also on sustaining the current pitch stock.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 42 teams) there is a need for 13 full size 3G pitches in Cheshire East. Discounting Reaseheath Training Complex, which is unavailable for community use and Reaseheath College, which prioritises rugby union use (although some football training activity is taking place), there are currently nine full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of four pitches. When considering future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is a demand for 14 full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of five pitches⁸.

Alternatively, if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area in which they play their matches in, a shortfall of eight full size 3G pitches is identified. This equates to shortfall of two pitches in Wilmslow and one pitch in Alsager, Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Poynton and Sandbach⁹.

Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA and it is relatively popular within Cheshire East already with 35 mini 5v5, 33 mini 7v7 teams, 18 youth 9v9, nine youth 11v11 and three adult teams already playing on 3G surfaces.

The FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches (including parish and town council pitches) be transferred.

⁸ All figures are rounded down.

⁹ All figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.3: Number of teams currently using council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	49
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	50
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	22
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	11
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	4
Total			136

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

Table 4.4: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y) = x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
Adult	49	24.5	32	784	12.25
11v11	50	25	32	800	12.50
9v9	22	11	10	110	1.72
7v7	11	5.5	8	44	0.69
5v5	4	2	4	8	0.13

Transferring all matches currently played on council pitches would equate to the need for 27 (rounded down from 27.29) full size 3G pitches as the requirements for each pitch type needs to be added together (as peak time is the same). In practice, creating this number of 3G pitches is considered to be unrealistic and it may therefore be more appropriate to consider the requirement for specific formats of play such as mini football or youth 9v9 football.

The table below therefore tests a scenario to enable all 5v5 and 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 4.5: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Based on the above programming and separate start times for 5v5 and 7v7 matches, the overall need is for eight full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 54 teams playing 5v5 football requiring seven pitches (rounded up from 6.8) and 100 teams playing 7v7 football requiring eight pitches (rounded down from 8.3). As such, it is considered that all mini football could be accommodated on the current supply of 3G pitches.

The table below tests a similar scenario for 9v9 football. This demand could also be accommodated on the current 3G stock as it equates to the need for nine (exactly) full size 3G pitches based on 108 teams playing this format within Cheshire East. It is also worth noting that if all 9v9 football was moved to a Saturday and all mini football was retained on a Sunday (or vice versa), it is feasible that all current demand for mini and 9v9 football could be accommodated on nine full size 3G pitches.

Table 4.6: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

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

Increases in 3G provision

The proposed full size 3G pitch at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) will reduce the overall shortfall in Cheshire East and will fully satisfy training demand in Alsager. It will also further satisfy match play demand so long as it is FA tested.

The proposed full size 3G pitch at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) would reduce the overall shortfall in Cheshire East and full satisfy training demand in Macclesfield, however, as the development is primarily for rugby union use it is not yet known whether it will also accommodate football use.

Football hub model

The FA, DCMS, Premier League, Football Foundation and Sport England are all working together (currently through the Parklife programme) to significantly improve the provision and quality of football facilities, on a sustainable basis, to drive increased participation levels, quality of experience and more broadly delivering wider social benefits. The main focus of delivery will be around increasing the number of 3G pitches available for competitive play.

To have been eligible for the Parklife project, local authorities must have had a population of at least 200,000 people. Cheshire East adhered to this, however, it did not meet other core aims, although that is not to say that it cannot implement some of the principles of the initiative when developing its 3G pitch stock i.e. the creation of a hub site/model.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

World Rugby produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The RFU investment strategy for AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

The 3G pitch at Congleton High School has undergone testing and is awaiting World Rugby approval. Should approval be granted, it can be used for full contact rugby union activity and usage from community clubs should therefore be explored, particularly in relation to Congleton RUFC.

Should Reaseheath College undergo World Rugby certification as planned, a good proportion of training demand from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC will transfer away from the floodlit grass pitch at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club. In turn, this will reduce overplay at the site although some may still exist without pitch quality improvements given high levels of match usage by the Club as well as by Manchester Metropolitan University.

Should the proposed development at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) go ahead, all training demand will transfer from the floodlit grass pitch and in turn this will alleviate all overplay at the site.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Ensure 3G pitch developments at Manchester Metropolitan University and Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) are provided to a good quality and seek FA and/or World Rugby certification.
- ◀ Ensure that Cumberland Arena undergoes quality improvements and administer FA testing as soon as possible, otherwise current competitive demand needs to be transferred elsewhere.
- ◀ Maximise rugby union usage of Congleton High School should it achieve approval from World Rugby.
- ◀ Encourage all providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that all pitches currently on the FA register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- ◀ Identify feasible sites to increase provision of full size 3G pitches to meet training and competitive demand, particularly in areas with identified shortfalls.
- ◀ Ensure that new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Cricket pitches

- ◀ For senior cricket, a significant overall shortfall of pitches is identified, with more grass wicket squares being overplayed than those with actual spare capacity.
- ◀ No non-turf wickets are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity. This equates to actual spare capacity existing for junior cricket both currently and in the future.

Summary

- ◀ In total, there are 48 grass cricket squares in Cheshire East located across 42 sites, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at 15 sites (16 squares) and there are stand-alone NTPs pitches at 17 sites (mostly schools).
- ◀ There is a disused grass wicket square at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus), whilst standalone NTPs were previously in place at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and Sir William Stanier School.
- ◀ Tenure is considered unsecure for Audlem, Chelford, Over Peover and Prestbury cricket clubs, which rent their squares on an annual basis and for Bunbury CC, which has only nine years remaining on its lease.
- ◀ The audit of grass wicket squares found 37 community available pitches to be good quality, ten to be standard quality and one to be poor quality.
- ◀ Of particular concern is the condition of clubhouse buildings servicing Poynton Cricket Club and Mere Cricket Club, as well as the facility servicing the second square at Macclesfield Cricket Club.
- ◀ Four clubs (Wilmslow, Audlem, Chelford and Mere cricket clubs) are currently without access to cricket nets and three (Disley, Holmes Chapel and Nantwich cricket clubs) express a demand for more nets to be provided.
- ◀ In total, there are 38 clubs generating 290 teams, which equates to 115 senior men's, two senior women's, 171 junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.
- ◀ There is currently no Last Man Stands (LMS) operating in Cheshire East, however, it is a target area for the future, particularly in Crewe and/or Macclesfield.
- ◀ Peak time demand for senior cricket is Saturday, whereas for junior cricket it is midweek.
- ◀ There are 29 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets totalling 499 match equivalent sessions per season; however, only two of these (Kerridge Cricket Club and Mere Cricket Club) have actual spare capacity on a Saturday.
- ◀ Overplay in Cheshire East is high, with 16 squares overplayed across 15 sites by 149 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Ten clubs report plans to increase their number of teams in the future, amounting to an increase of six senior men's, two senior women's and eight junior teams.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay (e.g. Bollington Recreation Ground, Holmes Chapel Cricket Club and Eric Swan Sports Ground), a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For the majority of overplayed sites, the best solution would be to install a non-turf pitch (NTP) *in situ* as this would allow for the transfer of junior demand away from grass wickets. The following overplayed sites are currently without an NTP:

- ◀ Bollington Recreation Ground
- ◀ Congleton Sports and Social Club
- ◀ Holmes Chapel Cricket Club
- ◀ Sandbach Cricket Club
- ◀ Bunbury Cricket Club
- ◀ Haslington Cricket Club
- ◀ Langley Cricket Club
- ◀ Toft Cricket Club

As a caveat, this should not lead to undue pressure being placed on clubs and volunteers using the above sites to install self-funded NTPs. Although attempts should be made to reduce identified overplay, in reality, clubs do not necessarily accept that there is an issue and have managed in the past to accommodate such demand. Please also note that some clubs have a limited space in which to fit their playing surfaces whilst still complying with ECB specifications for boundary sizes at all age groups.

For the remaining overplayed sites (Alsager Cricket Club, Elworth Cricket Club, Eric Swan Sports Ground, Macclesfield Cricket Club, Lindow Cricket Club, Poynton Sports Club and Rectory Field), greater use of already installed NTPs is required. If overplay persists, demand should be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity, or to sites with a standalone NTP such as currently unavailable school sites. This is also a viable option for clubs using sites that are overplayed without an accompanying NTP (and also solves the issue of the above caveat).

Accommodating future demand

All clubs expressing future demand for an increase in junior teams can do so on their current facility stock. Rode Park & Lawton CC and Mobberley CC have spare capacity during midweek, whereas Disley, Elworth, Langley, Lindow, Macclesfield and Nantwich cricket clubs can be catered for via their NTPs rather than their grass wickets (which are at capacity or overplayed).

Furthermore, expressed senior demand from Mobberley, Styal, Nantwich and Rode Park & Lawton cricket club can be accommodated provided that it is outside of the peak period (i.e. on a Sunday). This is because their squares have overall spare capacity albeit not offering such capacity (on a Saturday). If the teams are fielded on a Saturday, secondary venues will need to be accessed or new provision will be required.

In contrast, Disley, Elworth and Lindow cricket clubs cannot realise senior growth plans on the pitch stock currently available to them without exacerbating overplay. As such, they will either have to access secondary venues that have spare capacity or new provision will be required.

Note that the proposed forecast for an increase in demand (derived from population increases and club consultation) does not reflect the societal trend away from traditionally organised cricket. Whilst the ECB aspires to reverse this trend, there is no evidence to suggest that this will be successful.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on pitches to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and poor and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for Bunbury, Audlem, Chelford, Over Peover and Prestbury cricket clubs.
- ◀ Improve the changing facilities servicing Mere, Macclesfield and Poynton cricket clubs.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities.
- ◀ Address overplay via the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity or through an increase in NTPs accompanying grass wickets.
- ◀ Ensure Disley, Elworth and Lindow cricket clubs can realise future growth plans through access to alternative sites.
- ◀ Explore potential sites that are suitable to host an LMS franchise in Crewe and/or Macclesfield.

Rugby union - grass pitches

- ◀ Overall, there is a shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand. This worsens when considering future demand, with a shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions recognised.
- ◀ Shortfalls are greatest in relation to Knutsford RUFC, where there is a considered need for access to more pitches or for new pitches to be provided.
- ◀ Remaining shortfalls can be addressed via pitch quality improvements and/or through access to increased dedicated floodlit training provision, particularly in relation to Congleton RUFC, Holmes Chapel RUFC, Sandbach RUFC and Wilmslow RUFC.
- ◀ Reaseheath College becoming World Rugby compliant (still to undergo testing) will alleviate shortfalls at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, whereas the provision of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Priory Park (subject to planning and funding) will alleviate shortfalls relating to Macclesfield RUFC.

Summary

- ◀ There are 23 sites containing 43 senior, nine junior and ten mini rugby union pitches, of which, 28 senior, five junior and all mini pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ Hankinson's Field, which contains one senior pitch, an unmarked training area and areas for mini rugby, has been temporarily taken out of use as the site is required as an access point for the development of Congleton Leisure Centre.
- ◀ There are two disused senior rugby union pitches located at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will not be re-provided when the site is redeveloped (Instead, S106 monies have been agreed to provide Crewe & Natwich RUFC with maintenance equipment).
- ◀ Knutsford Academy, working alongside Knutsford RUFC, has identified adjacent land that it wishes to acquire so that it can increase its supply of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ The King's School plans to provide five additional rugby union pitches at Derby Fields as part of its consolidation to the site; however, both the pitch at Fence Avenue and the pitch at Westminster Road will be lost.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Holmes Chapel RUFC has only ten years remaining on its licence to use Holmes Chapel Community Centre and tenure is also considered to be unsecure for Knutsford RUFC at Knutsford Academy as no community use agreement is in place.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, 22 are assessed as good quality, 12 are assessed as standard quality and nine are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Acton Nomads RUFC is currently without a clubhouse, whereas Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow rugby clubs all report development plans or issues with their changing facilities.
- ◀ Eight rugby union clubs play within Cheshire East consisting of 99 teams, which as a breakdown equates to 28 senior, seven colts', 25 junior and 39 mini teams.
- ◀ Sandbach, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield and Wilmslow rugby clubs all train on match pitches using floodlighting, whereas Acton Nomads RUFC is currently without a training venue despite attempts to find a suitable location.
- ◀ Reaseheath College is still to undergo necessary performance testing in order to become World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ Since production of the Assessment Report, the 3G pitch at Congleton High School has undergone testing and is awaiting World Rugby approval. If approval is granted, the pitch can be used for full contact rugby union activity.
- ◀ Five clubs report future demand, which, where quantified, amounts to two senior men's, two colts, one junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.
- ◀ Ten pitches across seven sites are overplayed by a combined 14.75 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Despite 14 senior pitches across nine sites displaying potential spare capacity, only four are available for further use during the peak period for senior rugby (Saturday PM).

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

Installing drainage systems at sites would improve pitch quality and therefore increase the carrying capacity of pitches. Improving drainage at all sites used by clubs to good quality (D3 – pipe and slit drained) would result in a further 19 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity on senior pitches, five on junior pitches and seven on mini pitches. This would fully alleviate overplay at Back Lane, Congleton Park and Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) as well as reducing overplay at all other overplayed sites (e.g. Knutsford Academy and Sandbach Rugby Club).

Improving maintenance at all sites used by clubs to good (M2) would result in a further 8.5 match equivalent sessions of capacity on senior pitches, two on junior pitches and 3.5 on mini pitches. This would fully alleviate overplay at Back Lane and Congleton Park as well as reducing overplay at the majority of other overplayed sites.

A combination of improving drainage and maintenance as indicated above at all sites used by clubs would result in a further 21 match equivalent sessions of capacity on senior pitches, 6.5 on junior pitches and 7.5 on mini pitches. This would fully alleviate overplay at Back Lane, Congleton Park, Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) and Knutsford Academy (lower) as well as reducing overplay at all other overplayed sites.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Increasing access to floodlit training provision (grass pitches)

Overplay at Sandbach Rugby Club cannot be fully alleviated through pitch quality improvements and there are no plans for the Club to be provided with a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. As such, an increase in the number of floodlit pitches available to the Club is required (in addition to clubhouse improvements). This will allow it to spread out its training demand across a greater number of pitches and can be achieved either via provision of dedicated, permanent floodlighting or the use of portable floodlights.

Similarly, although overplay at Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) can be alleviated through pitch quality improvements (M2/D3) additional floodlit pitches may be required. This will reduce the pressure on the Club to improve quality and enable it to realise its future growth plans without exacerbating overplay. As floodlighting has been maximised at Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club), potential floodlighting at Jim Evison Playing Field should be explored.

The RFU considers it important for all of its clubs to have access to floodlit areas/pitches to provide for both match play and training. As Knutsford, Holmes Chapel and Acton Nomads rugby clubs are currently without such provision, options should be explored to provide such facilities in the future. This can either be achieved through dedicated floodlighting on existing pitches, portable floodlighting that can be stored on site or via a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

Increasing pitch stock

Overplay at Knutsford Academy (lower) can be fully alleviated through a combination of improving maintenance (M2) and installing a drainage system (D3), however, this is presumed to be unlikely given that the pitches are located at a school. Moreover, Knutsford RUFC currently trains off-site, meaning all overplay is a result of match play and therefore cannot be alleviated through providing increased floodlit provision. Instead, consideration should be given to increasing the pitch stock available to the Club and plans for the School to acquire adjacent land to enable this should therefore be supported.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Explore community use aspects at currently unused educational sites to fully determine availability and, as minimum, protect the pitches for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.
- ◀ Support aspirations for ancillary facility improvements relating to Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich, Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow rugby clubs.
- ◀ Provide Acton Nomads RUFC with a suitable clubhouse in close proximity to its pitch at Barony Sports Complex.
- ◀ Support Acton Nomads RUFC in its search for a suitable training venue.
- ◀ Alternatively, explore possibilities of transferring match play demand from Acton Nomads RUFC to a currently unused school site that can provide changing facilities and also a potential training venue (via the use of portable floodlighting).
- ◀ Ensure development at King's School provides an adequate number of rugby union pitches to offset the loss of pitches at the School's other sites and ensure pitches are provided to a good quality.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure pitches at Hankinson's Field are re-provided to an adequate quality following the development of Congleton Leisure Centre or provide suitable mitigation.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for Holmes Chapel RUFC and Knutsford RUFC through providing long term lease agreements (minimum 25 years).
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems, particularly at sites containing overplayed pitches that are not a result of training demand (e.g. Back Lane and Congleton Park).
- ◀ Increase the floodlit provision available to Congleton, Sandbach and Wilmslow rugby clubs to alleviate overplay as a result of concentrated training demand.
- ◀ Maximise rugby union usage of Congleton High School should it achieve approval from World Rugby.
- ◀ Support Knutsford Academy and Knutsford RUFC in their aspirations to acquire additional land that will result in an increased number of rugby union pitches and an alleviation of overplay and supplement this with the aforementioned security of tenure.

Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

- ◀ Due to the landscape of hockey within Cheshire East, the priority should be to protect or mitigate the loss of any of the 12 pitches currently in use by hockey clubs. These are as follows:
 - ◀ Alsager Leisure Centre
 - ◀ Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)
 - ◀ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club
 - ◀ Fallibroome Academy
 - ◀ Knutsford Leisure Centre
 - ◀ Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (girls)
 - ◀ Sandbach School (boys)
 - ◀ The Edge Hockey Centre
 - ◀ The King's School (Westminster Road)
 - ◀ Wilmslow High School
 - ◀ Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club
 - ◀ Tytherington High School
- ◀ Priority should be placed on accommodating expressed displaced, latent and future demand, which, in at least one aspect, relates to each club.

Summary

- ◀ There are currently 16 full size hockey suitable (all sand-based) AGPs in Cheshire East. The majority are floodlit, although Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (girls) and South Cheshire College are not.
- ◀ All the full sized AGPs are available for community use, however, four are currently unused for hockey purposes and two are without hockey goals.
- ◀ In addition, there are also 15 smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use, which, although too small to host competitive matches, can be used to accommodate some training demand.
- ◀ Planning approval has been granted at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will involve replacing the existing sand-based AGP with a new sand-based AGP as well as a clubhouse with changing rooms and catering facilities.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ The King's School is planning to provide two full size, floodlit AGPs as part of its consolidation to Derby Fields, rather than the one full size and one smaller sized pitch that currently service the School.
- ◀ All full size AGPs are readily available to the community during the peak period, as identified by Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM).
- ◀ Eight of the full size AGPs have reached the end of their lifespan and therefore require resurfacing.
- ◀ There are currently seven clubs fielding teams in Cheshire East. Combined, they contribute a membership of 402 senior men, 280 senior women and 1,092 juniors and consist of 28 senior men's teams, 24 senior women's teams and 25 junior teams.
- ◀ Wilmslow HC expresses exported demand as it occasionally accesses Cheadle Hulme High School, in Stockport, due a lack of pitch capacity within Cheshire East.
- ◀ Wilmslow, Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Crewe Vagrants hockey clubs express latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitches were available to them.
- ◀ Five of the Cheshire East based clubs express future demand, which, where quantified, equates to four senior teams and four junior teams.
- ◀ EH applies a growth rate to current affiliated membership numbers and for Cheshire East this is 15%, which results in an overall predicted combined growth of 256 members to 2,030 members in the future.

Scenarios

Accommodating future, latent and exported demand

Knutsford, Triton and Sandbach hockey clubs report that all their demand can be accommodated on current pitches; however, Alderley Edge, Crewe Vagrants, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs will have to utilise spare capacity at alternative venues or new provision will be required.

Shavington Leisure Centre is considered to have spare capacity for an increase in usage on a Saturday and offers a viable option for Crewe Vagrants HC, should the Club be willing to access a secondary venue. That said, the pitch will have to be resurfaced as it is currently unsuitable for hockey use due to its poor quality.

The Macclesfield Academy provides an option to the remaining clubs, although hockey goals will need to be provided and again quality will need to improve. The location is also not ideal for the Wilmslow based clubs (Alderley Edge HC and Wilmslow HC).

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a 3G pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling greater distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred local authority.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants will have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted. It is unlikely that any pitch that is currently in use for hockey purposes in Cheshire East will gain approval for a 3G conversion.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be taken.

The 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Those proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance 'Selecting the Right Artificial Grass Surface which can be found on Sport England's website:

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

Recommendations

- ◀ As a minimum, protect the 12 pitches currently in use by hockey clubs.
- ◀ Accommodate expressed latent, future and displaced demand on the current pitch stock and, if required, improve quality at Shavington Leisure Centre and Macclesfield Academy to achieve this.
- ◀ Ensure that developments at King's School and Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) are provided to a good quality and maximise usage.
- ◀ Resurface the AGPs at Alsager Leisure Centre and Knutsford Leisure Centre and ensure that both continue to provide a hockey suitable surface.
- ◀ Encourage the AGPs at Sandbach High School and Sixth Form Centre (girls) and Sandbach School (boys) to be resurfaced in the near future and that they continue to provide a hockey suitable surface.
- ◀ Encourage providers to have sinking funds in place at all sites to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Pursue long-term security of tenure for all clubs, particularly those using education sites, through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey and revisit hockey demand when and if a conversion is proposed to ensure that the pitch in question is not required.

Lacrosse pitches

- ◀ Consideration must be given to providing Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to more pitches given the high levels of latent and future demand expressed.
- ◀ As Wilmslow Lacrosse Club does not express any latent demand and has access to more pitches, it is considered that it has sufficient provision to accommodate current and future demand.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Summary

- ◀ There are seven senior lacrosse pitches located across three sites (Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club, Poynton Sports Club and Mount Vernon), all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ Both Wilmslow Phoenix and Poynton sports clubs are managed internally by the respective clubs, whereas Mount Vernon is owned and managed by the Council.
- ◀ The pitches at Poynton Sports Club and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club are rated as standard quality; Mount Vernon's pitch is considered to poor quality.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club fields three senior men's teams, an u19s development team, three junior boys' teams and one junior girls' team, whereas Wilmslow Lacrosse Club fields two senior men's teams, one senior women's team, an u19s development team and three junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Both clubs use AGPs at their home ground to accommodate the majority of training demand, particularly during winter months as this reduces wear on grass pitches.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club suggests that it could field up to four additional junior teams if it had more available pitches.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club expresses future demand for one senior men's, one senior women's and two junior girls' teams, whereas Wilmslow Lacrosse Club expresses future demand equating to two junior teams.
- ◀ As Mount Vernon is assessed as poor quality, improvements are required to sustain future use of the pitch for Poynton Lacrosse Club.

Scenarios

Transferring demand to 3G pitches

Lacrosse clubs accessing 3G pitches is becoming increasingly common nationally and could offer a viable option for Poynton Lacrosse Club given its expressed latent and future demand. That said, there are currently no full size 3G pitches within the Poynton Analysis Area, although it is noted that at least one is required in the future and any development could therefore be utilised by the Club. Currently, All Hallows Catholic College provides the nearest pitch; it is located approximately eight miles away from the Club's current home base.

Recommendations

- ◀ Consider options to help Poynton Lacrosse Club field its expressed latent and future demand, particularly through the use of a 3G pitch.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at Mount Vernon and sustain pitch quality at Poynton Sports Club.
- ◀ Ensure the supply of pitches available to Wilmslow Lacrosse Club remains sufficient both in terms of quantity and quality.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

Recommendations:

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

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

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is a requirement for playing field land to meet the identified shortfalls. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.

NPPF paragraph 74 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

Lapsed and disused – playing field sites that formerly accommodated outdoor sports facilities but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use within the last five years (lapsed) or longer (disused).

Should playing pitches be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. council budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

This means that land containing playing pitches should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (subject to being informed by an annual review of the PPS), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

The following sites in Cheshire East are considered to be lapsed:

- ◀ Bisto Football Club
- ◀ Cranage Hall
- ◀ Crewe Hall
- ◀ Goddard Street

And the following sites are disused:

- ◀ Brooke Dean Community College
- ◀ Cedar Avenue
- ◀ Peover Playing Fields
- ◀ St John's Road
- ◀ Wheelock Playing Field
- ◀ Brook House Playing Field
- ◀ Hazelbadge Road Playing Field
- ◀ Portland Drive
- ◀ Wybunbury Recreation Ground

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls.

Each currently disused/lapsed site is included within the action plan together with a recommendation in relation to the need to bring the site back into use or mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified with the Assessment.

New housing development - where proposed housing development is located within access of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvements to existing pitches in that area in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. The PPS should be used to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand for, and capacity of, existing sites, and whether improvement to increase capacity or new provision is required.

Housing Growth scenarios have been provided in Part 7 to estimate the additional demand generated by housing by sport and pitch type.

Development Management - the PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport England's playing field policy exception E1 only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPS shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all playing pitch sports types and sizes.

Policy Exception E1:

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

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with Sport England policy exception E4.

Policy Exception E4:

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

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

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of some existing playing field sites that have been assessed as low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision, and as such are not preferable for investment or improvement. Where appropriate, loss of these sites to development and re-provision of playing field land as part of a broader sustainable community sport offer could be considered. For example, extending existing playing field that is in a more sustainable and accessible location to create community sport hub sites. (Strategic Sites). This could help to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e). It is imperative, however, that there is no net loss of pitches and that any replacement provision is made available before existing provision is lost.

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

A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in Cheshire East for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should, thus, seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of use, such as Eaton Bank Academy, Knutsford Academy and Malbank School and Sixth Form College.

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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 to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council, NGBs or Active Cheshire (the CSP) to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)¹⁰. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding.

Each club interested in leasing a site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below. Clubs in Cheshire East that expressed an interest in acquiring a lease that do not currently do so include Crewe, Holmes Chapel Hurricanes and Vale Juniors football clubs.

Table 5.1: 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</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Club Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a Borough wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that</p>

¹⁰ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Club	Site
<p>match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p>

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

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

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

Community asset transfer

The Council should adopt a policy that supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and NGBs with opportunities to take ownership of facilities and it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building. The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit provides a step-by-step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process:

http://archive.sportengland.org/support_advice/asset_transfer.aspx

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

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

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs. It is, however, common for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites. The following schools in Cheshire East currently prevent community use of some or all of their pitch stock:

- ◀ Adlington primary School
- ◀ Astbury St Mary's CE Primary School
- ◀ Calverley School
- ◀ All Hallows Catholic College
- ◀ Audlem St James CE Primary School
- ◀ Cranberry Academy

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- ◀ Dean Oaks Primary School
- ◀ Elworth Primary School
- ◀ Fallibroome Academy
- ◀ Havannah Primary School
- ◀ Ivy Bank Primary School
- ◀ Little Bollington Primary School
- ◀ Millfields Primary School
- ◀ Offley Primary School
- ◀ Poynton High School
- ◀ Rode Heath Primary School
- ◀ Sandbach School (girls)
- ◀ Sound and District Primary School
- ◀ St Mary's Primary School (Congelton)
- ◀ St Michael's Community Academy
- ◀ Terra Nova School
- ◀ The Dingle Primary School
- ◀ The Oaks Academy
- ◀ Vine Tree Primary School
- ◀ Weston Village Primary School
- ◀ Willaston Primary School
- ◀ Wilmslow High School
- ◀ Wisaston Green Primary School
- ◀ Wrenbury Primary School
- ◀ Disley Primary School
- ◀ Excalibur Primary School
- ◀ Goostrey Primary School
- ◀ Hurdsfield Primary School
- ◀ Leighton Academy
- ◀ Mablins Lane Primary School
- ◀ Mossley CE Primary School
- ◀ Pebble Brook Primary School
- ◀ Rainow Primary School
- ◀ Sandbach Community Primary School
- ◀ St Anne's Catholic Primary School
- ◀ St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School
- ◀ St Mary's Primary School (Crewe)
- ◀ Stapeley Broad Lane Primary School
- ◀ The Berkley Academy
- ◀ The King's School
- ◀ Tytherington High School
- ◀ Warmingham Primary School
- ◀ Wheelock Primary School
- ◀ Wilmslow Grange Primary School
- ◀ Wistaston Church Lane School
- ◀ Woodcocks Well CE Primary School

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

Although there is a growing number of academies over which Cheshire East has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, the relevant NGB has a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver the strategy and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision, particularly for football pitches.

As detailed earlier, NGBs and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement. An example of this is evident at the King's School and the potential community use agreement that will be attached to its development plans.

Sport England has also produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use. These can be found at:

Community Use: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/accessing-schools/>
Use Our Schools Toolkit: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/>

OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance playing pitches through improving quality and management of sites

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, installing drainage systems and improving maintenance.

Given that the majority of councils face reducing budgets it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g. the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest).

With such pressures on budgets, however, any direct investment into pitch quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should therefore be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Objective 1 or through other means such as reducing unofficial use, addressing overplay and/or creating equipment banks for the pooling of maintenance resources.

Addressing quality issues

Quality in Cheshire East is variable but generally pitches are assessed as poor or standard quality with the exception of cricket squares, which are mostly assessed as good quality.

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to playing pitches achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. For example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to pitches with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces, that are free from vandalism and litter. For rugby, a good pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. For rugby, drainage is natural but adequate. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets.

Poor quality refers to pitches with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. For rugby, pitches will have inadequate natural drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate (too small) changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old, dated interiors. If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same applies to women's and girls' demand.

To prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to Cheshire East, to provide a steer on this. It is the responsibility of the whole steering group to agree and to attend regular subsequent update meetings.

For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces: www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitches stock; it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing pitch quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a weekly match limit to each. Each NGB recommends a number of matches that a good quality pitch should take, as seen in the table below.

Table 5.1: Carrying capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football (grass)	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union ¹¹	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	Four matches per day	N/A	N/A

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

A cost effective way to reduce unofficial use (and therefore overplay), particularly for football, could be to remove goalposts in between match days, principally at open access, high traffic sites that are managed by clubs. This will, however, require adequate, secured storage to be provided.

¹¹ The RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and the maintenance programme afforded to a site.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For cricket, an increase in NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares. Bunbury, Haslington, Holmes Chapel, Langley, Sandbach and Toft cricket clubs are currently without an NTP and are overplayed, as are Bollington Recreation Ground and Congleton Sports and Social Club.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting will reduce the majority of overplay at club sites as it will allow clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative. Both Sandbach Rugby Club and Wilmslow Rugby Club would particularly benefit from this.

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

Increasing maintenance

Standard or poor grass pitch quality may not just be a result of unofficial use, overplay or poor drainage. In some instances ensuring appropriate maintenance for the level/standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase pitch capacity. Each NGB can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes.

The FA and ECB are part of the Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) which has been developed in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise council maintained sites.

At local authority sites in Cheshire East, maintenance of grass pitches (carried out by ANSA) is deemed to be basic. As such, if budget restrictions allow, additional work on council pitches should be carried out. This could include sand dressing, weed-killing and/or fertilising pitches (none of which currently takes place) and an improvement in post-season remedial work is also recommended. The Council should work with users and the relevant NGBs to achieve this and to fully determine the most appropriate pitch improvements on a site-by-site basis.

One method for improving maintenance could be via asset transfer, as highlighted in Objective 1. A common example for cricket is that a club maintains the square and the Council the outfield (rather than the Council maintaining the whole site). Other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitches and accompanying ancillary facilities.

In order to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision. One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and it is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

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

Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions or CIL

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

As previously stated, where such development is located within access of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvement to existing pitches in the locality in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. The PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity or if new provision is required.

The Council should use Sport England's new Playing Pitch Demand Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. Please contact Sport England for access to the calculator: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/contact-us/>

This uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. This is then converted into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs.

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches. A number of planning policy objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Most new developments which create net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more, or create a new dwelling, are potentially liable for CIL.
- ◀ 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 that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

As a reminder, the Council is proposing to allocate a number of strategic sites for housing. There is an overall housing requirement for at least 36,000 new homes and proposals to achieve 31,400 additional jobs within the Local Plan period (2010-2030). The Council is planning positively to support growth in line with national planning policy.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 5.2: Proposed housing growth

Analysis area	Number of new homes	Indicative population growth ¹²
Alsager	2,000	3,200
Congleton	4,150	6,700
Crewe	7,700	12,400
Handforth	2,200	3,500
Knutsford	950	1,500
Macclesfield	4,250	6,800
Middlewich	1,950	3,100
Nantwich	2,050	3,300
Poynton	650	1,000
Sandbach	2,750	3,400
Wilmslow	900	1,400
Local service centres	3,500	5,600
Other settlements and rural areas (inc Alderley Park)	2,950	4,700
Cheshire East	36,000	56,600

The impact on future demand for pitch sports is contained in Part 7 of the report.

¹² Based on 1.61 per dwelling

OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new provision where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

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

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

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council's own playing 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.

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that presently used minimally or currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches and non-turf wickets where there is a discrete need, or where there is significant housing growth.

Notwithstanding the above, there remains an isolated need to reconfigure pitches at certain sites, in particular in relation to the lack of dedicated youth 11v11 football pitches.

Recommendation (i) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations (Part 3) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of grass pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports the current and future demand for provision identified in Cheshire can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- ◀ Improving pitch quality in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of pitches.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming that an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of playing pitches.

Sports development work also approximates unmet demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e. it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur. The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities; however, it is important to note that these may be subject to change and are not necessarily area specific.

Table 5.3: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults.	Additional need for 3G pitches. Sustain current pitch stock but give consideration to pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements.
	Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase based on TGRs and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G AGP's.	Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing.
3G pitches	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.	Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for community use agreements to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds. Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface.
Cricket	Demand is likely to remain static for grass wickets for both junior and adult participation.	Sustain current pitch stock. Isolated pockets of demand for access to additional facilities where pitches are operating at capacity. A need to install non-turf wickets and encourage greater use for junior cricket.
	An increase in casual play, especially from South Asian communities.	Develop cricket within communities that more commonly play informal formats of the game.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
	The development of LMS in the area.	Installation of a new non-turf wicket pitch at a central location with adequate transport links.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Rugby union	<p>The RFU work towards achieving the stated outcomes of its National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017), the RFU National Women and Girls Strategy and the RFU National Male XV-a-side Strategy. Locally the RFU want to ensure access to pitches that satisfies the existing demand and predicted growth. Further, the RFU is aiming to protect and improve pitch quality plus that of ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights as current and future demand requires.</p>	<p>Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock, support facility development where appropriate and increase the number of floodlit pitches where necessary.</p>
	<p>The RFU investment strategy into AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. To achieve this, the RFU is keen to work locally with partners such as the Council and the FA to look at sites of mutual interest.</p>	<p>Consider requirement for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch given shortfalls identified on grass pitches and level of training demand on grass pitches.</p>
Hockey	<p>Current playing level is likely to increase with a 15% growth rate predicted by England Hockey.</p>	<p>Ensure continued use of at least 14 sand-based AGPs to accommodate current and future demand and ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey and revisit hockey demand when and if a conversion is proposed to ensure the subjected pitch is not required.</p>
	<p>High profile events (Hockey World Cup 2018)</p>	<p>These high profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England and there will be community events in the build-up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. This will inevitably raise the profile of the game with the aim to increase participation.</p>
	<p>Play Hockey</p>	<p>The launch of the Play Hockey website ensures that those wishing to play the game are able to find their local facility and club.</p>
Lacrosse	<p>More people participating in lacrosse more often and achieving excellence in lacrosse at all levels and therefore creating a higher profile for lacrosse.</p>	<p>Ensure current facilities are protected and encourage use of 3G pitches, where appropriate.</p>

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. Recommendation e below explains the hierarchy of priorities on the list. It is imperative that action plans for priority projects should be developed through the implementation of the strategy.

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide context i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport by sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Strategic hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
Type of sport	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.
Management	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/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Criteria	Strategic hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Ancillary facilities	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.	No changing room access on site or appropriate access to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).

Strategic sites are of Borough wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites (also known as hub sites) are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of community sports hubs at:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/sports_hubs.aspx

It may be appropriate to consider rationalization of some existing playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Strategic Sites) in order to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e). Identification of these potential sites should be carried out in partnership with the Steering Group and, in particular, the NGB for that particular sport.

Key centres although these sites are more community focused, some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); however, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e. a dedicated site.

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

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

Local sites refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. Primarily they are sites with one pitch or a low number of pitches that service just one sport. 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.

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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.

It is also 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. NGBs would expect the facility to be transferred in an adequate condition that the club can maintain. In the longer term, the Club should be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the facilities.

Management and development

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

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

Action plan columns

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions. Given the extent of potential actions it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all of the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to provide support. The Council is considered to a partner within each action so is therefore not referenced.

Site hierarchy tier

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

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The majority of Key centres are a **medium** priority and have analysis area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

Low priority sites tend to be single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

Costs

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

(L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above. These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at: www.sportengland.org/media/198443/facility-costs-4q13.pdf

Timescales

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CONGLETON ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ¹³	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	2	3.5	-	1.5	-	1	2.5
Youth pitches 11v11	2.5	1	-	1.5	-	2	0.5
Youth pitches 9v9	-	2	0.5	1.5	3	1.5	6
Mini pitches 7v7	4	-	-	4	1	2	1
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		2	3.5	5.5

- ✦ There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and a future shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ There is spare capacity on youth 11v11 pitches amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions currently, however, a future shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions is evident.
- ✦ There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ There is spare capacity on mini 7v7 pitches totalling four match equivalent sessions currently and one match equivalent session when accounting for future demand.
- ✦ Mini 5v5 pitches are currently played to capacity; however, a shortfall is evident when including future demand equating to 5.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ Overplay is evident on adult and youth 9v9 pitches at Back Lane and on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches at Congleton High School.
- ✦ There are 24 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ✦ Changing facilities servicing Congleton Road and Congleton High School are considered to be poor quality.
- ✦ There are 16 providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- ✦ There is current training demand for one full size 3G pitch in Alsager, two in Congleton, one in Holmes Chapel, one in Middlewich and two in Sandbach. This means a shortfall of one pitch in Alsager, Congleton and Sandbach, with demand being met in Middlewich and Holmes Chapel.
- ✦ A proposal is in place for the creation of a full size 3G pitch (as well as additional grass pitches) at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will address the shortfall in Alsager.

Recommendations

- ✦ Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- ✦ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.

¹³ In match equivalent sessions

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- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Congleton High School and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.
- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Identify potential sites to increase 3G pitch stock in Congleton and Sandbach.
- ◀ Ensure 3G development at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) is provided to a good quality and is made fully available/accessible to local clubs.
- ◀ Ensure all current 3G pitches have sinking funds in place for long-term sustainability and ensure all remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Further maximise usage of 3G pitches, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are 11 grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and two standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ Of the grass wicket squares, nine are rated as good quality, one (Mossley Cricket Club) as standard quality and one (Sandbach School) as poor quality.
- ◀ Sandbach CC expresses an aspiration for additional practice nets to be installed at its site, whereas Holmes Chapel CC reports a need for its existing nets to be improved.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists on four grass wicket squares, however, none are available for an increase in play at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ Alsager, Congleton, Elworth, Holmes Chapel and Sandbach cricket clubs are overplayed by ten, six, eight, three and 16 match equivalent sessions respectively.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 42 match equivalent sessions currently and 67 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at Sandbach School and Mossley Cricket Club and deliver improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Sandbach CC and Holmes Chapel CC in aspirations for training facility improvements.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Congleton, Holmes Chapel and Sandbach cricket clubs through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at the remaining sites through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure Elworth, Holmes Chapel and Rode Park & Lawton cricket clubs can fulfil their future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are 11 senior, three junior and three mini rugby union pitches available for community use.
- ◀ Back Lane, Congleton Park and Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre contain pitches assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Hankinson's Field (containing one senior pitch, an unmarked training area and other areas used for mini rugby) has been temporarily taken out of use as the site is required as an access point for the development of Congleton Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Holmes Chapel RUFC has only ten years remaining on its licence of Holmes Chapel Community Centre from Holmes Chapel Parish Council.
- ◀ Congleton RUFC reports a need for the changing facilities servicing Back Lane to be improved.
- ◀ Since production of the Assessment Report, the 3G pitch has undergone testing and is awaiting World Rugby approval. If approval is granted, the pitch can be used for full contact rugby union activity.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Back Lane, Sandbach Rugby Club and Congleton Park are overplayed by one, two and 0.5 match equivalent sessions respectively.
- ◀ There is an overall shortfall of two match equivalent sessions both currently and in the future.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance, particularly at poor quality and overplayed sites.
- ◀ Consider installation of additional floodlighting at Sandbach Rugby Club to spread out training demand and alleviate overplay of current training pitch.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unavailable pitches for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Ensure Hankinson's Field is re-provided following development of Congleton Leisure Centre or mitigate loss.
- ◀ Improve security of tenure for Holmes Chapel RUFC through providing a lease agreement (minimum 25 years).
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Back Lane to make them more rugby appropriate.
- ◀ Seek to maximise usage of the 3G pitch at Congleton High School should it achieve World Rugby approval.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs and all four are in current use by hockey clubs.
- ◀ Alsager Leisure Centre and Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) are assessed as poor quality, whereas Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College (girls) and Sandbach School (boys) are assessed as standard quality albeit over ten years old.
- ◀ Planning approval has been granted at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) that will involve replacing the existing sand-based AGP with a new sand-based AGP.
- ◀ The two hockey clubs in the Analysis Area (Triton HC and Sandbach HC) report that both their current and future demand can be accommodated on the current stock of pitches.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure all pitches are protected for hockey use.
- ◀ Ensure development at Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus) goes ahead and is provided to a good quality.
- ◀ Resurface Alsager Leisure Centre, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College (girls) and Sandbach School (boys) in the near future.
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place at all sites for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Pursue security of tenure for all clubs through community use agreements.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵
4	Alsager Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or transfer demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
5	Alsager Leisure Centre	Football	ESAR	One adult, two youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch all assessed as standard quality. One of the youth 11v11 pitches is over marked by the 9v9 pitch. Spare capacity exists across each pitch type, however, no actual spare capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality, pitch over markings and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA ESAR School	Key centre	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through community use agreements.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as poor quality. Available for community use but unused. Also unused by Alsager High School due its quality.	Replace NTP for curricular and extra-curricular use and consider as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Alsager Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.	ECB ESAR School		S	L
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Triton HC. Assessed as poor quality and not re-surfaced since 1995. No floodlighting is allowed on Sundays.	Refurbish AGP to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH ESAR School		S	M
					Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Ensure security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
6	Manchester Metropolitan University (Alsager Campus)	Football	University	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. A planning application has been approved that will include increased grass provision, a full size 3G pitch and a pavilion. The site previously contained as many as six adult pitches when the Campus was open to students. Minimal spare capacity on existing pitch is discounted due to development plans.	Ensure approved development provides good quality pitches and maximise usage.	FA Developers	Hub site	S	H
					Ensure quality is sustained through appropriate maintenance.			L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through community use agreements.			S	L
		Rugby union		Disused pitches that will not be replaced. Instead, funding will be directed towards providing maintenance equipment at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.	Ensure maintenance equipment is provided at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.	RFU Developers		S	L
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Triton HC. Assessed as poor quality. Will be re-provided as part of the development of the site together with a new pavilion.	Ensure AGP is re-provided to a good quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH Developers		S	M
					Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Ensure security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L

¹⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁶	Cost ¹⁷
11	Back Lane	Football	Council	Two adult, two youth 11v11, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch that are all assessed as poor quality. Adult pitches are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions; 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Remaining pitch types are played to capacity at peak time.	Implement quality improvements to alleviate overplay.	FA	Key centre	S	M
					If overplay cannot be alleviated, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L
					Explore options to limit damage caused by unofficial use.			S	L
		Rugby union		One senior pitch and one junior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0). Used by Congleton RUFC. Senior pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions; junior pitch is played to capacity. Serviced by changing facilities that are deemed unsuitable for rugby union purposes.	Improve pitch quality through improved maintenance and/or drainage to alleviate overplay.	RFU		S	L
					Improve changing facilities for rugby union purposes.			S	M
					Explore potential re-orientation of pitches to accommodate increased rugby provision without being detrimental to football activity.			S	L
15	Black Firs Primary School	Football	School	A 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and attract demand should it be necessary in the future.			S	L
19	Booth Street Stadium (Congleton Football Club)	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is suitable for Step 5 of the football pyramid.	Retain spare capacity to protect quality.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
					Ensure club has facilities that enable it to progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
21	Sandbach Rugby Club	Rugby union	Club	Five senior pitches, two junior pitches and three mini pitches. Two senior pitches are floodlit; two others have a drainage system installed (D2). All others are without floodlighting and have natural, adequate drainage (D1). All pitches are maintained to a good level (M2). One floodlit pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions whereas the other is played to capacity. Remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Reduce overplay through installing a drainage system on more of its pitches to increase pitch capacity.	RFU Club	Key centre	S	M
					To fully alleviate overplay, provide the Club with additional floodlighting either permanent or portable. This will allow training demand to spread across a greater number of pitches.			S	M
23	Congleton Park	Rugby union	Council	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0). Used by Congleton RUFC and overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality through improved maintenance and/or drainage to alleviate overplay.	RFU	Local site	S	L
24	Buglawton Primary School	Football	School	A 7v7 pitch that is assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L

¹⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁶	Cost ¹⁷
33	Congleton Sports and Social Club (Congleton Cricket Club)	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Overplayed by six match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or via the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
34	Congleton High School	Football	School	Two adult, two youth 11v11, two 9v9, two 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches all assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used. Both adult pitches are over marked by the 9v9 pitches and both youth 11v11 pitches are over marked by the mini pitches. Adult, youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 1.5, one and 1.5 match equivalent sessions respectively. Mini pitches are played to capacity at peak time. The changing provision servicing the pitches is considered to be poor quality.	Alleviate overplay through improving pitch quality to good.	FA School Club	Key centre	S	M
					Alternatively, transfer of some demand to sites with actual spare capacity whilst sustaining current quality.			S	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
					Support the School and Congleton Rovers FC in aspirations for changing room improvements.			M	M
		3G	A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and used for matches as well as training. Since production of the Assessment Report, it has undergone testing and is awaiting World Rugby approval. If approval is granted, the pitch can be used for full contact rugby union activity.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA School	L	L		
						Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.	L	L	
						Seek to maximise rugby union usage of the pitch should it achieve World Rugby approval, particularly in relation to Congleton RUFC.	S	L	
		Cricket	A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School	L	L		
Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Congleton Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.	S					L			
36	Cranage Playing Fields	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity. Used solely by youth 11v11 teams.	Consider pitch reconfiguration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.	FA	Local site	S	L
					Utilise spare capacity through future demand and/or the transfer of demand from overplayed pitches.			S	L
37	Cranberry Academy	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁸	Cost ¹⁹
43	Eaton Bank Academy	Football	School	Two youth 11v11, one 9v9 and seven 5v5 pitches all assessed as poor quality. Actual spare capacity on the 5v5 pitches is discounted due to quality issues. All remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality to sustain current usage and to provide actual spare capacity.	FA School	Key centre	S	M
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
		3G		The School has aspirations to provide a full size, floodlit 3G pitch.	Explore feasibility of developing the pitch given local shortfalls.	FA School		S	H
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Congleton Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.			S	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0) that is unavailable for community use.	Protect and improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		L	L
45	Elworth Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	Two good quality squares. One with 12 grass wickets and an NTP and one with four grass wickets. Combined, the grass wickets are overplayed by six match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or seek to transfer demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
					Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations through playing outside of the peak period or through transfer of play.			L	L
47	Forge Fields	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality and current usage through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity to cater for future demand and/or the transfer of demand from overplayed pitches.			S	L
49	Goostrey Playing Fields	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 pitch over marked by a 9v9 pitch and assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity discounted due to over markings.	Sustain quality, pitch over markings and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 45 x 35 metres.	Review community use potential and explore surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA		L	L

¹⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁰	Cost ²¹
53	Hankinson's Field	Rugby union	Council	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Used by Congleton RUFC and played to capacity. Unmarked areas surrounding the pitch are used for training and mini rugby. Site has been taken temporarily out of use for the development of Congleton Leisure Centre.	Ensure pitch and unmarked areas are re-provided following the development of Congleton Leisure Centre or mitigate loss.	RFU	Local site	S	L
					Explore quality improvements to increase capacity and to allow for increased use.			S	L
55	Hermitage Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community and used. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Puruse security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
56	Holmes Chapel Community Centre	Rugby union	Parish Council	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Used by Holmes Chapel RUFC in a licence agreement that has ten years remaining. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists.	Explore quality improvements to increase capacity and to allow for increased use.	RFU Parish	Local site	L	L
					Provide the Club with increased security of tenure via a lease agreement of at least 25 years.			S	L
					Explore options to provide floodlit provision.			M	M
57	Holmes Chapel Cricket Club	Football	Club	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that over marks the cricket outfield. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
		Cricket		A good quality square with nine grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are overplayed by three match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or transfer demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
					Improve quality of practice nets			S	L
Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations through playing outside of the peak period or through transfer of play.	L	L							

²⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²²	Cost ²³
58	Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre	Football	ESAR	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch assessed as standard quality. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance. Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.	FA ESAR	Key centre	L	L
								S	L
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2015 and assessed as good quality. Substantial spare capacity remains.	Explore options to maximise usage. Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play.	FA ESAR		L	L
								L	L
								L	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP was replaced by the 3G pitch.	Consider replacing NTP elsewhere if it is required to cater for school needs.	ECB ESAR		S	L
		Rugby union		Two senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0). Available to the community, however, unused.	Protect and improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use. Explore opportunities for the site to accommodate Holmes Chapel RUFC should Holmes Chapel Community Centre ever reach capacity. If a lease agreement is put into place for use by Holmes Chapel RUFC, explore installation of floodlighting that could be dually used for extra-curricular activity.	RFU ESAR		S	L
								L	L
								L	M
		59		Holmes Chapel Primary School	Football	School		One youth 11v11 and one 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used. Youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity; 7v7 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance. Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.
S	L								
82	Middlewich Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 18 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 26 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L

²² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵
83	Middlewich Leisure Centre	Football	ESAR	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Played to capacity, solely by youth 11v11 teams. One pitch is a dual use rugby union pitch. Unofficial use recorded despite the site being fenced off.	Sustain quality, pitch over markings and current usage levels through appropriate maintenance.	FA ESAR School	Key centre	L	L
					Consider pitch re-configuration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
					Provide a resolution to unofficial use.			S	L
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2012 and assessed as standard quality.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA ESAR School		L	L
					Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			L	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Unavailable for community use due to dual use football pitch.	Protect and sustain quality for continued curricular and extra-curricular use and ensure maintenance is appropriate to sustain over markings.	RFU ESAR School		L	L
84	Middlewich Town Football Club	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is suitable for Step 7 football.	Retain minimal actual spare capacity to protect quality.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
					Ensure club has facilities that enable it to progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
					Consider the Club's ambitions to acquire Sutton Lane.			S	L
		3G		A floodlit, smaller size 3G pitch measuring 55 x 30 metres. Available for community use and well used, particularly by the hosting club.	Retain for continued community use.	FA Club		L	L

²⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁶	Cost ²⁷
86	Milton Park	Football	Council	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of a youth 11v11 team from an adult pitch.			S	L
96	Offley Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
99	Pikemere School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine community needs/demand.	FA School	Local site	L	L
107	Sandbach Community Football Centre	Football	Club	Five adult, two youth 11v11 and three 9v9 pitches all assessed as good quality. One of the adult pitches is over marked by one of the 9v9 pitches. One of the adult pitches is suitable for Step 7 football. All pitches are played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and ensure no additional play takes place above current demand.	FA Club	Hub site	L	L
					Ensure site has facilities that enable Sandbach United FC to progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
					Support the Club in site development aspirations.			S	M
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2012 and assessed as standard quality.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA Club		L	L
					Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			L	L
					Consider the Club's aspirations for a second 3G pitch to be installed given shortfalls within Sandbach and given that the pitch is operating at capacity.			M	H
108	Sandbach Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 14 grass wickets. Overplayed by 16 match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or via the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
					Consider aspirations for additional practice nets to be installed.			S	L
109	Sandbach High and Sixth Form College (Girls)	Sand AGP (Hockey)	School	A full size, sand-based AGP that is without floodlighting. Used by Sandbach HC for match play. Assessed as standard quality albeit the surface is over ten years old (2004).	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School	Local site	M	M
					Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Ensure security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L

²⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁶	Cost ²⁷				
110	Sandbach School (Boys)	Football	School	One adult and one youth 11v11 assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused. Both pitches are dual use rugby union pitches.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use options given local shortfalls.	FA School	Key centre	S	L				
		Cricket		One good quality square with ten grass wickets and one poor quality square with six grass wickets. Available to the community and used. Overall spare capacity amounting to 40 match equivalent sessions exists and actual spare capacity equating to one square exists although this is discounted to take into account school use. Pavilion is considered to be unsuitable for cricket.	Sustain good quality square and improve poor quality square through drainage improvements.	ECB School		L	L				
				Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of increased demand from Sandbach Cricket Club and/or Elworth Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.	S			L					
				Explore potential improvements to the pavilion to make it cricket appropriate.	M			L					
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Sandbach HC, mostly for training purposes. Assessed as standard quality albeit the surface is over ten years old (2003).	Refurbish to improve quality and retain as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School		M	M				
					Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L				
					Ensure security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L				
		Rugby union		Four senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Unavailable for community use due to heavy school usage. Two of the pitches are dual use football pitches.	Protect and sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L				
		121		Sutton Lane	Football	Council		One adult pitch assessed as poor quality. Now unused following the onsite clubhouse being condemned. Previously contained multiple pitches.	Improve pitch quality and maximise usage through future demand and the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.	FA	Local site	S	M
									Improve changing rooms to bring them back into use.			S	M
Consider Middlewich Town FC's aspiration to acquire the site to enable funding to be secured for above improvements.	S		L										

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁸	Cost ²⁹
122	Terra Nova School	Football	School	One youth 11v11, one 9v9 and two 7v7 pitches that are available for community use and used. Youth 11v11 pitch has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity; 7v7 pitches have 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. The 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through future demand.			L	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 80 x 45 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School	L	L	
145	Wood Park	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through future demand or through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.			L	L
146	Wood Park (Alsager Town Football Club)	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is suitable for Step 6 football.	Retain spare capacity to protect pitch quality.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
					Ensure pitch enables the Club to progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
					Support the Club in its aspirations to build a new stand.			S	H
					Explore options to return exported demand.			S	L
157	Mossley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with ten grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are at capacity.	Review quality issues and provide improvements where possible.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Ensure any increased demand takes place away from the grass wickets to avoid overplay or ensure maintenance is appropriate to sustain resultant overplay.			L	L
160	Rode Park and Lawton Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 16 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to six match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations through playing outside of the peak period or through transfer of play.			L	L
167	Alsager Highfields Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
169	Astbury St Mary's CE Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

²⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁸	Cost ²⁹
174	Brereton Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
179	Cledford Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L
180	Daven Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
183	Elworth Hall Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
184	Elworth Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
185	Excalibur Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
186	Goostrey Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
188	Havannah Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
198	Marlfields Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches that are available for community use and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session remains.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
199	Middlewich Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches that are available for community use and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session remains.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
202	Mossley CE Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
208	Rode Heath Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
209	Sandbach Community Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
210	Scholar Green Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁰	Cost ³¹
212	Smallwood Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular needs.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Explore options of transferring demand to the site from overplayed sites or transferring exported demand.			S	L
218	St Gabriel's Catholic Primary	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L
219	St John's Primary School (Sandbach)	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
220	St Mary's Primary School (Congleton)	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
222	St Mary's Primary School (Middlewich)	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community and used. Played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
229	The Quinta Academy	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
236	Wheelock Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
239	Woodcocks Well CE Primary	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L

³⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CREWE ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary of current and future demand football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ³²	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	1	2.5	-	1.5	-	0.5	2
Youth pitches 11v11	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Youth pitches 9v9	-	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	1
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-		-	-	
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		-	1.5	1.5

- There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and a future shortfall of two match equivalent sessions.
- There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- There is a current shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of one match equivalent session.
- Mini 7v7 pitches are considered to be at capacity both currently and when accounting for future demand.
- Mini 5v5 pitches are currently played to capacity; however, a shortfall is evident when including future demand equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Overplay is evident on adult pitches at Legends Health and Leisure Centre, Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre and Willaston White Star Football Club as well on a youth 11v11 pitch at the Peacock Sports Ground.
- There are 14 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Changing facilities servicing Audlem Playing Fields are considered to be poor quality.
- There are 15 providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- There is current training demand for three full size 3G pitches, of which, there are currently two (Alexandra Soccer Centre and Cumberland Arena).
- The 3G pitch at Cumberland Arena is regularly used for match play despite not being on the FA register.

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Improve changing facilities at Audlem Playing Fields and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.

³² In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Identify potential sites to increase 3G pitch stock.
- ◀ Ensure quality of the 3G pitch at Cumberland Area is improved (via resurfacing, as planned in the summer) so that it can pass FA testing or ensure match play demand is transferred away from the site.
- ◀ Ensure that the 3G pitch at Alexandra Soccer Centre has a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and ensure that it remains on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Maximise usage of 3G pitches, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are three grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and four standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ All of the grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Weston CC is exploring the development of a secondary square, however, no formal plan is in place.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at Weston Cricket Club, however, this is not available for an increase in play at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ Haslington Cricket Club is overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions and Wistaston Cricket Club is overplayed by four match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 11 match equivalent sessions both currently and in the future.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain quality of grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Weston CC in its aspiration to develop a secondary square given its lack of peak time capacity on its existing square.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Haslington Cricket Club through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Wistaston Cricket Club through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ◀ Explore creation of an LMS venue at a strategically suitable location.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There is one senior pitch available to the community use (Sir William Stanier School) and one pitch unavailable for community use (St Thomas More Catholic High School).
- ◀ Both pitches are assessed as poor quality.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ No demand exists from the community as no clubs play in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and improve quality where possible.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs although neither are in current use for hockey purposes.
- ◀ Shavington Leisure Centre is assessed as poor quality and is deemed unsuitable for hockey, whereas South Cheshire College is assessed as good quality but is without floodlighting due to nearby housing.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore resurfacing Shavington Leisure Centre to provide a possible secondary venue for Crewe Vagrants HC given lack of capacity at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club (see Nantwich Analysis Area).
- ◀ Retain South Cheshire College for curricular use.
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place at both sites for long-term sustainability.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³³	Cost ³⁴
2	Alexandra Soccer Centre	3G	Club	A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community and a smaller sized (50 x 44 metres) 3G pitch that is also floodlit and available to the community. The full size pitch is FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2007 and assessed as standard quality.	Provide imminent resurfacing given that the pitches are nearing the end of their lifespans.	FA Club	Key centre	M	M
					Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Administer FA testing of full size pitch every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			L	L
14	Beechwood Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L
39	Cumberland Arena	Football	Council	A good quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. Suitable for Step 7 football.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key centre	L	L
					Ensure Crewe FC can progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. Well used for matches despite not being FA approved. Installed in 2002 and assessed as standard quality. The surface will be refurbished in the summer.	Ensure resurfacing does ahead to sustain usage and improve quality.	FA		S	M
					If resurfacing does not take place, ensure all match play demand transfers away from the pitch.			S	L
					If resurfacing does take place, administer immediate FA testing so that the pitch becomes suitable to host matches and explore options to maximise match play usage.			S	L
Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	L	L							
51	Haslington Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 13 grass wickets. Overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or via the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
52	Haslington Playing Fields	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. The site previously contained a second pitch but that is no longer the case.	Improve quality to increase capacity and to provide some actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
60	Hungerford Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L

³³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁵	Cost ³⁶
65	King George V Playing Field	Football	Council	Four standard quality adult pitches with one match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Recent pitch renovations have improved quality as well as a changing facility refurbishment.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Hub site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	L
					Ensure quality of changing rooms is maintained.			L	L
		Cricket		No current cricket provision; however, the site is identified as an ideal location for an LMS venue.	Consider installation of a standalone NTP that can be used to host an LMS franchise.	ECB		M	L
71	Legends Health and Leisure Centre	Football	Private	Two standard quality adult pitches that are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity (e.g. King George V Playing Fields).	FA	Local site	S	L
76	Manchester Metropolitan University (Cheshire Sports Centre)	3G	University	A floodlit, smaller sized 3G pitch measuring 55 x 40 metres that is available for community use. The Campus is subjected to closure plans.	Review impact of the loss of the pitch should the Campus close.	FA University	Local site	M	L
106	Ruskin Community High School	Football	School	One adult and two youth 11v11 pitches assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch is used to capacity by the community whereas the youth 11v11 pitches are unused despite being available.	Sustain quality of adult pitch through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Utilise spare capacity of the youth 11v11 pitches via transferring youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches at other sites.			S	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as poor quality. Unavailable for community use.	Replace NTP for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		S	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 78 x 40 metres. Well used for football training purposes.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School		L	L
111	Shavington Academy	Football	School	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of demand from overplayed sites.			S	I

³⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁷	Cost ³⁸
112	Shavington Leisure Centre	Hockey	ESAR	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is unsuitable for hockey due to its poor quality. Last resurfaced in 2004. Well used for football but unlikely to be suitable for 3G given close proximity of the Alexandra Soccer Centre.	Resurface pitch to improve quality and explore potential of it providing a secondary venue for Crewe Vagrants HC.	EH ESAR	Local site	S	M
					Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
113	Sir William Stanier Leisure Centre	Football	ESAR	One adult pitch and three youth 11v11 pitches assessed as poor quality. Available to the community and used. Adult pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions; youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity. Adult pitch is a dual use rugby union pitch.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity (e.g. King George V Playing Fields).	FA School	Key centre	S	M
					Secure tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that was replaced when the School was re-built.	Consider replacing NTP if it is required for school needs.	ECB School		S	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with poor maintenance (M0) and natural, adequate maintenance (D1). Available to the community but unused. Dual use football pitch.	Protect and implement maintenance improvements for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		S	L
					Secure tenure for users through a community use agreement.			L	L
Sand AGP	A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 55 x 35 metres. Well used for football training purposes.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA ESAR	L	L				
114	South Cheshire College	Football	College	A good quality adult pitch that is available to the community and used.	Retain minimal spare capacity to protect quality.	FA College	Local site	L	L
		Sand AGP		A full size, sand-based AGP that is without floodlighting due to nearby housing. Unused for hockey. Built in 2011 and assessed as good quality. Considered unsuitable for 3G due to lack of floodlighting.	Protect for curricular and extra-curricular use and encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.	EH College		L	L

³⁷ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁹	Cost ⁴⁰
119	St Thomas More Catholic High School	Football	School	One and one youth 11v11 pitch assessed as standard quality. Adult pitch is a dual use rugby union pitch. Adult pitch is available to the community but unused; youth 11v11 pitch is unavailable to the community.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.			S	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate maintenance (D0). Available to the community but unused. Dual use football pitch.	Protect and implement quality improvements for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		S	L
123	The Berkeley Academy	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine external demand.	FA School	Local site	S	L
129	The Oaks Academy	Football	School	One youth 11v11, two 9v9 and two 5v5 pitches assessed as poor quality. Youth 11v11 pitch is available to the community but unused; remaining pitches are unavailable to the community. One of the 9v9 pitches is over marked by a 5v5 pitch.	Improve quality through improved drainage for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and then re-examine community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	M
									L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		S	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.			L	L
Sand AGP	A smaller sized sand-based AGP measuring 85 x 30 metres that is not floodlit.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School						
130	The Peacock Sports Ground	Football	Council	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both assessed as poor quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity whereas the youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
135	Weston Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 14 grass wickets and an NTP. Overall spare capacity amounting to 14 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Support the Club in its aspiration to develop a second square given its lack of peak time capacity.			M	M

³⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁹	Cost ⁴⁰
139	Willaston White Star Football Club	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. A 9v9 pitch is marked out within its perimeter via the use of cones.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA Club	Local site	S	L
					Alternatively, provide a permanent resolution to prevent a 9v9 pitch being marked out unofficially, which in turn will alleviate overplay of the adult pitch.			S	L
142	Wilmslow Leisure Centre	Sand AGP	ESAR	A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 25 x 20 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA ESAR	Local site	L	L
144	Eric Swan Sports Ground	Football	Community	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Ensure no additional demand is accommodated to avoid overplay unless quality improvements are made to increase capacity.			L	L
		Cricket	A good quality square with ten grass wickets and an NTP. Overplayed by four match equivalent sessions. Used by Wisaston CC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	L		L	
				Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or transfer demand to sites with spare capacity.		S		L	
149	Wistaston Church Lane Primary School	Football	School	One 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
150	Crewe Alexandra Football Club	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch used for professional football.	No action required.	Club	Local site	-	-
187	Haslington Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
193	Leighton Academy	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
196	Mablins Lane Community Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
201	Monks Coppenhall Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
205	Pebble Brook Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
211	Shavington Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
221	St Mary's Primary School (Crewe)	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁹	Cost ⁴⁰
223	St Michael's Community Academy	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
228	The Dingle Primary	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
232	Vine Tree Primary School	Football	School	One 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
235	Weston Village Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
237	Willaston Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
238	Wistaston Green Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
245	Cumberland Arena (Razzer)	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues. Used solely by a youth 11v11 team.	Improve quality to increase capacity and to provide actual spare capacity, then maximise usage through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.	FA	Local site	S	L
					Consider pitch reconfiguration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			S	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

KNUTSFORD ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ⁴¹	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	0.5	1.5	-	1	-	-	1
Youth pitches 11v11	-	3	-	3	1	0.5	4.5
Youth pitches 9v9	-	2.5	-	2.5	0.5	-	3
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-		-	-	
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		-	-	

- ◀ There is a current shortfall of one match equivalent session on adult pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of three match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches a future shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of three match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types are considered to be at capacity both currently and when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ Overplay is evident on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches at Egerton Youth Club.
- ◀ There are six youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ Egerton Youth Club has planning permission to develop five additional grass pitches on land adjacent to its current site.
- ◀ Changing facilities servicing Manchester Road and Mary Dendy Playing Fields are considered to be poor quality.
- ◀ There is one provider (Little Bollington Primary School) that does not allow for community use of its pitches.
- ◀ Training demand for one full size 3G pitch is being met (Egerton Youth Club).

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- ◀ Support Egerton Youth Club in its aspirations to provide additional pitches to fully alleviate overplay.
- ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Manchester Road and Mary Dendy Playing Fields and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.
- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.

⁴¹ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Ensure that the 3G pitch at Egerton Youth Club has a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and ensure that it remains on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Maximise usage, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are eight grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and no standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ Rostherne Cricket Club is assessed as standard quality; all other grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Knutsford Academy intends to supply a grass wicket square that will be available for community use should it acquire adjacent land as planned.
- ◀ Toft CC is exploring the development of a secondary square.
- ◀ Over Peover CC is without security of tenure as it currently rents its square on a rolling annual basis from a local landowner.
- ◀ The clubhouse at Mere Cricket Club is considered too small and poor quality.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists on four squares, however, only the Mere Cricket Club has actual spare capacity for an increase in demand at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ Toft Cricket Club is overplayed by 14 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to eight match equivalent sessions currently and 20 match equivalent sessions in the future.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at Rostherne Cricket Club and provide improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Knutsford Academy in its aspiration to create a grass wicket square and maximise community usage if provision is provided.
- ◀ Support Toft CC in its aspiration to develop a secondary square given expressed overplay and its lack of peak time capacity on its existing square.
- ◀ Provide Over Peover CC with greater security of tenure.
- ◀ Support clubhouse improvements at Mere Cricket Club.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Toft Cricket Club through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.
- ◀ Ensure Mobberley CC can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There is one senior and one junior pitch available for community use, both of which are located at Knutsford Academy (lower).
- ◀ Both pitches are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ The School has an aspiration to acquire adjacent land to increase its stock of pitches.
- ◀ Knutsford RUFC uses the pitches, however, no security of tenure is provided as no community use agreement is in place.
- ◀ The Club reports an aspiration for its own clubhouse to be provided in closer proximity to the pitches.
- ◀ The senior pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions whereas the junior pitch is overplay by two match equivalents.

Recommendations

- ◀ Provide Knutsford RUFC with security of tenure through a long-term lease agreement (minimum 25 years).
- ◀ If the above happens, support the School in its aspiration to purchase additional land for development than can be used to provide additional pitches to fully alleviate shortfalls and overplay and a clubhouse for use by Knutsford RUFC.
- ◀ Improve quality of existing pitches at Knutsford Academy to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There is one full size hockey suitable AGP (Knutsford Leisure Centre).
- ◀ The pitch is poor quality and is beyond its recommended lifespan on account of not being resurfaced since 2003.
- ◀ Knutsford HC reports that all of its current and future demand can be accommodated on the pitch.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect Knutsford Leisure Centre as a hockey suitable surface.
- ◀ Resurface the pitch imminently to sustain usage.
- ◀ Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for Knutsford HC through a community use agreement.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴²	Cost ⁴³	
8	Ashley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 16 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to four match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	
					Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or via the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L	
20	Toft Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 14 grass wickets. Overplayed by 14 match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	
					Support club in its aspirations to develop a second square to alleviate overplay and consider installation of an NTP in situ.			S	M	
32	Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca)	Football	Private	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. In addition, a mini 7v7 pitch is marked out with cones. Planning approval has been granted for replacement pitches.	Ensure approved development provides good quality pitches and seek to sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA		M	M	
					Explore feasibility of supplying 3G provision.			M	M	
		Cricket		A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 20 match equivalent sessions exists, however, none is available at peak time. Lindow CC is acquiring the square.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		Local site	L	L
					Support Lindow CC and ensure security of tenure is provided.			L	L	
		Encourage implementation of feasibility study findings.		M	L					
44	Egerton Youth Club	Football	Club	One adult, three youth 11v11, one 9v9 and four 7v7 pitches assessed as standard quality. Two of the youth 11v11 pitches are both over marked by two 7v7 pitches. Adult pitch is played to capacity, youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by three match equivalent sessions and the 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions. Actual spare capacity is discounted on the 7v7 pitches due to aforementioned over markings. Adult pitch is suitable for Step 7 football.	Support the Club in its plans to develop additional pitches to alleviate overplay of current stock.	FA Club	Key centre	S	H	
					If the above does not happen, alleviate overplay through improving pitch quality or through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	M	
					Ensure club can progress through the football pyramid.					
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2010 and assessed as standard quality.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA Club		L	L	
Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.	L		L							
66	Knutsford Academy (upper)	Football	School	Two poor quality pitches that are available to the community but unused. Played to capacity through school use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity and ensure no external demand takes place beforehand to avoid overplay.	FA School	Local site	S	L	

⁴² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴²	Cost ⁴³
67	Knutsford Leisure Centre	Sand AGP (Hockey)	ESAR	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Knutsford HC. Last resurfaced in 2003 and assessed as poor quality.	Refurbish AGP to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH ESAR	Local site	S	M
					Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
68	Knutsford Sports Club (Knutsford Cricket Club)	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 15 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 17 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
77	Manchester Road	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. The changing facilities on site are considered to be poor quality.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.			S	L
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M
80	Mary Dendy Playing Fields	Football	Council	Three poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Key centre	S	M
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M
87	Mobberley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 16 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 20 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations through playing outside of the peak period or through transfer of play.			L	L
94	Nuffield Fitness and Wellbeing Centre	Football	Commercial	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Ensure no additional demand takes place without quality improvements to avoid overplay.			L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.			S	L
		Sand AGP	A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 30 x 20 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA	L	L		
98	Peover Superior Endowed Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
118	St John's Wood Community School	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch. Available to the community and used to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Ensure no additional demand takes place without quality improvements to avoid overplay.			L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users via community use agreements.			S	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴⁴	Cost ⁴⁵
156	Mere Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to six match equivalent sessions exists and actual spare capacity equating to 0.5 squares exists at peak time. The clubhouse is considered to be poor quality.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Explore possibilities of spare capacity being used to alleviate overplay at other sites.			S	L
					Support club in efforts to improve clubhouse.			S	M
158	Over Peover Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 30 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. No security of tenure is provided.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Provide the Club with greater security of tenure.			S	L
161	Rostherne Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with eight grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 18 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Review quality issues and provide improvements where possible.	ECB Club	Local site	S	L
194	Little Bollington Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
197	Manor Park Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality 7v7 pitches that are available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
203	Nether Alderley Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L

⁴⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴⁶	Cost ⁴⁷
243	Knutsford Academy (lower)	Football	School	A youth 11v11 and a 9v9 pitch both assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and maximise usage through future demand and/or the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.			S	L
		Cricket		The School intends to supply a grass wicket square that will be available for community use should it acquire adjacent land, as planned.	Support the School in its aspirations to supply a square given local shortfalls and maximise usage, possibly via Mere CC.	ECB School		M	M
		Rugby union		A senior pitch and a junior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Used by Knutsford RUFC. Senior pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions; junior pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.	Reduce overplay through quality improvements via improved maintenance and/or the installation of a drainage system.	RFU School		S	M
					Provide security of tenure to Knutsford RUFC via a lease agreement (minimum 25 years).			S	H
					If the above occurs, support the School in its aspirations to purchase additional land so that it can develop additional pitches.			L	L
					Support the Club in its aspiration to develop a clubhouse as part of the School's purchase of additional land.			S	M

⁴⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

MACCLESFIELD ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ⁴⁸	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	1	2.5	0.5	2	-	1	3
Youth pitches 11v11	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Youth pitches 9v9	0.5	3	-	2.5	-	-	2.5
Mini pitches 7v7	2	1.5	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		-	1	1

- There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and a future shortfall of three match equivalent sessions.
- There is a current shortfall of one match equivalent session on youth 11v11 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- There is a current shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- Minimal spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists both currently and in the future on mini 7v7 pitches.
- Mini 5v5 pitches are currently played to capacity; however, a shortfall is evident when including future demand equating to one match equivalent session.
- Overplay is evident on adult pitches at King George V Playing Field and Bollington Cross Playing Field, on youth 11v11 pitches at All Hallows Catholic College, on youth 9v9 pitches at Christ the King Primary School, Jasmine Park and St Alban's Catholic Primary School and also on a 7v7 pitch at the latter.
- There are nine youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Changing facilities servicing Bollington Recreation Ground are considered to be poor quality.
- There are nine providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- There is current training demand for two full size 3G pitches, of which, there is currently one (All Hallows Catholic College).

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- Transfer play from Bollington Recreation Ground to fully alleviate overplay.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Improve changing facilities at Bollington Recreation Ground and Congleton Road and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.

⁴⁸ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Identify potential sites to increase 3G pitch stock.
- ◀ Ensure the 3G pitch at All Hallows Catholic College has a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and ensure it remains on the FA register to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Further maximise usage, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are nine grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and five standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ Chelford Cricket Club and Kerridge Cricket Club as well as squares at the King's School (Fence Avenue and Westminster Road) are assessed as standard quality; all other grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ The King's School plans to sell both its Westminster Road site and its Fence Avenue site and this will result in the loss of cricket provision.
- ◀ Chelford CC is without security of tenure as it currently rents its square on a rolling annual basis from a local landowner.
- ◀ Macclesfield CC reports that the clubhouse provision servicing its second square requires renovation.
- ◀ Chelford CC is without practice nets.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at Kerridge, Chelford and Pott Shrigley cricket clubs, however, only the former has actual spare capacity for an increase in demand at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ Bollington, Macclesfield and Langley cricket clubs are overplayed by three, 23 and five match equivalent sessions respectively.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to nine match equivalent sessions both currently and in the future.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at Chelford Cricket Club and Kerridge Cricket Club and provide improvements where possible.
- ◀ Ensure demand received at the King's School remains provided for when provision is lost.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Provide Chelford CC with greater security of tenure and explore options to provide the Club with training provision.
- ◀ Support clubhouse improvements at Macclesfield Cricket Club.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Bollington Cricket Club and Langley Cricket Club through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Macclesfield Cricket Club through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ◀ Explore creation of an LMS venue at a strategically suitable location.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are no rugby union pitches available for community use and three senior and two junior pitches unavailable for community use.
- ◀ No community demand exists for access to the pitches as no clubs are based in the Analysis Area (Macclesfield Rugby Club is based in the Poynton Analysis Area).
- ◀ All pitches unavailable for the community are located within schools and are assessed as standard or poor quality.
- ◀ Existing junior pitches at the King's School (Fence Avenue and Westminster Road) will be lost as part of plans to provide five additional rugby union pitches at Derby Fields (see Poynton Analysis Area)

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure rugby demand expressed by the King's School remains provided for following development plans.
- ◀ Retain remaining pitches for curricular and extra-curricular use and provide quality improvements, where possible.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs.
- ◀ Fallibroome Academy is in use by Alderley Edge HC, Tytherington High School is in use by Macclesfield HC, and the King's School (Westminster Road) is in use by Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs.
- ◀ The Macclesfield Academy is not in use for hockey purposes and it does not provide hockey goals.
- ◀ The King's School (Westminster Road) is assessed as good quality, Fallibroome Academy and Tytherington High School are assessed as standard quality and the Macclesfield Academy is assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ The King's School has planning approval to provide two full size, floodlit, sand-based AGPs (in replacement of its current pitch) as part of its consolidation to Derby Fields (Poynton Analysis Area).
- ◀ Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs report that they cannot accommodate all of their future demand on pitches currently used.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect Fallibroome Academy and Tytherington High School for continued hockey use.
- ◀ Explore options to resurface the Macclesfield Academy to solve quality issues and explore possibilities of the pitch providing a secondary venue to accommodate demand from Alderley Edge, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs that cannot be accommodated on pitches currently used.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Alternatively, consider viability of converting the pitch to 3G providing it is agreed upon by England Hockey and is not detrimental to any hockey clubs.
- ◀ Ensure clubs continue to be provided for at the King's School (Derby Fields) after the loss of the Westminster Road (see Poynton Analysis Area).
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for clubs through a community use agreement.

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴⁹	Cost ⁵⁰
7	Ash Grove Academy	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
13	Beech Hall School	Football	School	A poor quality adult pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then explore community demand to utilise resultant actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	S	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 30 x 20 metres. Unavailable to the community.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School		L	L
16	Bollington Cross (Atax)	Football	Council	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Ensure no additional demand takes place without quality improvements to avoid overplay.			L	L
17	Bollington Cross Playing Field	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Used solely by youth 11v11 teams.	Transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity to alleviate overplay.	FA	Local site	S	L
					Consider pitch re-configuration to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand.			S	L
18	Bollington Recreation Ground	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by a poor quality changing facility.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and provide a resolution to drainage issues.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Explore options to improve changing facility.			M	M
		Cricket		A good quality square with 12 grass wickets. Overplayed by three match equivalent sessions. Used by Bollington CC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L
					Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L
35	Congleton Road	Football	Council	Two adult, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity exists on each pitch type. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key Centre	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	L
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M

⁴⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵¹	Cost ⁵²
46	Fallibroome Academy	Football	School	Two poor quality adult pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and then explore community use aspects to utilise resultant spare capacity.	FA School	Key centre	S	L
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Alderley Edge HC. Assessed as standard quality albeit over ten years old (2005).	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School		M	M
					Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Ensure security of tenure through a community use agreement.			S	L
63	Kerridge Cricket Club	Football	Club	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to over marking cricket outfield.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
		Cricket		A standard quality square with 12 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to 22 match equivalent sessions exists and actual spare capacity equating to 0.5 squares exists at peak time.	Review quality issues and provide improvements where possible.	ECB Club		S	L
					Explore utilisation of actual spare capacity to alleviate overplay at other sites.			S	L
64	King George V Playing Field	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
74	Macclesfield Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	Two good quality squares, one with 11 grass wickets and an NTP and one with eight grass wickets and an NTP. The grass wickets are overplayed by a combined 23 match equivalent sessions. The clubhouse servicing the second square requires renovation.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTPs or through the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
					Support clubhouse improvements on second square.			S	L
79	Marlborough Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
88	Moss Rose Stadium	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is used for professional football.	No action required.	Club	Local site	-	-
97	Parkroyal Community School	Sand AGP	School	A smaller sized, sand-based AGP measuring 40 x 30 metres. Neither floodlit nor available to the community.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School	Local site	L	L

⁵¹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵² (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵³	Cost ⁵⁴
125	The King's School (Westminster Road)	Football	School	Two standard quality 9v9 pitches that are unavailable for community use. Pitches will be lost as part of the School's development plans to relocate to Derby Fields and dispose of the site for housing.	Ensure the School's footballing needs remain provided for once provision is lost.	FA School	Local site	L	L
		Cricket		Two standard quality squares, one with nine grass wickets and one with six grass wickets. The outdoor provision will be lost as part of the School's development plans but will be replaced by an indoor cricket facility.	Ensure the School's cricketing needs remain provided for once provision is lost.	ECB School		L	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate maintenance (D1). Unavailable for community use. The pitch will be lost as part of the School's wider development plans, with additional pitches supplied at Derby Fields.	Ensure the School's needs continue to be met after the loss of the pitches and the development of Derby fields.	RFU School		L	L
					Explore partnership with Macclesfield RUFC.			S	L
	Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by three hockey clubs. The pitch will be lost as part of the School's wider development plans, with two full size, floodlit, sand-based AGPs being provided at Derby Fields instead.	Ensure clubs remain provided for at Derby Fields once the development goes ahead.	EH School	S	L		
127	The King's School (Fence Avenue)	Football	School	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches that are unavailable for community use. Pitches will be lost as part of the School's development plans to relocate to Derby Fields and dispose of the site for housing.	Ensure the School's footballing needs remain provided for once provision is lost.	FA School	Local site	L	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. The provision will be lost as part of the School's development plans.	Ensure the School's cricketing needs remain provided for once provision is lost.	ECB School		L	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate maintenance (D1). Unavailable for community use. The pitch will be lost as part of the School's wider development plans, with additional pitches supplied at Derby Fields.	Ensure the School's needs continue to be met after the loss of the pitches and the development of Derby fields.	RFU School		L	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, sand-based AGP measuring 80 x 45 metres. Neither available to the community nor floodlit. The pitch will be lost as part of the School's redevelopment plans.	Ensure development goes ahead at Derby Fields to offset the loss.	EH School		S	L

⁵³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁵	Cost ⁵⁶
128	The Macclesfield Academy	Football	School	One adult, two youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch that are available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity existing on the adult and youth 11v11 pitches whereas the 9v9 pitch is played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.			L	L
					Ensure security of tenure for users via community use agreements.			S	L
		Sand AGP		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is not used for hockey. No hockey goals provided. Last resurfaced in 1990 and assessed as poor quality.	Potentially resurface pitch to improve quality and explore potential of it providing a secondary venue for Macclesfield, Wilmslow and Alderley Edge hockey clubs.	EH FA School		S	M
					If the above occurs, provide hockey goals.			S	L
					If the above does not occur, consider suitability for a 3G surface provided that it is agreed upon by England Hockey and is not detrimental to any hockey clubs.			S	H
Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.	L	L							
132	Tytherington Pitches	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists on the youth 11v11 pitch; the 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Utilise actual spare capacity on the youth 11v11 pitch through the transfer of play from overplayed sites to through future demand.			L	L
134	Victoria Park	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Improve quality to retain current usage levels.	FA	Local site	S	L
136	Weston Playing Field	Football	Council	An adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
					Consider pitch re-configuration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			S	L
138	Whirley Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available to the community and used.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure to users through a community use agreement.			S	L

⁵⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁷	Cost ⁵⁸
151	All Hallows Catholic College	Football	School	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are available to the community and used. Overplayed by one match equivalent session.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity (or to the onsite 3G).	FA School	Key centre	S	L
					Pursue security of tenure to users through a community use agreement.			S	L
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2014 and assessed as good quality.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA School		L	L
					Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			L	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as poor quality. Unavailable for community use.	Replace NTP for curricular and extra-curricular purposes.	ECB School		S	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.			S	L
152	Chelford Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	A standard quality square with ten grass wickets and an NTP. Overall spare capacity amounting to 14 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. No security of tenure is provided. No practice nets.	Review quality issues and provide improvements where possible.	ECB Club	Local site	S	L
					Provide the Club with greater security of tenure.			S	L
					Explore options to better cater for the Club's training needs.			S	L
153	Langley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 11 grass wickets and an NTP. Overplayed by five match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTPs or through the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
155	Marton Primary School	Cricket	School	A standalone NTP that is assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School	Local site	L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.			L	L

⁵⁷ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁹	Cost ⁶⁰
162	Tytherington High School	Football	School	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is available to the community and used. Played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Provide security of tenure to users through a community use agreement.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular purposes	ECB School		L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from overplayed sites.			S	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate maintenance (D0). Unavailable for community use.	Protect and provide quality improvements for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		S	L
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Macclesfield HC. Assessed as standard quality. Resurfaced in 2007 and therefore coming to the end of its lifespan.	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School		M	M
					Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Ensure security of tenure through a community use agreement.			S	L
172	Bollinbrook Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
173	Bollington St John's Primary School	Football	School	A 5v5 pitch that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity and to retain current usage.	FA School	Local site	S	L
					Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			S	L
176	Broken Cross Community School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
178	Christ the King Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community and used. Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to a site with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	S	L
					Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.			S	L
190	Hollinhey Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
191	Hurdsfield Community Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use then explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
192	Ivy Bank Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use then explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L

⁵⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁵⁹	Cost ⁶⁰
206	Puss Bank Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality 7v7 pitches that are available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
207	Rainow Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
214	St Alban's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch and a poor quality 7v7 pitch that are available to the community and used. Both pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity. Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	S	L
								S	L
230	Upton Priory Primary School	Football	School	One 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L
244	Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 11 grass wickets. Overall spare capacity amounting to five match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
247	Prestbury Playing Fields	Football	School	An adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
248	Jasmine Park	Football	Club	One youth 11v11, one 9v9, two 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches assessed as standard quality. The 9v9 pitch is over marked by the mini pitches resulting in overplay amounting to one match equivalent session. The youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay on the 9v9 pitch or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity. Alternatively, explore alternative options to prevent pitch over markings causing overplay.	FA Club	Local site	S	L
								S	L
250	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A 7v7 that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent session exists.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.	FA School	Local site	L	L
								S	L
251	Dean Valley Primary School	Football	School	A 7v7 that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent session exists.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Pursue security of tenure for users through a community use agreement.	FA School	Local site	L	L
								S	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

NANTWICH ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ⁶¹	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	1	1	-		-	-	
Youth pitches 11v11	-	-	-		-	-	
Youth pitches 9v9	-	-	-		0.5	1	1.5
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-		-	-	
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		-	-	

- Adult, youth 11v11, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types are played to capacity both currently and when taking into account future demand.
- Youth 9v9 pitches are currently played to capacity; however, a shortfall is evident when including future demand equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Many teams, particularly at mini and youth level, export demand to the Crewe and Congleton analysis areas to access a central venue league system.
- Overplay is evident on an adult pitch at Reaseheath College.
- There are eight youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- Changing facilities servicing Goodwill Hall Playing Fields and Wrenbury Recreation Ground are considered to be poor quality.
- There are ten providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- Training demand for one full size 3G pitch is currently being met (discounting Reaseheath Training Complex and Reaseheath College).

Recommendations

- Improve pitch quality to alleviate mini 7v7 pitch shortfalls and increase future capacity on all pitch types.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to build further future capacity.
- Transfer some demand away from Reaseheath College to alleviate overplay.
- Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- Improve changing facilities at Goodwill Hall Playing Fields and Wrenbury Recreation Ground and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.
- Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- Implement community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- Ensure 3G pitch at Nantwich Town Football Club has a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and ensure it remains on the FA register to host competitive matches.

⁶¹ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Further maximise usage, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.
- ◀ Explore availability for football usage on the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College once usage received from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC is known.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are six grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and three standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ Audlem Cricket Club is assessed as standard quality; all other grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Nantwich CC is exploring the development of a secondary grass wicket square.
- ◀ Audlem CC is without security of tenure as it currently rents its square on a rolling annual basis from a local landowner, whereas Bunbury Cricket Club has only nine years remaining on its lease arrangement.
- ◀ Audlem CC is without practice nets, whereas Nantwich CC reports a need for its existing nets to be improved.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at Crewe, Audlem and Nantwich cricket clubs, however, no capacity exists for an increase in demand at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ Bunbury Cricket Club is overplayed by 18 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 18 match equivalent sessions currently and 30 match equivalent sessions in the future.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at Audlem Cricket Club and secure improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Nantwich CC in its aspiration to develop a secondary square given its lack of peak time capacity on its existing square.
- ◀ Provide both Audlem CC and Bunbury CC with greater security of tenure.
- ◀ Provide Audlem CC with training provision and support Nantwich CC in its need for its existing provision to be improved.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Bunbury Cricket Club through installing an NTP in situ for the transfer of junior demand.
- ◀ Ensure Nantwich CC can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are seven senior and three mini rugby union pitches available for community use.
- ◀ Barony Sports Complex provides a senior pitch that is assessed as poor quality.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Acton Nomads RUFC has recently lost access to its clubhouse and the Club is also without a training venue.
- ◀ Crewe & Nantwich RUFC aspires to refurbish its existing changing rooms at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club and extend its clubhouse.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists at Barony Sports Complex.
- ◀ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club contains two senior pitches that are overplayed by a combined 4.25 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is an overall shortfall of 3.75 match equivalent sessions currently and 4.75 match equivalents when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ Reaseheath College contains a full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is expected to undergo World Rugby certification in the near future but is yet to pass testing.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance, particularly at poor quality and overplayed sites.
- ◀ Transfer training demand from the grass pitches at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club to the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College if it becomes World Rugby certified to alleviate overplay at the site.
- ◀ If accreditation is not achieved, explore alternative options to alleviate overplay at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club, such as through access to an increased number of pitches (potentially via school sites).
- ◀ Irrespective to the above, explore providing additional floodlighting at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unavailable pitches for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Support Acton Nomads RUFC in its need for a clubhouse and a training venue.
- ◀ Support Crewe & Nantwich RUFC in its aspiration to provide additional changing facilities.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs.
- ◀ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is used by Crewe Vagrants HC, whereas Malbank School and Sixth Form College is not used for hockey, in part due to a lack of floodlighting.
- ◀ Crewe Vagrants Sports Club is assessed as good quality; Malbank School and Sixth Form College is assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ Crewe Vagrants HC reports that it cannot accommodate all of its future demand at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect Crewe Vagrants Sports Club for continued hockey use.
- ◀ Due to a lack of nearby housing, explore floodlighting potential at Malbank School and Sixth Form College and then explore options to maximise community use.
- ◀ If the above is possible, also provide resurfacing of Malbank School and Sixth Form College and seek to maximise community usage.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure Crewe Vagrants HC can grow as planned, possibly via access to a secondary pitch (see Crewe Analysis Area).

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There is no lacrosse demand in the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ No action required.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶²	Cost ⁶³
9	Aston Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Played to capacity. The Club is potentially looking to move following the development of nearby housing.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Explore relocation options.			S	L
					Ensure any increased demand takes place away from the grass wickets to avoid overplay or ensure maintenance can sustain resultant overplay.			L	L
10	Audlem Playing Fields	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity and ensure no additional usage beforehand to avoid overplay.	FA	Local site	S	L
					Improve changing facilities.			M	L
12	Barony Sports Complex	Football	Council	Three adult pitches assessed as poor quality and two 9v9 pitches assessed as standard quality. Both pitch types are played to capacity. Adult pitches are well used by youth 11v11 teams.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity, predominately through drainage improvements.	FA	Hub site	S	M
					Consider pitch re-configuration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users whilst retaining some adult provision.			S	L
		3G		A smaller sized 3G pitch that is floodlit, measuring 40 x 33 metres.	Retain pitch for continued community use.	FA		L	L
		Rugby union		A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate maintenance (D0). Used by Acton Nomads RUFC, which is without a clubhouse and a training venue. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions exists.	Improve quality to better cater for demand and to avoid overplay.	RFU		L	L
					Support Acton Nomads RUFC in its need for a clubhouse.			S	L
					Support Acton Nomads RUFC in its need for a training venue, possibly through supplying portable floodlighting or via the 3G pitch at Reaseheath College (if World Rugby certified).			S	L
	Alternatively, explore options of Acton Nomads RUFC accessing an unused school site (such as Malbank School and Sixth Form College or Brine Lees School) that can provide a match play and a training venue (via portable floodlighting) and offer changing facilities.		S	M					

⁶² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶⁴	Cost ⁶⁵
22	Brine Leas School	Football	School	Three youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability and utilise capacity given local shortfalls.	FA School	Key centre	S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
				Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Bunbury Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.				S	L
		Rugby union		Two senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Available for community use but unused.	Protect and sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L
					Ensure community use remains available should it be required by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and/or Acton Nomads RUFC in the future given its capacity issues.			L	L
25	Bunbury Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Overplayed by 18 match equivalent sessions. Only nine years remain on the Club's lease agreement.	Sustain quality through maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through the installation of an NTP in situ or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L
					Extend lease agreement.			L	L
29	Cholmondeley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with ten grass wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 20 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L

⁶⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶⁶	Cost ⁶⁷
38	Crewe Vagrants Sports Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 22 wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 24 match equivalent sessions exists, however, not at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Key centre	L	L
		Rugby union		Three senior pitches and three mini pitches. One senior pitch is floodlit and two have a drainage system installed (D2). All other pitches have natural, adequate drainage (D1) and all pitches receive good maintenance (M2). Used by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC. Floodlit senior pitch is overplayed by 2.75 match equivalent sessions and one other senior pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. All remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve quality through the installation of a drainage system on a greater number of pitches to increase capacity and reduce overplay.	RFU Club		S	M
				Transfer training demand to Reaseheath College if the pitch undergoes World Rugby certification to reduce overplay.	S			L	
				Seek to provide additional floodlighting on site. This would not only assist club training demand but also training demand from Manchester Metropolitan University teams.	S			M	
				Support Crewe & Nantwich RUFC in its aspiration to provide additional changing facilities.	S			M	
				Explore options to provide the Club with an increased number of pitches should overplay still exist, possibly via Malbank School and Sixth Form College or Brine Lees School.	L			L	
				A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Crewe Vagrants HC. Assessed as good quality having been re-surfaced in 2013. Considered to be operating at capacity for match play purposes on a Saturday.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface and encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			EH Club	L
		Ensure Crewe Vagrants HC can grow as planned, possibly via access to a secondary venue.		M	L				
48	Goodwill Hall Playing Fields	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Explore options to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.			L	L
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M
					Provide a resolution to the tree that overhangs the pitch.			S	L
50	Audlem Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	A standard quality square with ten grass wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 14 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. No security of tenure is provided. No practice nets.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Pursue greater security of tenure.			S	L
					Explore options to improve training provision available to the Club.			S	L

⁶⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁶⁸	Cost ⁶⁹			
62	Bunbury Playing Field	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.		Local site	L	L			
					Explore options to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or through future demand.			L	L			
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M			
75	Malbank School and Sixth Form College	Football	School	Three standard quality adult pitches. Available to the community and used to capacity. Also a dual use rugby pitch.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	L	L			
					Ensure no additional demand is received without quality improvements.			L	L			
					Pursue security of tenure for users via community use agreements.			S	L			
		Cricket	A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School	L		L				
				Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Bunbury Cricket Club to alleviate overplay.		S		L				
		Rugby union	A senior pitch with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, adequate drainage (D1). Available for community use but unused. Dual use football pitch.	Protect and sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School	L		L				
				Ensure community use remains available should it be required by Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and/or Acton Nomads RUFC in the future given its capacity issues.		L		L				
		Sand AGP	A full size, sand-based AGP that is without floodlighting. Unused for hockey purposes. Assessed as poor quality having last been resurfaced in 2001. Considered unsuitable for 3G conversion given close proximity of Nantwich Town Football Club.	Retain pitch for curricular and extra-curricular activity and provide refurbishment to improve quality.	EH School	S		M				
				Explore floodlighting potential as there is no nearby housing and then explore community usage potential.		S		M				
				Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.		L		L				
		89	Nantwich Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 14 grass wickets and a standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time.		Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
								Support the Club in its aspirations to develop a second square given lack of peak time capacity and future senior demand.			M	M
Improve practice nets.	S						L					
90	Nantwich Primary Academy	Sand AGP	School	A smaller sized, sand-based AGP measuring 70 x 40 metres. Neither floodlit nor available to the community.	Review community use aspects and explore school needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA School	Local site	L	L			

⁶⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁶⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷⁰	Cost ⁷¹
91	Nantwich Town Football Club	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is suitable for Step 5 football.	Retain spare capacity to protect quality.	FA Club	Key centre	L	L
					Ensure the Club can progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. FA approved and well used for matches as well as training. Installed in 2007 and assessed as standard quality.	Provide imminent resurfacing to sustain FA approval, usage and to improve quality.	FA Club		M	M
					Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
					Administer FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match-play and maximise match-play usage.			L	L
105	Reaseheath College	Football	College	A good quality adult pitch that is available to the community and used. Overplayed by one match equivalent session.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA College	Key centre	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L
					Pursue security of tenure for clubs via a community use agreement.			S	L
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is available to the community. Expected to undergo World Rugby certification but it is yet to pass testing. Will be used to accommodate training demand from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC if it achieves accreditation. Not FA approved. Installed in 2016 and assessed as good quality.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	RFU FA College		L	L
					If World Rugby certification is gained, ensure quality remains sufficient to sustain yearly approval.			S	L
					If World Rugby certification is gained, maximise usage received from Crewe & Nantwich RUFC and explore potential for the pitch to accommodate training demand from Acton Nomads RUFC.			S	L
					Explore football usage opportunities once rugby union use is known.			S	L
147	Wrenbury Recreation Ground	Football	Leisure Trust	A poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Improve pitch quality to retain usage and to increase capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M
163	Reaseheath Training Complex	Football	Club	Multiple football pitches that are reserved for use by Crewe Alexandra FC.	No action required.	Club	Local site	-	-
		3G		A full size, floodlit 3G pitch that is not available to the community as all use is reserved for Crewe Alexandra FC. Not FA approved. Installed in 2013 and assessed as good quality.	Retain and protect for continued use by Crewe Alexandra FC.			L	L
164	Acton Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

⁷⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷⁰	Cost ⁷¹
170	Audlem St James CE Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
171	Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality 5v5 pitches that are available to the community but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
175	Bridgemere Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
177	Bunbury Aldersey Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
189	Highfields Community Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
200	Millfields Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
204	Pear Tree Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
213	Sound and District Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
215	St Anne's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
224	St Odwald's Worleston Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
226	Stapeley Broad Lane Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
233	Warmingham Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
234	Weaver Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
241	Wrenbury Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
242	Wybunbury Delves Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

POYNTON ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ⁷²	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	1.5	3	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Youth pitches 11v11	-	-	-		-	-	
Youth pitches 9v9	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Mini pitches 7v7	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		-	-	

- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on both adult and youth 9v9 pitch types and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- ◀ Both youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitch types are played to capacity currently and when taking into account future demand.
- ◀ Spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session exists on mini 7v7 pitches both currently and when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ Overplay is evident on an adult pitch at Deva Close, Mount Vernon and Poynton Sports Club as well as on youth 9v9 pitches at St Paul's Catholic Primary School and Vernon Primary School.
- ◀ There are eight youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club is in negotiations to re-locate all of its on-site provision (including football pitches), subject to securing planning permission.
- ◀ Changing facilities servicing Poynton Sports Club and Newtown Playing Fields are considered to be poor quality.
- ◀ There are three providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- ◀ There is current training demand for one full size 3G pitch despite none currently being provided.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- ◀ Transfer play from Deva Close to fully alleviate overplay.
- ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- ◀ Support Poynton Sports Club in its aspirations to relocate and ensure any re-location provides the Club with improved changing facilities.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Newtown Playing Fields and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.

⁷² In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ◀ Implement community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Identify potential sites to provide a full size 3G pitch such as Poynton High School.
- ◀ If a 3G pitch is provided, ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability and administer FA testing so that it can host competitive matches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are six grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and one standalone non-turf wicket square (Poynton High School).
- ◀ The King's School (Derby Fields) is assessed as standard quality; all other grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Prestbury CC is without security of tenure as it currently rents its square on a rolling annual basis from a local landowner
- ◀ The clubhouse at Poynton Cricket Club is reported to be poor quality due to its age.
- ◀ Disley CC reports a need for its existing practice nets to be improved.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at the King's School, however, this is not considered actual spare capacity due to internal usage.
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club is overplayed by 18 match equivalent sessions; Disley Cricket Club is played to capacity.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 12 match equivalent sessions currently and 24 match equivalent sessions in the future.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Review quality issues at the King's School (Derby Fields) and provide improvements where possible.
- ◀ Sustain quality of remaining grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Provide both Prestbury CC with greater security of tenure.
- ◀ Support Poynton CC in relation to clubhouse improvements, potentially as part of Poynton Sports Club's relocation.
- ◀ Support Disley CC in its need for its existing training provision to be improved.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Poynton Cricket Club through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ◀ Ensure Disley CC can fulfil its future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are four senior and four mini rugby union pitches available for community use, all of which are located at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club).

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ All senior pitches are assessed as good quality whereas all mini pitches are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ The King's School plans to provide an additional five rugby union pitches at Derby Road Playing Fields (pitch dimensions subject to RFU and Sport England agreement).
- ◀ Subject to planning permission and funding, Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) is to undergo a development that will result in one of its senior pitches being replaced by a full size, floodlit 3G pitch that will be World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ The above developments will also result in clubhouse facilities being improved.
- ◀ No pitches provide actual spare capacity, whereas one senior pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is an overall shortfall of 2.25 match equivalent sessions currently and 3.25 match equivalents when accounting for future demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality at Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club) to reduce shortfalls and overplay through installing a drainage system.
- ◀ To fully alleviate shortfalls and overplay, support the Club in its aspirations for a 3G pitch to allow for the transfer of training demand.
- ◀ Support Macclesfield RUFC in its aspirations for site developments that includes a new clubhouse and additional floodlighting (as well as the above mentioned 3G pitch).
- ◀ Ensure development at King's School is provided to a good quality and explore potential partnership with Macclesfield RUFC.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unavailable pitches for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are currently no full size hockey suitable AGPs within the Analysis Area and no clubs express a demand for one to be provided.
- ◀ The King's School has planning approval to provide two full size, floodlit, sand-based AGPs at its Derby Fields site in replacement of the existing pitch at its Westminster Road site (Macclesfield Analysis Area).

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure development at the King's School (Derby Fields) goes ahead and provides good quality pitches.
- ◀ Ensure that the demand currently received at Westminster Road can transfer.
- ◀ Explore potential of the AGPs catering for demand expressed by Alderley Egde, Macclesfield and Wilmslow hockey clubs that cannot be met on pitches currently used.
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Pursue security of tenure for club users through community use agreements.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There are two pitches located at Poynton Sports Club and one pitch located at Mount Vernon.
- ◀ Poynton Sports Club is rated as standard quality; Mount Vernon is rated as poor quality.
- ◀ Poynton Lacrosse Club accesses both sites but requires access to additional provision given the high levels of latent and future demand it expresses.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect pitches for continued lacrosse use.
- ◀ Improve quality and Mount Vernon and, as a minimum, sustain quality at Poynton Sports Club.
- ◀ Consider options to provide Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to additional provision, possibly via a 3G pitch.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷³	Cost ⁷⁴
42	Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch with 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity remaining.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Key centre	L	L
					Transfer play from overplayed to sites to utilise actual spare capacity.			S	L
		Cricket		A good quality square with ten grass wickets and an NTP. Played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L
					Improve practice nets.			S	L
					Ensure any increased demand takes place away from the grass wickets to avoid overplay or ensure maintenance can sustain resultant overplay.			L	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 45 x 35 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore club needs to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA Club		L	L
73	Lower Park Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches that are available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
85	Midway Playing Fields	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Improve quality to retain usage and increase capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
93	Newtown Playing Field	Football	Council	An adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M
102	Poynton High School	Football	Club	One adult, two youth 11v11 and on 9v9 pitch assessed as poor quality. Unavailable to the community.	Improve quality through drainage improvements for curricular and extra-curricular use, then explore community use aspects to utilise resultant spare capacity given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
					Explore 3G suitability.			S	L
		Cricket		A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L
					Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from Poynton Sports Club to alleviate overplay.			S	L

⁷³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷⁵	Cost ⁷⁶
103	Poynton Sports Club	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Suitable for Step 7 football. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Support the Club in its aspirations to relocate.	FA Club	Key centre	S	H
					If the above does not happen, alleviate overplay through improving pitch quality or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L
					Ensure the Club can progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
					Improve changing facilities, potentially as part of the relocation.			S	M
		Cricket		A good quality square with 12 grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions. Used by Poynton CC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or through the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized, floodlit, sand-based AGP measuring 60 x 30 metres.	Review community use aspects and explore club requirements to determine surface requirements when refurbishment is required.	EH FA Club		L	L
		Lacrosse		Two lacrosse pitches assessed as standard quality. Currently played to capacity.	Protect pitches for continued lacrosse use and, as a minimum, sustain current quality.	English Lacrosse Club		L	L
Explore options to provide the Club with increased provision, potentially via an existing 3G pitch or via a new 3G pitch in the local area.	M		L						
104	Priory Park (Macclesfield Rugby Club)	3G	Club	A proposal is in place for a full size, floodlit 3G pitch to be provided (subject to planning permission and funding) that will be World Rugby compliant (in replacement of a grass senior pitch). This will be in addition to the smaller size (65 x 40 metres) floodlit 3G pitch currently in situ.	Support the Club in its aspirations given identified shortfalls and overplay of the current grass pitch that is used for training.	RFU Club	Key centre	S	H
					Retain smaller size pitch for continued community use and seek quality improvements so that it can become World Rugby certified again.			L	M
		Rugby union		Four senior pitches and four mini pitches. One senior pitch is floodlit. All senior pitches receive good maintenance (M2); mini pitches receive standard maintenance (M1). All pitches have natural, adequate maintenance (D1). Floodlit pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas all remaining pitches are played to capacity.	Reduce overplay through improving pitch quality via the installation of a drainage system.	RFU Club		S	M
					To fully alleviate overplay, support the Club in its aspirations to develop a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.			S	H
					Support Macclesfield RUFC in its aspirations for site developments that includes a new clubhouse and additional floodlighting (as well as the above mentioned 3G pitch).			S	M

⁷⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷⁷	Cost ⁷⁸
126	The King's School (Derby Fields)	Cricket	School	Three standard quality squares with nine, six and three grass wickets respectively. Available to the community and used by Macclesfield CC. Spare capacity discounted to take into account school use. The School plans to provide an indoor cricket facility as part of its relocation plans and to offset the loss of outdoor provision at Fence Avenue and Westminster Road.	Review quality and provide improvements where possible.	ECB School	Hub site	L	L
					Ensure security of tenure for Macclesfield CC through a continued community use agreement.			L	L
		Rugby union		The school plans to provide five rugby union pitches (sizes to be agreed upon by the RFU) to offset the loss of pitches at Fence Avenue and Westminster Road.	Ensure pitches are developed to a good quality and ensure the School's rugby needs are met.	RFU Club School		S	H
					Explore partnership with Macclesfield RUFC given close proximity.			S	L
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		Plans are in place for the School to provide two full size, floodlit, sand-based AGPs in place of existing provision at Westminster Road as part of its relocation plans.	Ensure development provides two good quality pitches that can adequately provide for Macclesfield, Wilmslow and Alderley Edge hockey clubs.	EH School		S	H
					Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
Pursue security of tenure through community use agreements.	S	L							
159	Prestbury Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. No security of tenure is provided to the Club. Poor quality clubhouse.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Provide the Club with greater security of tenure or explore options for it to transfer demand.			S	L
					Improve clubhouse.			M	M
165	Adlington Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
182	Disley Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	S	L
195	Lostock Hall Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session remains.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L
225	St Paul's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	One 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch that are assessed as standard quality. The 9v9 pitch is used by the community and overplayed by one match equivalent sessions, whereas the 7v7 pitch is available to the community but unused.	Alleviate overplay through improved pitch quality or through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	S	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L

⁷⁷ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁷⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷⁷	Cost ⁷⁸
231	Vernon Primary School	Football	School	One youth 11v11, one 9v9 and one 5v5 pitch that are all assessed as standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch and the 9v9 are used by the community, with the former played to capacity and the latter overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. The 7v7 pitch is available to the community but unused.	Alleviate overplay through improved pitch quality or through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	S	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.			S	L
240	Worth Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality 5v5 pitches that are available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
249	Mount Vernon	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
		Lacrosse		A lacrosse pitch accessed by Poynton Lacrosse Club and assessed as poor quality. Operating at capacity.	Protect as a lacrosse pitch and provide quality improvements to better cater for demand.	English Lacrosse		L	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

WILMSLOW ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary of current and future demand for football pitches

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ⁷⁹	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	1	5.5	-	4.5	-	-	4.5
Youth pitches 11v11	-	-	-		-	-	
Youth pitches 9v9	-	2	-	2	-	0.5	2.5
Mini pitches 7v7	2	-	-	2	-	-	
Mini pitches 5v5	-	2	-	2	-	1	3

- ✦ There is a current shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and this remains the case when taking into account future demand.
- ✦ Youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity both currently and when taking into account future demand.
- ✦ There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ Spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions exists on mini 7v7 pitches currently; however, when accounting for future demand, the pitch type is at capacity.
- ✦ There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches and a future shortfall of three match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ Overplay is evident on adult pitches and youth 9v9 pitches at Jim Evison Playing Fields as well as on a youth 9v9 pitch at Chorley Hall and on a mini 5v5 pitch at Lacey Green Academy.
- ✦ There are 14 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ✦ Changing facilities servicing Upcast Lane are considered to be poor quality.
- ✦ There are four providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their football pitches.
- ✦ There is current training demand for two full size 3G pitches despite none currently being provided.

Recommendations

- ✦ Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- ✦ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ✦ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- ✦ Improve changing facilities at Upcast Lane and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.

⁷⁹ In match equivalent sessions

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ◀ Pursue community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Identify potential sites to provide full size 3G pitches.
- ◀ If 3G pitches are provided, ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability and administer FA testing so that competitive matches can be hosted.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are five grass wicket cricket squares (all available for community use) and two standalone non-turf wicket squares.
- ◀ All grass wicket squares are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Lindow Cricket Club is serviced by a car park that is too small to accommodate the number of visitors received.
- ◀ Wilmslow CC is currently without practice nets.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists at Alderley Edge, Styal and Wilmslow Wayfarers cricket clubs, however, none have spare capacity for an increase in play at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ Wilmslow Cricket Club is overplayed by eight match equivalent sessions; Lindow Cricket Club is overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is an overall shortfall equating to 20 match equivalent sessions currently and 32 match equivalent sessions in the future.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain quality of grass wicket squares and ensure maintenance is appropriate.
- ◀ Support Lindow CC to find a resolution to car parking issues.
- ◀ Support Wilmslow CC in its need for training provision to be provided.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay at Wilmslow Cricket Club and Lindow Cricket Club through greater utilisation of existing NTPs or through the transfer of play.
- ◀ Ensure Lindow CC and Styal CC can fulfil future senior demand aspirations either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are four senior and one junior rugby union pitch available for community use across two sites (Jim Evison Playing Fields and Memorial Ground).
- ◀ Jim Evison Playing Fields contain pitches assessed as poor quality and Wilmslow RUFC reports that the changing facilities servicing the site require modernisation.
- ◀ Both pitches at the site have actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions each.
- ◀ Both senior pitches at Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions each.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Overall, pitches are currently at capacity, however, future demand results in a shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance at Jim Evison Playing Fields and Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club).
- ◀ Consider installation of additional floodlighting at Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club) to spread out training demand and alleviate overplay of current pitches.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unavailable pitches at Wilmslow High School for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities at Jim Evison Playing Fields.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs.
- ◀ The Edge Hockey Centre and Wilmslow High School are in use by Alderley Edge HC; Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club is in use by Wilmslow HC.
- ◀ The Edge Hockey Centre is assessed as good quality; Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club and Wilmslow High School are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ Neither Alderley Edge HC nor Wilmslow HC can accommodate all of their future demand on pitches currently used.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect all AGPs for continued hockey use.
- ◀ Resurface Wilmslow High School and Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club in the near future to improve quality and to sustain usage.
- ◀ Encourage sinking funds to be put in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for Wilmslow HC at Wilmslow High School through a community use agreement.
- ◀ Ensure both Alderley Edge HC and Wilmslow HC can grow as planned, possibly via access to additional secondary pitches (see Macclesfield and Poynton analysis areas).

Lacrosse

Summary

- ◀ There are four pitches located at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club.
- ◀ The pitches are used by Wilmslow Lacrosse Club and are rated as standard quality.
- ◀ It is considered the Club has enough provision to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect pitches at Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club for continued lacrosse use and, as a minimum, sustain quality.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁰	Cost ⁸¹
1	Alderley Edge Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 20 grass wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 14 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. Poor quality clubhouse.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Support club to improve clubhouse.			M	M
27	Carnival Field	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Ensure no additional demand takes place without quality improvements to avoid overplay.			L	L
30	Chorley Hall	Football	Council	A standard quality 9v9 pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Alleviate overplay through pitch quality improvements or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
61	Jim Evison Playing Fields	Football	Council	Three adult, two 9v9 and two 7v7 pitches all assessed as poor quality. Adult pitches are overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions, 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions and the 7v7 pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and transfer some demand to sites with actual spare capacity to fully alleviate it.	FA	Key centre	S	M
					Two senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1) and natural, inadequate drainage (D0). Used by Wilmslow RUFC. Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match sessions exists on both pitches.			Improve quality through improved drainage to better cater for community demand and to increase capacity.	RFU
				Improve changing facilities to make them more appropriate for rugby use should Wilmslow RUFC prefer access.				S	M
					Explore floodlighting suitability so that Wilmslow RUFC can alleviate overplay at its site.			S	L
69	Lacey Green Pavilion	Football	Council	Two adult pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity and utilise this through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA	Local site	S	L
70	Lacey Green Primary Academy	Football	School	Two 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch that are available to the community and used. The 7v7 pitches are played to capacity at peak time whereas the 5v5 pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.	Alleviate overplay of the 5v5 pitch through pitch quality improvements or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	S	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through community use agreements.			S	L
72	Lindow Community Primary School	Football	School	A 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used. Actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent sessions remains.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
					Pursue security of tenure for users through community use agreements.			S	L

⁸⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸²	Cost ⁸³		
81	Memorial Ground (Wilmslow Rugby Club)	Rugby union	Club	Two senior pitches and one junior pitch. Both senior pitches are floodlit and receive good maintenance (M2); junior pitch receives standard maintenance (M1). All pitches have natural, adequate drainage (D1). Senior pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions each; junior pitch is at capacity.	Reduce overplay through improving quality via a drainage system being installed.	RFU Club	Local site	S	M		
					To fully alleviate overplay, explore options to increase the number of floodlit pitches available to the Club so that training demand can be spread out (possibly via Jim Evison Playing Fields).			S	M		
					Improve changing facilities.			M	M		
95	Oakwood Farm	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L		
					Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			L	L		
101	Pownhall School	Cricket	School	A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School	Local site	L	L		
120	Styal Playing Fields	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent session.	Alleviate overplay through pitch quality improvements or through the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L		
		Cricket			A good quality square with 16 grass wickets. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to 16 match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. Poor quality clubhouse. Used by Styal CC.			Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	L	L
								Improve clubhouse.		Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand plans either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play.	M
124	The Edge Hockey Centre	Football	Club/School	One 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch that are unavailable for community use. Assessed as standard quality.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls, particularly in relation to the 9v9 pitch.	FA School	Key centre	L	L		
		Sand AGP (Hockey)			A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Alderley Edge HC. Assessed as good quality having been re-surfaced in 2011. Considered to be operating at capacity for match play purposes on a Saturday.			Protect as a hockey suitable surface and encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.	EH Club	L	L
								Ensure Alderley Edge HC can grow as planned, possibly via access additional venues than those currently used.		S	L

⁸² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁴	Cost ⁸⁵
131	The Rectory Field (Wilmslow Cricket Club)	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with seven grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are overplayed by eight match equivalent sessions. No practice nets.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Alleviate overplay through greater utilisation of NTP or through the transfer of demand to sites with spare capacity.			S	L
					Explore options to improve training provision available to the Club.			S	L
133	Upcast Lane	Football	Club	One 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. The 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time; the 7v7 pitch has one match equivalent of actual spare capacity. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
					Improve changing facilities.			S	M
140	Wilmslow Grange Primary and Nursery School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
141	Wilmslow High School	Football	School	Two adult, two youth 11v11 and two 9v9 pitches assessed as standard quality. One 9v9 pitch over marks one of the adult pitches and the other over marks one of the youth 11v11 pitches. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	FA School	Key centre	L	L
					Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.			S	L
		Cricket	A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School	Explore community use aspects as a potential venue for the relocation of junior demand from the Rectory Fields (Wilmslow Cricket Club) to alleviate overplay.	L	L	
							S	L	
		Rugby union	Three senior pitches with standard maintenance (M1). One senior pitch with natural, inadequate drainage (D0) and two with natural, adequate drainage (D1). Unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular and extra-curricular use and improve drainage on the pitch with inadequate drainage to better cater for this.	RFU School	Once improvements are made, explore community use aspects and a potential partnership with Wilmslow RUFC.	S	L	
							M	L	
		Sand AGP (Hockey)	A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is assessed as standard quality. Last resurfaced in 2007 and therefore nearing the end of its lifespan. Used by Alderley Edge HC.	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School	Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.	M	M	
							L	L	
							S	L	

⁸⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁶	Cost ⁸⁷
143	Wilmslow Phoenix Sports Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with eight grass wickets. Used by Wilmslow Wayfarers CC. Overall actual spare capacity amounting to ten match equivalent sessions exists, however, no capacity is available at peak time. Clubhouse is currently being renovated.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Key centre	L	L
					Ensure clubhouse is improved to a good quality.			S	M
		Sand AGP (Hockey)		A full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is assessed as standard quality. Last resurfaced in 2007 and therefore nearing the end of its lifespan. Used by Wilmslow HC.	Refurbish to improve quality and protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH Club		M	M
					Encourage a sinking fund to be put in place for long-term sustainability.			I	L
					Ensure security of tenure through a community use agreement.			S	L
		Lacrosse		Four lacrosse pitches assessed as standard quality. Accessed by Wilmslow Lacrosse Club.	Retain and protect pitches for continued lacrosse use and, as a minimum, sustain current quality.	English Lacrosse Club		L	L
154	Lindow Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets and an NTP. Grass wickets are overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by limited car parking. The Club is acquiring Alderley Park (Astra Zeneca) to be used as a secondary venue.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
					Explore options to improve car parking.			S	L
					Ensure the Club is provided with security of tenure at Alderley Park.			L	L
					Ensure the Club can fulfil its future senior demand plans either through fielding teams outside of peak period or through the transfer of play (ideally to Alderley Park).			L	L
166	Alderley Edge Community Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
168	Ashdene Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
181	Dean Oaks Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L
216	St Anne's Fulshaw Primary School	Football	School	One 7v7 pitch and one 5v5 pitch that are assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects relating to the 5v5 pitch given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L
217	St Benedict's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and re-examine community needs in the future.	FA School	Local site	L	L

⁸⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁸⁶	Cost ⁸⁷
227	Styal Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects to fully determine availability given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

DISUSED/LAPSED PROVISION

Summary

- ◀ There are four lapsed sites and nine disused sites that previously contained football pitches.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve; or,
- ◀ Explore feasibility to bring back into use; or,
- ◀ Use as open space to meet local needs; or,
- ◀ Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site	Analysis area	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
Bisto Football Club	Congleton	Football	Club	A lapsed site that fell out of use in 2010. Formerly provided an adult pitch.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Brooke Dean Community College	Wilmslow	Football	School	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch that fell out of use when the School closed (2014).	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Brooke House Playing Field	Crewe	Football	Council	A disused site that fell out of use in 2012. Formerly provided an adult pitch. A MUGA on site remains in use.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Cedar Avenue	Congleton	Football	Council	A disused site that fell out of use in 2015. Formerly provided a youth pitch.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Goddard Street	Crewe	Football	Council	A lapsed site that fell out of use in 2005. Formerly provided an adult pitch that is being considered for a housing development.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Hazelbadge Road Playing Field	Poynton	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch. Fell out of use in 2013.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Peover Playing Fields	Knutsford	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided a youth pitch. Fell out of use in 2013.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA

**CHESHIRE EAST
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site	Analysis area	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
Portland Drive	Congleton	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch. Fell out of use in 2016.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
St John's Road	Congleton	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult and a youth pitch. Fell out of use in 2016.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Wybunbury Recreation Ground	Nantwich	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch. Fell out of use in 2016.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA
Wheelock Playing Field	Congleton	Football	Council	A disused site that formerly provided an adult pitch. One goalpost remains in place. Fell out of use in 2016.	Future priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	FA

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2033 (in with the Local Plan). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Playing Pitch Demand Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved by taking the current TGRs and population in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

The scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. The estimate for hockey is calculated using Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator because this includes Artificial Grass Pitches. The unit of demand for hockey is given in number of pitches because the Sports Facility Calculator converts the population into visits per week per person (VPWPP) which in turn generates that demand into additional pitch space required. The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 1.61 per dwelling. This is taken from the fact that the Local Plan Housing Development Study⁸⁸ projects population growth of 58,100 and identifies a need for 36,000 dwellings (implying an average increase of 58,100/36,000, or 1.61 people per dwelling).

Please note that the scenarios can be updated as required over the Local Plan period and throughout the lifespan of the PPS to reflect population projections, TGR's and change in the average household size.

Scenario 1: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth requirement over the Local Plan period (2030)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth by 2030 is 58,100 (36,000 dwellings). This equates to 53.4 match equivalent sessions across the grass pitch sports and 1.56 pitches for hockey.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (2030)

Pitch Sport	Estimated demand by sport (2030)
Adult football	10.28 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	21.52 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	12.05 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	5.47 match equivalent sessions per week
Hockey	1.56 pitches (1,157 vpwpp)
Cricket	404.89 match equivalent sessions per season

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £6,027,175⁸⁹ and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £1,158,873.⁹⁰

⁸⁸ Cheshire East Housing Development Study, ORS, June 2015. Local Plan Examination Library Reference PS E033: <http://cheshireeast-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/library>

⁸⁹ Capital cost is based on 2016 second quarter calculations.

⁹⁰ Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenario 2: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth over the next five years

Appendix E of the Local Plan Strategy sets out a Housing Trajectory. The Trajectory illustrates the level of new housing development delivery each year of the Plan period. It identifies that over the next five years, housing delivery will need to be in excess of the Plan's annualised housing requirement (1800 homes) to address the shortfall in housing delivery since 2010 (the start of the Plan period). The Council is aiming to address this shortfall over eight years (from 2016). The rate of housing over the next five years is therefore:

Annual requirement	Additional annual requirement	Total annual requirement	Total requirement (five years)
1,800 dwelling	666 dwellings	2,466 dwellings	12,330 dwellings

It should be noted that the delivery of these homes will predominately be from sites that already have planning permission. Infrastructure provision on site or developer contributions towards infrastructure provision off site, where appropriate, will therefore already have been secured for the vast majority of this housing. However, there is an opportunity to obtain contributions from windfall sites.

The estimated additional population derived from the five year housing growth is 19,851 (12,330 dwellings). This equates to 19.70 match equivalent sessions across the sports and 0.5 pitches for hockey.

Table 7.2: Likely demand for pitch sports from housing growth in the next five years

Pitch Sport	Estimated demand by sport (2030)
Adult football	3.51 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	7.27 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	4.12 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	1.87 match equivalent sessions per week
Hockey	0.53 pitches (395 vpwpp)
Cricket	138.34 match equivalent sessions per season

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £2,064,556⁹¹ and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £399,741.⁹²

Conclusions

The tables above show that over the next five years, and up to 2030, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. This position is indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to.

⁹¹ Capital cost is based on 2016 second quarter calculations.

⁹² Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand in their own right; however, the cumulative impact of housing across the local authority clearly shows that there will be significant demand generated during the Local Plan period and in the next five years.

The Council could consider using CIL to obtain contributions to priority sites, or pooling S106 contributions from major housing schemes to invest in priority sites. In either case, the preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs should inform the playing fields that most require investment.

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

Delivery

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

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

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach.

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

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

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

Monitoring and updating

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Ideally the PPS could be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that would have been built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

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

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

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

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

The steering group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Checklist

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

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

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

APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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

National context

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

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)

The main aims of the National Game Strategy are summarised below:

- ◀ Sustain and Increase Participation
- ◀ Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- ◀ Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite
- ◀ Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees
- ◀ Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- ◀ Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
- ◀ Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms
- ◀ Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
- ◀ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - *Clubs and leagues*
 - *Kids*
 - *Communities*
 - *Casual*

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - *Pathway*
 - *Support*
 - *Elite Teams*
 - *England Teams*
- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - *Fan focus*
 - *New audiences*
 - *Global stage*
 - *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - *Integrity*
 - *Community programmes*
 - *Our environments*
 - *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - *People*
 - *Revenue and reach*
 - *Insight*
 - *Operations*

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

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

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

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP) that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximise playing opportunities

'The right pitches in the right places'⁹³

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CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

England Hockey Strategy

EH's new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

- 1 Having great leadership
- 2 Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
- 3 Inspired and Effective People
- 4 Different Ways to Play
- 5 Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
- 6 Being Local with Strong Community Connections
- 7 Stretching and developing those who want it

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

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

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

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

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy

Places

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

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

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England The current funding streams will change throughout 2016/17 so refer to the website for the latest information: https://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org	The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts and floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
EH Capital Investment Programme (CIP)	The CIP fund is for the provision of new pitches and re-surfacing of old AGPs. It forms part of EH's 4 year Whole Sport's Plan.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: Young people and hockey. Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Protecting Playing Fields

Sport England's Strategy: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021) will simplify the funding reducing the number of investment programmes from 30 to 7:

- ◀ Tackling Inactivity
- ◀ Children and Young People
- ◀ Volunteering
- ◀ Taking sport and activity into the mass market
- ◀ Supporting sports core markets
- ◀ Local delivery
- ◀ Creating welcoming sports facilities

The current funding streams listed below will remain operational during 2016/17 but will be phased out and replaced by one or more of the seven listed above.

It launched 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.

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 funding rounds and where clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and local authorities can apply for grants of between £25k and £150k where there is a proven local need for a facility to be modernised, extended or modified to open up new sporting opportunities.

The programmes three priorities are:

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

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

Strategic Facilities Fund

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

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

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

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

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

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

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

Funder's requirements

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

- ◀ Identify need (i.e., why the Project is needed) and how the Project will address it.
- ◀ Articulate what difference the Project will make.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ 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/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

There are two sets of costs that are highlighted here; facility capital costs and lifecycle costs.

Facility capital costs

- ◀ Facility capital costs are calculated using estimates of what it typically costs to build modern sports facilities, including fees and external work, naturally taking into account varying conditions, inflation and regional adjustments.
- ◀ Costs are updated regularly in conjunction with information provided by the BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) and other Quantity Surveyors.
- ◀ The document is often referred to as the Planning Kitbag costs as the figures are often used by planners and developers when reviewing potential planning contributions to site developments.

Lifecycle costs

- ◀ Life cycle costs are how much its costs to keep a facility open and fit-for-purpose during its lifetime.
- ◀ It includes costs for major replacement and planned preventative maintenance (PPM) – day to day repairs. The costs are expressed as a percentage of the capital cost.
- ◀ You should not underestimate the importance of regular maintenance and the expense in maintaining a facility throughout its life.

APPENDIX THREE: GLOSSARY

Exported demand generally relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area (i.e. from residents of the study area) which takes place outside of the area. This may be due to issues with the provision of pitches and ancillary facilities in the study area, just reflective of how the sports are played (e.g. at a central venue for the wider area) or due to the most convenient site for the respective users just falling outside of the local authority/study area.

Unmet demand is demand that is known to exist but unable to be accommodated on current supply of pitches. This could be in the form of a team with access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. This could also be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have declined applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.

Future demand is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the study area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure.

Casual use or other use could take place on natural grass pitches or AGPs and include:

- ◀ Regular play from non-sports club sources (e.g. companies, schools, fitness classes)
- ◀ Infrequent informal/friendly matches
- ◀ Informal training sessions
- ◀ More casual forms of a particular sport organised by sports clubs or other parties
- ◀ Significant public use and informal play, particularly where pitches are located in parks/recreation grounds.

Carrying capacity is the amount of play a site can regularly accommodate (in the relevant comparable unit) for community use without adversely affecting its quality and use. This is typically outlined by the NGB.

Overplay is when a pitch is used over the amount that the carrying capacity will allow, (i.e. more than the site can accommodate). Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected.

Spare capacity is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in addition to current activity. There may be reasons why this potential to accommodate additional play should not automatically be regarded as actual spare capacity, for example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below its carrying capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of friendly matches and training activity. This needs to be investigated before the capacity is deemed **actual spare capacity**.

CHESHIRE EAST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Match equivalent sessions is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football, rugby union and rugby league, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season and one match = one match equivalent session.