



FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY DRAFT STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS.....	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION.....	2
PART 2: VISION.....	10
PART 3: OBJECTIVES.....	11
PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	12
PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS.....	19
PART 6: ACTION PLAN.....	32
PART 7: KEEP THE STRATEGY ROBUST AND UP TO DATE.....	51
APPENDIX ONE: 3G PITCH SCENARIO.....	55
APPENDIX TWO: STRATEGIC CONTEXT.....	56
APPENDIX THREE: FUNDING PLAN.....	62
APPENDIX FOUR: GLOSSARY.....	66

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
AKEQMS	Arnold King Edward VII and Queen Mary School
CC	Cricket Club
CFA	County Football Association
CSP	County Sports Partnership
EH	England Hockey
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LCCB	Lancashire County Cricket Board
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
LCCB	Lancashire County Cricket Board
LFA	Lancashire Football Association
LMS	Last Man Stands
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NGB	National Governing Body
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PF	Playing Field
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFC	Rugby Football Club
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
S106	Section 106
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Fylde Council and its partners. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report it provides a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitches and ancillary facilities over the next ten years.

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 Sport England and four pitch sport National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), namely Lancashire FA (LFA), Lancashire County Cricket Board (LCCB), the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and (England Hockey).

The PPS covers the following playing pitches:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

Further to this, there is no recorded demand for rugby league in Fylde as local demand is being met in neighbouring Blackpool, at for example, Blackpool Stanley ARLFC (Kingscote Park which is 4.6 miles from Fylde boundary) or Blackpool Panthers ARLFC (South Shore Cricket & Squash Club which is located close to Fylde boundary).

Specifically, the Strategy will:

- ◀ Provide the evidence base for planning policy within the emerging draft Local Plan;
- ◀ Provide a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches in Fylde;
- ◀ Support external funding bids and maximise support for improvements to playing pitches;
- ◀ Provide the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of playing pitches.

There is a need to build key partnerships between the Council, parish/town councils, National Governing Bodies of Sport, Sport England, schools, further education providers, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of Section 106 Agreements/future Community Infrastructure Levy). This document will provide clarity about the way forward, and allow key organisations to focus on the key issues that they can directly influence and achieve.

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 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 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. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document, and kept up to date, the time frame can be extended to five years.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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 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. For further detail on this please refer to Part 7.

1.1: Structure

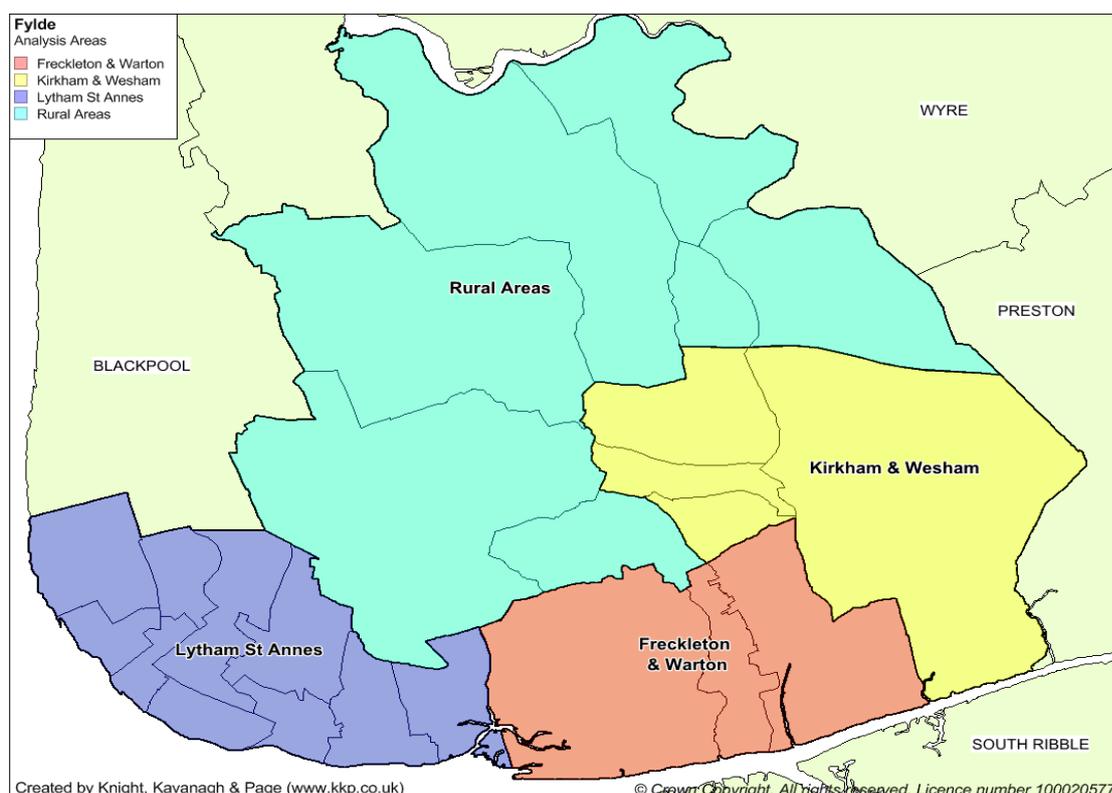
The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within Fylde to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Fylde which should be implemented over the next ten years. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding (see Appendix Four: Funding Plan¹).

1.2 Study area

Figure 1.1: Map of the study area



¹ Please note that Sport England funding streams will be subject to change throughout 2016/17.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

The area of Fylde consists of the major conurbations of Lytham, St Annes, Kirkham and Freckleton along with the rural countryside area. St Annes is a traditional seaside resort with a Victorian pier. The main towns within the Borough are the towns of Lytham, St Annes and Kirkham. The Borough also contains the smaller urban areas of Freckleton, Warton, Wesham and rural settlements including Newton, Staining, Wrea Green, Clifton, Elswick, Singleton and Weeton and many smaller parishes.

Population growth

The current resident population in Fylde is 76,442². By 2032 (to reflect the Local Plan period) the Borough's population is projected to increase to 81,765³ which is an increase of 5,323 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 6.9%) according to ONS data.

Further to this there is predicted to be an increase across all youth team generation rate age groups in Fylde ranging from 9% for 7-17 year old boys to 1% for 13-18 year old girls. All adult team generation rate age groups are set to decrease.

1.3 Context

The primary purpose of the PPS is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents within the Fylde Area.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) 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 Framework 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.

Paragraphs 73 and 74 of the Framework discuss assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". A Playing Pitch Strategy will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

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.

Further to national planning policy, Fylde Council is preparing the Local Plan which will run from 2011 until 2032 and will Strategic and Non-Strategic Allocations and Development Management policies

The primary purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents within Fylde over the next 15 years.

In 2004, a Playing Pitch Strategy was prepared by an in-house team at Fylde Council. This document is now out of date and the council requires a new PPS to address a range of issues directly relating to outdoor sports provision.

Strategic Locations for Development

²Source: ONS Mid-2013 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex and ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2032. Released: 29 May 2014

³ Source: ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2037. Released: 29 May 2014

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Four Strategic Locations for Development form the basis for the Local Plan Development Strategy. The four Strategic Locations are:

- ◀ Lytham and St Annes
- ◀ Fylde-Blackpool Periphery
- ◀ Warton
- ◀ Kirkham and Wesham.

The Fylde Local Plan to 2032 (Publication Version) highlights five local areas together with the level of housing growth over the plan period (an occupancy rate of 2.00 is used as set out in the council's Housing Requirement Paper 2015):

Local areas	Number of homes	Associated population	Percentage increase in population
Lytham and St Annes	2,020	4,040	5.2%
Fylde-Blackpool Periphery	2,728	5,456	7.1%
Warton	778	1,556	2%
Kirkham and Wesham	1,142	2,284	3%
Rural Areas	720	1,440	1.9%
Totals	7,388	14,776	19.3%

All of these aside from Rural Areas are strategic locations. Within strategic locations development must be met with the necessary infrastructure. This includes Green Infrastructure, culture and leisure opportunities, as stated in the Fylde Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). This is ensured through masterplanning and design codes described in policies within Chapter 7 in the Fylde Local Plan to 2032 (Publication Version).

Population/housing growth scenario

The current resident population in Fylde is 76,442⁴. By 2032 (to reflect the Local Plan period) the Borough's population is projected to increase to 81,765⁵ which is an increase of 5,323 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 6.9%) according to ONS data. This level of future demand has already been factored into the calculation to identify shortfalls in provision.

Using team generation rates from the PPS it is then possible to estimate the level of demand likely to be generated from the specific development:

Location	Additional teams (match sessions)
Lytham and St Annes	1 adult football 3 youth football 1 mini football 1 youth cricket

⁴Source: ONS Mid-2013 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex and ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2032. Released: 29 May 2014

⁵ Source: ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2037. Released: 29 May 2014

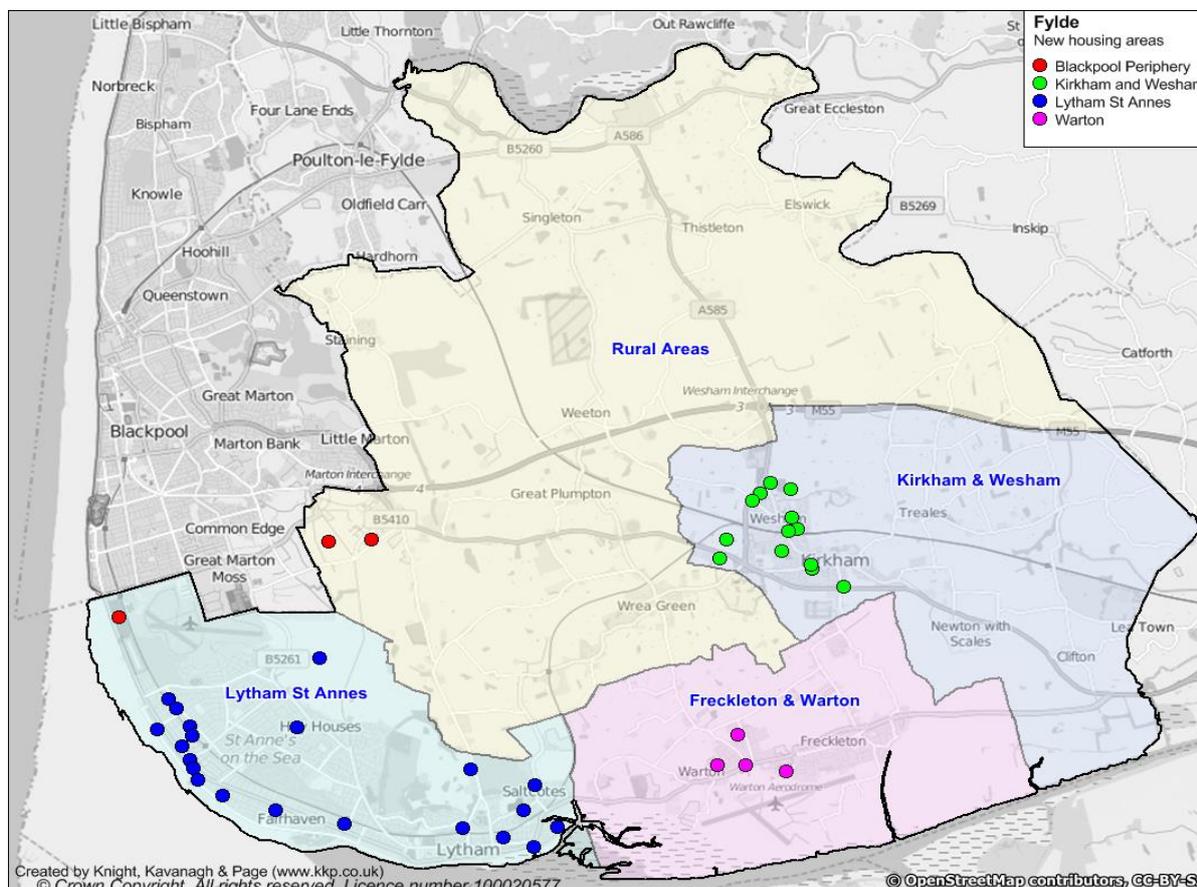
FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Location	Additional teams (match sessions)
Fylde-Blackpool Periphery	1 adult football 4 youth football 2 mini football 1 senior cricket 2 youth cricket
Warton	1 youth football
Kirkham and Wesham	1 youth football 1 mini football 1 youth cricket
Rural Areas	1 youth football

It is important to note that housing projections are subject to change and that the projections above only reflect current estimations. The exact nature and location of provision associated with these developments will be fully determined through the local planning process and in partnership with each specific NGB, which may for example include upgrading of facilities at existing sites where appropriate.

Specifically, in relation to the Whyndyke Farm development (see below) there is a need to work with neighboring Blackpool Council to fully determine demand.

Figure 2.1: Study analysis areas with strategic locations



FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Health New Towns and the Whyndyke Farm pilot programme (demonstrator site)

The NHS has made a clear commitment to improve the health of the population by integrating health and care services into new settlements as communities take shape. The Healthy New Towns (HNT) initiative aims to reduce the burden on the health service by putting health and wellbeing at the heart of planning new communities.

The programme will enable the development of neighbourhoods and communities that support healthier living and lifestyle, as well as creating environments in which older and vulnerable people can remain independent for longer. The NHS is bringing together clinicians, designers and technology experts to re-imagine how healthcare can be delivered in the Healthy New Towns by joining up the design of the built environment with modern health and care services.

Digital technology integrated into the infrastructure of the built environment will open up new ways for health and care to be delivered, including tele-care and tele-health as well as providing the foundation for a wide range of innovations that can transform the way communities think about health and wellbeing. Bespoke software applications will provide creative ways to connect people developing new approaches to strengthen local communities. Healthy New Towns will provide the opportunity to plan spaces that support health and wellbeing by designing a built environment that promotes healthier behaviours.

The Whyndyke Farm HNT pilot programme is one of ten housing developments selected as 'demonstrator sites' across the country to act as lead test environments that will deliver ambitious plans for building healthy communities.

Whyndyke Farm, located directly north of the M55 motorway, has been selected as one of the ten HNT demonstrator sites. The majority of the 91 hectare site is located in Fylde Borough with a small part (7.6 Ha) located in Blackpool. An outline planning application has been received, which is awaiting the signing of a Section 106 Agreement, for 1,310 homes in Fylde and 90 homes in Blackpool, of which 20% will be affordable. The ambition for Whyndyke Farm is to provide the homes, jobs and services that people need, reducing environmental risks and delivering well designed buildings and urban spaces which will create the conditions for healthy, active lifestyles. Education, employment, leisure, health and residential accommodation will be provided on the site with the intention to integrate efficiently and effectively with existing settlements. Plans currently include the creation of two new adult football pitches to service the additional demand generated by the new dwellings.

The initiatives designed to make Whyndyke Farm a healthy community will be driven by the local community focused on reducing long term poor health conditions. Every aspect of the built environment, social integration, community development and transport will be designed to provide the opportunity for everyone to easily choose a healthy diet, lifestyle, attitude and activity. The real success of 'Whyndyke Garden Village' as a healthy new town will be through community engagement.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

1.4 Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline shortfalls from the Fylde Playing Pitch Assessment Report.

Sport	Current demand ⁶	Future demand (2032) ⁷
Football (grass pitches)	2.5 adult sessions of spare capacity 0.5 youth 11v11 sessions of spare capacity 2.5 youth 9v9 sessions of shortfall 2.5 mini 7v7 sessions of spare capacity 1.5 mini 5v5 session of spare capacity	2.5 adult sessions of spare capacity Youth 11v11 at capacity 3 youth 9v9 sessions of shortfall 2.5 mini 7v7 sessions of spare capacity 1 mini 5v5 session of spare capacity
Football (3G AGPs) ⁸	Current shortfall of three full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to service training	
Cricket	Overall there is spare capacity, however, Kirkham and Wesham Cricket Club is being overplayed by 10 sessions per season	Overall spare capacity, however, Kirkham and Wesham Cricket Club is being overplayed by 10 sessions per season
Rugby union	Shortfall of 3 match sessions at Fylde RFC	Shortfall of 3 match sessions at Fylde RFC
Hockey (sand based AGPs)	Demand is currently met	Demand can be met

Conclusions

The current and future position for all pitch sports is either demand is being met or there is a small shortfall (highlighted in red above). Therefore, there is a current need to protect all existing grass pitch provision until shortfalls can be addressed and sufficient spare capacity be created, through increases in quality or creating access to new provision or other sites.

1.5 Definitions

Match sessions

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

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

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 football. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or

⁶ Current demand is calculated from an analysis of overplay, unmet demand and spare capacity and is expressed in match sessions per week unless otherwise stated.

⁷ Please note that this is demand that will exist in 2032 if the current demand is not met.

⁸ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

certain types of play during peak and off peak times. Pitch quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage.

As a guide, each NGB has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity):

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches per week		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
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

Shortfalls

Please note that shortfalls are expressed in match sessions rather than converted to pitches. To convert match sessions into pitches, the number of match sessions should be halved (to take account of teams playing on a home and away basis).

For a full Glossary of terms please refer to Appendix Four.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

PART 2: VISION

2.1 Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Fylde Playing Pitch Strategy:

“An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of playing pitches that provides opportunity to play pitch sports. The network will cater for all standards of play, from grass roots to elite and will encourage and promote sustained participation”

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

PART 3: OBJECTIVES

The following overarching objectives are based on the three Sport England themes (see Figure 1 below). Delivery of the Strategy is the responsibility of and relies on, the Steering Group.

It is recommended that the following are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sport England's requirements.

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 planning objectives - Protect, Enhance and Provide



Source: Sport England 2015

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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 the playing pitch sports resulting in the sport specific recommendations.

Football pitches

Summary

- ◀ There are 87 grass football pitches are identified within Fylde, of which, 48 are available and have recorded community use.
- ◀ There are a number of cross boundary sites falling within neighbouring Blackpool which sit close to the boundary with Fylde which are likely to be used by Fylde residents, particularly Common Edge Road which is a large multi pitch site. This site is also neighboured by South Shore Cricket & Squash Club and Collins Park, whilst AFC Blackpool, Squires Gate FC and Blackpool Wren Rovers FC are also situated at the same junction.
- ◀ Over half (70%) of pitches available for community use are standard quality and a further 15% are poor quality, with 15% rated as good.
- ◀ Over marking of pitches is frequent and several clubs with a large number of junior teams mark mini or youth 9v9 pitches inside others. This causes sustained and focused use to specific areas of the larger pitch which may increase the likelihood of surface damage.
- ◀ There are no full size 3G pitches, therefore there are also no AGPs certified for competitive football.
- ◀ Poor quality and lack of changing facilities is a key issue across the Borough. In particular, at Lytham Town FC and to service key sites Park View (no changing) and Blackpool Road North (only two changing rooms).
- ◀ Lack of car parking at peak times at Blackpool Road North Playing Field is an identified key issue.
- ◀ Kirkham Juniors FC has unsecured tenure of the pitches at both Maryfields and Kirkham & Wesham CC, whilst AFC Townhouse also has unsecured tenure.
- ◀ A total of 100 affiliated teams are identified as playing matches on grass football pitches within Fylde.
- ◀ Kirkham Juniors FC believes it is operating at pitch capacity at peak time and therefore cannot increase the number of teams beyond the current number, whilst St Annes Junior FC reports unmet demand.
- ◀ AFC Fylde is the only team currently playing within the football pyramid structure at Step 2.
- ◀ Lytham Town FC aims to progress to Step 7 but is currently restricted as changing facilities do not comply with ground grading requirements. Lytham Town representatives have met with Lancashire FA (March 2016) to discuss the development which would fall in line with Step 7 Ground Grading.
- ◀ Clubs generally make use of AGP facilities for winter training, several of which use sand based pitches such as Kirkham Grammar School and Lytham High School or small sized 3G pitches. Further access to affordable floodlit training provision was highlighted as a key requirement, especially 3G surfaces.
- ◀ The FA estimates that there is a need for three full size 3G pitches to service football training needs in Fylde.
- ◀ There is a total of 16 match sessions of actual spare capacity on grass football pitches across the Borough, of which nine are on adult pitches.
- ◀ There are six grass pitches overplayed across four sites, by a total of ten match equivalent sessions.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- ◀ There is a shortfall of match sessions at the youth 9v9 format to accommodate current demand and anticipated future demand, though overall there is current spare capacity of 4.5 match sessions.
- ◀ AFC Fylde has begun construction of a new stadium at Mill Farm, which would also incorporate full size 3G and sand based pitches as well as eight small sided 3G cages for football and a clubhouse building, all available for community use. Plans also include a host of retail, restaurant and service developments. It is currently unknown as to the extent to which this facility will be available for community use.

Scenarios – grass

- ◀ **Improving pitch quality** - on overplayed pitches (either through increased maintenance or drainage improvements in order to increase pitch capacity) to either standard or good quality will help to accommodate overplay expressed. For example, improving all overplayed pitches to good quality will also create additional spare capacity equating to four match sessions which would also help to meet unmet/latent demand expressed.
- ◀ Further to this, increasing the quality of other sites which currently have spare capacity from poor quality to standard/good will further increase capacity to meet unmet/latent demand identified.
- ◀ **Utilising spare capacity** – opening up sites which are currently unavailable for community use e.g. education sites and privately owned sites or increased activity at sites currently unused will also help to accommodate unmet and future demand for youth and mini pitches expressed by some clubs.
- ◀ **Summary** – if pitch quality/overplay is addressed and access to existing pitches is maximised there would be no requirement for new grass pitches to be sought in Fylde.

Scenarios – 3G pitches⁹

- ◀ **Moving all competitive mini teams to play on 3G pitches¹⁰** – there are currently 15 mini 5v5 teams and 16 mini 7v7 teams which would require a total of two full size 3G pitches to accommodate all mini teams. This is on the basis that both playing formats can be accommodated on one day using staggered kick off times.
- ◀ **Moving all competitive youth 9v9 teams to play on 3G pitches** – there are currently 24 youth 9v9 teams which would require a total of two full size 3G pitches to accommodate all youth 9v9 teams. This is on the basis that teams can be accommodated on one day using staggered kick off times.
- ◀ **Reducing overmarking** – four sites in Fylde have pitches marked onto larger pitches (Blackpool Road North Playing Field, Park View Road Playing Fields, Staining Playing Fields, William Segar Hodgson Playing Fields). Transferring this use to 3G pitches and removing the overmarked pitches would not only allow for use of this available capacity but create new spare capacity to accommodate existing shortfalls.

⁹ Refer to Appendix One: 3G Pitch Scenario for the programming model used.

¹⁰ Figures are rounded up to the nearest full size pitch.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Recommendations – grass pitches

- ◀ Existing quantity of football pitches to be protected (unless, a new 3G pitch can be provided to counteract the reduction in quantity of grass pitches).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as standard or poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality and link to use of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme across the Borough where necessary.
- ◀ Look to utilise actual spare capacity expressed on sites in order to cater for unmet and future demand expressed on youth and mini pitches. This may require improvements to pitch quality and is explored on a site by site basis within the accompanying action plan.
- ◀ As a priority work with educational establishments and private site owners/managers to maximise and secure access to pitches on education/private sites which are currently unavailable for community use.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnership and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development.

Recommendations – 3G pitches

- ◀ Increase provision of 3G pitches in Fylde to initially meet training demand and in a phased approach to accommodate competitive demand for mini and youth football.
- ◀ Lancashire FA to carry out consultation with leagues/clubs to ensure readiness of moving competitive play to 3G pitches in the future.
- ◀ Encourage providers to have a mechanism in place which ensures the long term sustainability of provision.

World rugby compliant AGPs

- ◀ Consider additional rugby world rugby compliant AGPs in the Area to address levels of overplay, whether at club sites or shared sites.

Cricket pitches

Summary

- ◀ In total, there are 11 grass cricket squares in Fylde, all of which are available for community use with the exception of two squares at Kirkham Grammar School. There are also seven artificial wickets, three of which are located at school sites.
- ◀ The non-technical assessments carried out on cricket squares in Fylde found six squares to be of good quality and five as standard quality, with no poor quality squares.
- ◀ All clubs with the exception of Wrea Green CC report demand for access to better quality training facilities, particularly the desire for fixed artificial net bays.
- ◀ Clubs in Fylde generally have secured tenure of sites; either playing on club owned or leased pitches or public sports provision. Two clubs rent pitches at parish council managed sites.
- ◀ Lytham CC has one team playing at Arnold King Edward VII and Queen Mary School (AKEQMS) where it rents the pitch. Tenure of the site is considered unsecure.
- ◀ There are five clubs in the Borough which field a total of 45 teams, made up of 19 senior and 26 junior teams. The New Saints CC recently folded in 2014 as a result of the Fylde Cricket League also folding.
- ◀ Blackpool CC imports demand from team adult teams which play at Bank Lane Sports Ground and Bridges Recreation Ground on an infrequent game by game basis. The Club has plans for the development of a second home ground in Blackpool therefore it is unlikely that this occasional play will be long-term.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- ◀ Last Man Stands was introduced for the 2015 season at Kirkham and Wesham CC and the league is likely to grow in the 2016 season and beyond.
- ◀ There are six sites in secured use which show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in Fylde, totalling 99 match sessions per season.
- ◀ Only Bank Lane Sports Ground shows actual spare capacity for additional senior play, amounting to 0.5 match sessions. Four other sites are currently unused by junior teams midweek and are subsequently available for further use at peak time.
- ◀ Only Kirkham and Wesham CC is considered to be overplayed, by a total of 10 match sessions per season. The site has relatively few wickets given the amount of play throughout the season, some of which takes place on the artificial wicket.
- ◀ Overall there is sufficient capacity within Fylde to accommodate current demand on existing squares. There is also enough capacity to accommodate anticipated increases in demand at junior level.

Scenarios

- ◀ **Improving pitch quality** – five sites are assessed as standard quality in Fylde (one of which, Kirkham and Wesham CC is overplayed). Increased club management and maintenance of the square is likely to improve pitch quality and as required sustain current levels of overplay through greater time and cost able to be invested in relation to current regimes.
- ◀ **Increasing the number of wickets** - Kirkham and Wesham CC is overplayed (by 10 match sessions) due to accommodating LMS and is also standard quality. Increasing the number of wickets on the square will not provide additional capacity as the pitch isn't available at peak time.
- ◀ **Utilising spare capacity** – there are no overall shortfalls at present and six sites in secured use which show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in Fylde, totalling 99 match sessions per season.
- ◀ **Future demand for LMS** – can be accommodated at Bush Lane Playing Fields and The Green albeit both sites are parish council owned and are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ **Securing long term tenure** - for Blackpool CC at Fleetwood Road Recreation Ground in Blackpool will create future spare capacity at Bank Lane Sports Ground and Bridges Recreation Ground in Fylde.
- ◀ **Summary** – if pitch quality is addressed and access to existing pitches is maximised to accommodate future demand there would be no requirement for new grass pitches to be sought in Fylde.

Recommendations – cricket

- ◀ Seek to improve standard quality squares to ensure sufficient quality to accommodate the standard of competition. As a priority, improve quality at Kirkham and Wesham CC which is currently overplayed.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure is secure for all clubs and in particular Lytham CC at AKEQMS through long term lease agreement.
- ◀ Utilise spare capacity to accommodate possible future demand, particularly development of junior and women's and girls' cricket and LMS.
- ◀ Improve access to training facilities of the required quality and increase the supply of fixed artificial net bays.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Rugby union pitches

Summary

- ◀ In total, 12 senior and two mini rugby union pitches are located across seven sites in Fylde, of which only five senior pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the five available for community use, there are three standard quality pitches at Fylde RFC and two poor quality pitches at AKEQMS and Bank Lane Sports Ground, the latter of which is unused.
- ◀ Pitches unavailable for use are mainly located at school sites where staffing, access and lack of access to changing facilities located in school buildings are key obstacles to use.
- ◀ Fylde RFC is the only club in the Borough, which has four senior teams and a full junior section with teams at each age group including Colts. All teams play at the club site which it owns, with some occasional use of AKEQMS when required.
- ◀ The current changing rooms at the Club site are of standard quality and there is a set to service each of the three grass pitches, with referees sharing a communal officials changing room with shower.
- ◀ Teams typically train on pitch two in the case of full floodlighting, except the first team which uses the main pitch and mini teams which typically train on the 3G onsite. There is no World Rugby compliant AGP in Fylde.
- ◀ The Club reports a desire to access additional floodlit training provision, with aspirations for full sized World Rugby certified 3G pitch onsite.
- ◀ There is no spare capacity at either senior or junior peak time at Fylde RFC.
- ◀ The Club reports unmet demand at mini level in terms of excessive squad sizes and reports that it could field another two mini teams given access to additional pitches. It would like to make more regular use of AKEQMS which could help accommodate this unmet demand.
- ◀ Spare capacity of one match equivalent is available across the Borough at Bank Lane Sports ground which is unused. AKEQMS is also not regularly used and is available at peak time but it is likely that the limited carrying capacity and extent of curricular use causes this pitch to be overplayed.
- ◀ Overplay at Fylde RFC amounts to five match sessions and largely derives from Pitch Two which is used heavily for midweek floodlit training and junior training in the absence of fixtures on Sundays.
- ◀ Much of the existing overplay at Fylde RFC derives from training demand and there is a need to access additional floodlit training facilities in order to alleviate this, preferably exclusive from match pitches. If upgraded to World Rugby compliant and maximised for training, the existing AGP (60x40m) would provide a valid training venue that would help to alleviate much of the above mentioned issues.

World rugby compliant AGPs

- ◀ It is the intention of the RFU investment strategy into AGPs to invest in communities across the country where grass rugby pitches in the local community are over capacity and where the installation of an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local rugby clubs and other organisations within the Local Authority. The RFU is keen to work with partners such as the Council and the FA to look at sites of mutual interest for future AGP provision.

Scenarios

- ◀ **Improving pitch quality** – improving the quality of pitches at Fylde would not address overplay in its entirety. As the pitch is currently assessed as good quality (M2/D1) the only option would be to improve drainage which given the likely cost of this would only increase capacity by 0.25 – 0.5 match sessions per week.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- ◀ **More pitches** – given that overplay (three match sessions per week) derives from training demand, there is a need to access additional floodlit training facilities in order to alleviate this, preferably exclusive from match pitches.
- ◀ The Club already accesses AKEQMS on an adhoc basis to accommodate juniors but if access was more formally secured the Club would also be able to accommodate unmet junior demand. However, the pitches at AKEQMS are rated as poor quality and in their current state are not likely to be able to sustain long term regular use.
- ◀ If upgraded to World Rugby compliant and maximised for training, the existing AGP (60x40m) would provide a valid training venue that would help to alleviate much of the above mentioned issues.

Recommendations – rugby union

- ◀ Existing quantity of rugby pitches to be protected.
- ◀ Work to alleviate overplay at Fylde RFC by increasing access to additional floodlit training facilities. As an option, explore the feasibility of upgrading the existing small sized 3G pitch at Fylde RFC to meet World Rugby certification criteria.
- ◀ Improve the quality of changing and ancillary provision at Fylde RFC to better service the Club's needs.
- ◀ Seek options to improve pitch quality and therefore capacity at AKEQMS to further accommodate junior teams from Fylde RFC and then to secure regular formal access.
- ◀ Support Fylde RFC to re-establish a women's team through stronger links with UCLAN (Preston) from where many of its former female players were based.

World rugby compliant AGPs

- ◀ Consider additional rugby world rugby compliant AGPs in the Area to address levels of overplay, whether at club sites or shared sites. However, as a priority in Fylde, maximise use of the existing AGP (60x 40m) at Fylde RFC as primary objective above building a new one.

Hockey pitches (AGPs)

Summary

- ◀ There are three full size AGPs in Fylde all of which are sand based surfaces and are floodlit.
- ◀ Kirkham Grammar School and AKEQMS are eight and nine years old respectively, both are considered to be approaching requirement for surface replacement.
- ◀ AKEQMS does not allow football use of the sand dressed AGP; consequently, it acts a key site for hockey and is home venue of Lytham St Annes HC. Although there is capacity for further midweek hockey training there is no capacity on Saturday.
- ◀ Kirkham Grammar School is not currently available on Sundays and does not have a resident hockey user on Saturday, though Preston HC (Preston) occasionally imports demand for use as a reserve pitch when required. Hockey is a key sport at the school and therefore the amount of potential capacity available for community use is limited.
- ◀ LSA Technology & Performing Arts College is operated by YMCA Ansdell midweek evenings and is heavily used, particularly by small sided football leagues with little capacity. It is likely that there is some spare capacity at weekends when the pitch is used for one match each Saturday by Lytham St Annes HC due to a lack of capacity to accommodate all teams at AKEQMS.
- ◀ Mill Farm Ventures Limited has proposed plans for the construction of several new AGPs as part of its Mill Farm development, which would include an FA and World Rugby certified 3G pitch as well a full size hockey suitable pitch and a number of small sided 3G football cages. All pitches would be available for community use and use by Springfields HC (Preston) has already been agreed in principle.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- ◀ Lytham St Annes HC considers Lytham Cricket & Sports Club to be its social base where changing provision is available but is not used often due to poor quality.
- ◀ Lytham St Annes HC believes its key priority is to develop its junior section in order to strengthen for the long term. Further to this, future demand is anticipated to increase should Springfields HC relocate to the Borough from Preston. This is dependent on the creation of a new hockey suitable pitch at Mill Farm and will only go ahead should a new pitch be built; therefore, current supply will not need to accommodate this added demand.
- ◀ In summary, supply and demand analysis highlights that Fylde is currently well served for hockey suitable AGPs both at present and in the future, however, there is a need to develop further use on Sundays.

Scenarios

- ◀ **Utilising spare capacity** – LSA Technology & Performing Arts College may have available capacity at peak time (Saturday) to accommodate more hockey use if required (although this is unclear due to school fixtures). Further negotiation/discussion with Kirkham Grammar School would be required to establish peak time community use but given occasional use by Preston HC, this may be an option to explore if required. There is spare capacity on Sundays at AKEQMS to accommodate further junior team usage.
- ◀ **Increasing the number of 3G pitches** – given the shortfall of full sized 3G pitches in Fylde and use of some sand AGPs for football training, it is important to consider any likely impact on the future sustainability of hockey suitable AGPs as some football demand is likely to transfer onto 3G pitches as more are provided albeit this would not affect AKEQMS as no football is allowed and Kirkham Grammar School only allows limited football usage and limited community use due to school usage.
- ◀ **Converting pitches to 3G** – LSA Technology & Performing Arts College is the only potential AGP which could be converted to a 3G surface in Fylde, however, the pitch does currently accommodate one match each Saturday by Lytham St Annes HC due to a lack of capacity at AKEQMS. Lancashire FA and England Hockey should work together to identify the feasibility of accommodating this team if access could be negotiated with Kirkham Grammar School (or indeed developments at Mill Farm could offer future capacity for hockey over and above accommodating Springfields HC).

Recommendations – hockey

- ◀ Retain a sufficient level of hockey provision (at least two full sized sand based pitches that are adequately available for community use) to service current and future demand.
- ◀ Monitor the need for future resurfacing of the pitches at Kirkham Grammar School and AKEQMS which are eight and nine years old respectively.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put sinking funds (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface replacement when required) in place to maintain AGP pitch quality in the long term.
- ◀ Work to establish sufficient access to changing provision for Lytham St Annes HC either at Lytham Cricket & Sports Club (its social base) or at AKEQMS.
- ◀ Support Lytham St Annes HC to further develop its junior section in order to strengthen the Club in the long term and maximise use of AKEQMS to achieve this.
- ◀ Lancashire FA and England Hockey should work together to identify the feasibility of converting LSA Technology & Performing Arts College to a 3G surface if current hockey usage can be accommodated and secured elsewhere in Fylde.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed from the key issues cutting across all playing pitch sports and categorised under each of the Strategy Aims. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

Aim 1

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

Recommendations:

- a. Protect playing field sites through 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 there is a need to do so.

Recommendation a – Protect playing field sites through local planning policy

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. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.

Paragraph 74 of the Framework 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 playing pitches but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use within the last five years (lapsed) or longer (disused).

Disused/lapsed sites in Fylde

Site name	Sport(s)	Status	Comments
Lytham Juniors Pitch	Football	Disused	Previously had three junior football pitches
The Croft	Football	Disused	Previously had one junior football pitch
William Pickles Park	Football	Disused	Previously had one adult football pitch

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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.

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 and 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 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 as statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against their Playing Fields Policy

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 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.

Further to this, all playing fields should be protected or replaced up until the point where all satisfied demand has been met within the study area or each individual sports catchment areas within a sub area.

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.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Local authorities wanting to dispose of school playing field land need consent under Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, but consent is now also required for disposal of any land used by a school or academy under Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010.

It should be noted that consent under Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act does not necessarily mean subsequent planning approval will be granted. Therefore, any application for planning permission must meet the requirements of the relevant policy, in this case paragraph 74 of Framework, Local Plan Policy and Sport England policy. Indeed, applicants are advised to engage Sport England before submitting applications. Robust implementation of the statutory obligation will ensure protection of school playing fields for use by pupils (and sometimes the community as a whole) to ensure receipt is ploughed back into sports education.

Further to this guidance, Fylde Borough Council has set out its policy in relation to the protection and provision of outdoor sports facilities:

Policy HW3

In order to provide appropriate indoor and outdoor sports facilities for the communities of Fylde, the Council will:

1. Protect existing indoor and outdoor sports facilities, unless:
Either:
 - a) They are proven to be surplus to need, as identified in an adopted and up to date Needs Assessment¹¹; or
 - b) An equivalent or better quality and quantity replacement sports facility will be created in a location well related to the functional requirements of the relocated use and its existing and future users. This would be over and above any provision made available through CIL¹²; or
 - c) The development is for an alternative indoor or outdoor sports facility the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the existing sports facility, (see additional footnote below);
And in all cases:
 - d) The proposal would not result in the loss of an area important for its amenity or contribution to the character of the area in general; and
2. Support new indoor and outdoor sports facilities where:
 - a) They are readily accessible by public transport, walking and cycling; and
 - b) The proposed facilities are of a type and scale appropriate to the size of the settlement; and
 - c) They are listed in the action plan in the adopted Playing Pitch Strategy and / or the Built Facilities Review, subject to the criteria in this policy.

¹¹ In terms of sports provision, the relevant Needs Assessment will be the Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Sports Facility Strategy

¹² Mitigation for the loss of a sports facility/playing field under paragraph 74 of the NPPF does not fall within CIL Regulations.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

3. Make sure that major residential developments contribute, through land assembly and commuted sums, to new or improved sports facilities where development will increase demand and / or there is already a recognised shortage. Commuted sums should be obtained in accordance with an up-to-date adopted Needs Assessment Action Plan¹³.

Recommendation b – Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through a range of solutions and partnership agreements

A number of school sites are being used in Fylde for competitive play, predominately for football. In all cases use of pitches has not been classified as unsecure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and further work should be carried out to ensure an appropriate Community Use Agreement (CUA) is in place (including access to changing provision where required).

NGBs can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may not have direct influence.

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

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/>

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council, NGBs or the County Sports Partnership (CSP) to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an income through their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)¹⁴. Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally whether volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

As well as improving the quality of well-used, local authority sites, there are a number of sites which have poor quality (or no) ancillary facilities. **The Council should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted to the clubs playing on these sites (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so the clubs are in a position to apply for external funding to improve the ancillary facilities.**

Further to this there could be examples in Fylde where long term leases could be put into place for the continued use of a site. Each club should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered, which takes into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations in order that they may be able to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities.

To facilitate this, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds to allow this.

¹³ The relevant sports Needs Assessments and Action Plans are the Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Facilities Strategy.

¹⁴ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

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

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

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

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

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields.

Community asset transfer

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

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/asset-transfer/>

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Recommendation c – Maximise community use of education sites where there is a need to do so

Given the mix of provider in Fylde, including for example, parish/town councils and private clubs, there is a need for the Council and NGBs to work with other partners to help maximise use of outdoor sports facilities and in particular grass pitches and AGPs.

In order to maximise community use of educational facilities it is recommended to establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools. 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 Fylde pricing policies at facilities can be barrier to access at some of the education sites but physical access and resistance from schools to open up provision is also an issue.

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

The following clubs play all of their games on education sites and it is recommended therefore that a formalised community use agreement is negotiated and put in place:

- ◀ Lytham HC (Arnold King Edward VII and Queen Mary School and LSA Technology & Performing Arts College)
- ◀ AFC Townhouse (LSA Technology & Performing Arts College)
- ◀ Lytham CC (Arnold King Edward VII and Queen Mary School)
- ◀ Fylde RFC (Arnold King Edward VII and Queen Mary School)

Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use.

It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to grass pitches for community use is limited.

In some instances grass pitches are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before community use can be established.

As detailed earlier, Sport England has also produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use and 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/>

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Aim 2

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

Recommendation:

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

Recommendation d – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality, including for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. These are explored in more detail below.

Addressing quality issues

Generally, where pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, review/improve maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring existing maintenance of good quality pitches continues is also important.

Based on 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, provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to these outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

For the purposes of the Quality Assessments, this Strategy will refer to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as Good, Standard or Poor quality. In Fylde, for example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements i.e. changing rooms or a specific pitch.

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, a good maintenance regime coupled with good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking. For rugby union, a good pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained.

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

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Poor quality refers to pitches that have, for example, poor levels of maintenance coupled with inadequate grass cover, uneven surface and damage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old dated interior. For rugby union, drainage is natural and inadequate.

Please refer to the Sport England/NGB quality assessments. Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this.

In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old dated interior.

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 such as those mentioned above should be given priority for improvement.

In order to prioritise investment into key sites **it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to the Area, to provide a steer on future investment.**

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/

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 weekly carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing pitch quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a weekly match limit to each. Each NGB recommends a number of matches that a good quality grass pitch should take:

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

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

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

There are also a number of sites that are poor quality but are not overplayed. These sites should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than other sites but demand could increase if the quality was to increase. Improving pitch quality should not be considered in isolation from maintenance regimes.

Whilst it works both ways in so much as poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being over played, potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular.

There is also a need to balance pitch improvements alongside the transfer of play to alternative pitch sites. Therefore, work with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity.

Increasing pitch maintenance

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

For example, the FA, ECB and RFL in partnership have recently introduced a Pitch Advisor Scheme and have been working in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a Grass Pitch Maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots football clubs with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide football clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas, with the simple aim of improving the club's playing surface.

At local authority sites in Fylde, maintenance of grass pitches is deemed to be basic and for football covers grass cutting and seeding only, resulting in many pitches being assessed as poor quality. Where local authority pitches are recommended for improvement within the action plan, carrying out additional regular work such as aerating, sand dressing, fertilising and/or weed killing will all improve quality. An improvement in post season remedial work is also recommended. It is recommended that the Council works with users and Lancashire FA to fully determine the most appropriate pitch improvements on a site by site basis.

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

Recommendation e – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) for 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 7: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Recommendation f – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

Partners, led by the Council, 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 pitch facilities.

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

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

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

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

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Aim 3

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation g - Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations.

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

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

While maximising the use of existing pitches offers scope to address the quantitative deficiencies for most sports, new or additional pitches may be required to meet the levels of demand identified for football and rugby both now and in the future.

There may be an opportunity to use some senior pitches to provide senior, junior or mini pitches (through different line markings/coning areas of the pitch). However, further work should be undertaken on this as an action for the Council/NGBs. Furthermore, the re-designation of adult pitches that are not currently used may lead to a deficiency of adult pitches in the medium to longer term as younger players move up the ages. It is likely that for some sports, particularly football, that the provision of new pitches and facilities will be required in the future to support the predicted future demand.

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

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate a senior pitch where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	As a result of the FA Youth Development Review pitch demands are changing. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).	Consider re-allocating leases to Community Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams. Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities. Work with clubs in relation to their pitch demands as a result of the FA Youth Development Review.
	Demand for senior football is likely to be sustained based on current trends and the move to small sided football. County FA focus to maintain growth of youth football through to adults.	Sustain current stock but consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required.
	An increase in women and girls football following £2.4m investment over the next two years (2014-2016) from Sport England to increase the number of women and girls taking part in football sessions.	A need to provide segregated ancillary facilities and the potential need for more pitches.
Cricket	Demand is likely to remain static in Fylde for grass wickets for both junior and adult participation.	Isolated pockets of demand for access to additional facilities where pitches are overplayed.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
Rugby union	Locally, the RFU wants to ensure access to pitches in Fylde that satisfies existing demand and predicted growth. It is also an aim to protect and improve pitch quality, as well as ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights.	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.
Hockey	Potential increase of participation particularly junior teams.	Sinking funds in place to improve quality and ensure continued use of provision for current and future hockey demand.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
AGPs	Demand for 3G pitches for competitive football will increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches to service competitive football, particularly mini and youth will result in some reduced demand for grass pitches. Provision of 3G pitches which are World Rugby compliant will help to reduce overplay as a result of training on rugby pitches.	Ensure that access to new AGP provision across the Borough is maximised and that community use agreements are in place. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface: http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf

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

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

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

Some sites (or adjacent land) in Fylde also have the potential to accommodate more pitches which may be a solution to meeting shortfalls identified as is further explored within the action plan.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

Introduction

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

It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. 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.

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

To allow for facility developments to be prioritised and programmed within a phased approach a tiered model to for the improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities is useful.

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 Borough as a whole.

Recommended tiered site criteria

Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Strategically located. Priority sites for NGB.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community. Likely to include education sites.
Accommodates three or more good quality grass pitches. Including provision of at least one AGP.	Accommodates two or more good quality grass pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.
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.
Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Hub sites are of Borough wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of high impact 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

Where development of Strategic Sites includes provision of 3G pitches for football it is recommended that further modelling/feasibility work is carried out to ensure sustainability of new 3G pitches to accommodate competitive fixtures. However, as a priority consultation should be carried out with leagues/clubs to gauge acceptance/buy in of moving competitive play to 3G pitches in the future.

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.

It is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both Hub sites and Key Centres 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 generally one and two pitch sites and may be Council owned hired to clubs for a season or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. However, they are also likely to be private club sites serving one particular 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.

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. 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.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.
- ◀ Availability of funding for hub site development.
- ◀ Impact on all sports that use a site regardless of the sport that is the subject of enhancements.

Action plan columns

Partners

The column indicating Partners refers to the main organisation that the Council will liaise with in helping to deliver the actions. The next stage in the development of the action plan will be to agree a Lead Partner to help deliver the actions.

Site hierarchy tier and priority level

Although Strategic Sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority level as they have Borough 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 and therefore some Key Centres 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).

It is recommended that as the Steering Group reviews and updates the action plan that medium and low priority sites are then identified as the next level of sites for attention. As a guide it is recommended that:

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 are club or education sites with local specific importance and have been identified on a site by site basis as issues appertaining to individual sites 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 <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

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 timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based.

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

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Aim

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

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Freckleton & Warton

Football

Summary of demand (in secured use)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity ¹⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)		
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current total
Adult	2.5	1	-	1.5
Youth 11v11	-	-	-	-
Youth 9v9	-	-	-	-
Mini 7v7	2	-	-	2
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	-
Total	4.5	1	-	3.5

There is no requirement for additional match equivalents on any pitch type within the Freckleton & Warton Area. There is currently enough actual spare capacity to accommodate further play on adult and mini 7v7 pitches.

Current shortfall of three full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to service training across the Borough.

Cricket

Bank Lane Sports Ground shows actual spare capacity for additional senior play, amounting to 0.5 match sessions. Four other sites are currently unused by junior teams midweek and are subsequently available for further use at peak time.

Rugby union

Spare capacity of one match equivalent is available at Bank Lane Sports ground which is unused.

Hockey

Supply and demand analysis highlights that Fylde is currently well served for hockey suitable AGPs both at present and in the future.

¹⁵ In match equivalent sessions

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁶	Cost ¹⁷	Aim
3	Bactive Fitness Centre	PR4 1AX	Football	Private	Two poor quality small sided (35x15m) 3G pitches commercially operated.	Improve quality in order to maximise use.	LFA	Local	S-M	L-M	Enhance
4	Bank Lane Sports Ground	PR4 1TB	Football	Warton Sports Association	One good quality adult pitch and two mini pitches (one good and one standard quality) with spare capacity. Mini pitches available but unused.	Retain spare capacity to protect/sustain quality. Maximise use of mini pitches or alternatively reconfigure to a different format.	LFA	Local	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		One standard quality pitch with eight grass wickets. Used by St Annes CC and imported demand from Blackpool CC 3 rd and 4 th teams.	Improve quality and review maintenance regimens.	LCCB		M	L-M	
			Rugby union		One poor quality adult pitch which is unused.	No demand for use as rugby, consider reconfiguring to football in the future.	LFA		L	L	
6	Bridges Recreation Ground	PR4 1XY	Football	Borough Council	One adult pitch overplayed and one youth 9v9 pitch played to capacity. Both poor quality. Predominately used by Warton Typhoons Junior FC.	Improve pitch quality and ensure appropriate maintenance is applied. Consider future management arrangements with users.	LFA Council	Local	M	L-M	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		One standard quality cricket pitch with four grass wickets. Adhoc use by Blackpool CC 3 rd and 4 th teams due to fixture clashes at Bank Lane.	Ensure quality is appropriate for standard of cricket. Consider future management arrangements with users.	LCCB Council		M	L-M	
7	Bush Lane Playing Fields	PR4 1SA	Football	Parish Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with some spare capacity. Line marking is carried out by users including Warton Typhoons Junior FC.	Improve quality through a review maintenance and consider more formal future management arrangements with users.	LFA Parish Council	Key Centre	S	L	Protect Enhance
					Small sided 3G pitch, good quality (40x36m) well used for training.	Sustain quality in order to maximise use.	LFA		L	L	
			Cricket		One standard quality pitch with 13 wickets and one artificial wicket with spare capacity. Freckleton CC reports the pitch to be uneven but that quality has improved since taking on a more knowledgeable groundsman.	Improve quality and review maintenance regimens.	LCCB Parish Council		S	L	
11	Freckleton C of E Primary School	PR4 1PJ	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch available for community use but unused.	Explore future community use options with the School in order to maximise use.	LFA	Local	M	L	Protect Provide
14	Holy Family Catholic Primary School	PR4 1AH	Football	School	One standard quality mini pitch with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
39	Strike Lane Primary School	PR4 1HR	Football	School	Two mini pitches both standard quality with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect

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.

**FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁸	Cost ¹⁹	Aim
47	Kellamergh Park	PR4 1TN	Football	Club	One standard quality adult pitch with minimal spare capacity. AFC Fylde currently plays at the site which underwent improvements in March 2015 to add additional spectator seating so to comply with Step 2 requirements.	Retain spare capacity in order to protect/improve quality.	LFA Council	Local	S	L	Protect Enhance

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.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Kirkham & Wesham

Football

Summary of demand (in secured use)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity ²⁰	Demand (match equivalent sessions)		
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current total
Adult	1.5	1	-	0.5
Youth 11v11	0.5	-	-	0.5
Youth 9v9	-	-	-	-
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	-
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	-
Total	2	1	-	1

There is no requirement for additional match equivalents on any pitch type within the Kirkham & Wesham Area. There is currently enough actual spare capacity to accommodate further play on adult and youth 11v11 pitches.

Current shortfall of three full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to service training across the Borough.

Cricket

Only Kirkham and Wesham CC is considered to be overplayed, by a total of 10 match sessions per season. The site has relatively few wickets given the amount of play throughout the season, some of which takes place on the NTP.

Rugby union

No club demand in the area.

Hockey

Supply and demand analysis highlights that Fylde is currently well served for hockey suitable AGPs both at present and in the future.

Mill Farm Ventures Limited has proposed plans for the construction of several new AGPs as part of its Mill Farm development, which would include an FA and World Rugby certified 3G pitch as well a full size hockey suitable pitch and a number of small sided 3G football cages. All pitches would be available for community use and use by Springfields HC has already been agreed in principle.

²⁰ In match equivalent sessions

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²¹	Cost ²²	Aim
8	Carr Hill High School & Sixth Form Centre	PR4 2ST	Football Cricket Rugby union	School	Two adult, three mini and one youth football pitches all poor quality. One cricket pitch standard quality. Two adult rugby pitches poor quality. All with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
10	Fleetwood Road Playing Field (Fylde)	PR4 3BY	Football	Borough Council	One poor quality adult pitch with minimal spare capacity.	Retain spare capacity to help improve quality. Review maintenance.	LFA Council	Local	S	L-M	Protect Enhance
16	Kirkham and Wesham Cricket Club	PR4 2JQ	Cricket	Club	One standard quality pitch with nine grass wickets and one artificial wicket overplayed by ten matches per season. Hosts LMS league.	As a priority, improve quality in order to address overplay and build future capacity.	LCCB	Key Centre	S	M	Protect Enhance
			Football		Two standard quality mini pitches with no peak time capacity.	Review maintenance to improve quality to build future capacity.	LFA		M	L	
17	Kirkham and Wesham Primary School	PR4 2JP	Football	School	One good quality mini pitch with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
18	Kirkham Grammar School	PR4 2BH	Rugby union	School	Three adult and two mini pitches all poor quality and unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Local	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		Two good quality pitches with no community use as used by capacity by school teams.	Retain for school use and improve as required.					
			Hockey		One sand filled AGP refurbished in 2007, standard quality. Not available on Sundays and does not have a resident hockey user on Saturday, though Preston HC (Preston) occasionally imports demand for use as a reserve pitch when required.	Monitor the need for future resurfacing and ensure quality is sustained/improved.	EH		S-M	H	
19	Kirkham St Michaels C of E Primary School	PR4 2SL	Football	School	One standard quality mini pitch with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
27	Newton Bluecoat C of E Primary School	PR4 3RT	Football Cricket	School	One mini football pitch and one non turf cricket pitch both standard quality with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
28	Newton with Clifton Village Hall Field	PR4 3RX	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch with no formal community use but is sometimes used for summer leagues.	Retain as a reserve/informal site to meet future demand as required.	Parish Council	Reserve	L	L	Protect
41	The Willows Catholic Primary School	PR4 2BT	Football	School	One standard quality youth pitch available for community use but unused.	Explore future community use options with the School in order to maximise use.	LFA	Local	M	L	Protect Provide

²¹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²² (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²³	Cost ²⁴	Aim
44	William Segar Hodgson Playing Fields	PR4 2HE	Football	Town Council/ Club	One adult (overmarked with a youth) and two youth pitches all standard quality. Adult pitch overplayed and minimal capacity on youth pitches. Two unused mini pitches on site. Kirkham Juniors FC states that the goal areas become bald and in need of remedial works. Only one set of changing rooms onsite which are deemed insufficient to serve the whole site.	Reconfigure pitches and improve quality. Site to be put forward for Pitch Improvement Programme. Consider funding options for improved changing facility.	LFA Town Council	Key Centre	S	M	Protect Enhance
48	Maryfields	PR4 2AQ	Football	County Council	Former primary school site with one standard quality mini pitch used by Kirkham Juniors FC, no spare capacity. Annual rental agreement in place but unsecure tenure in the longer term. No accompanying ancillary provision and club uses storage sheds onsite for its equipment and as makeshift changing and shelter areas but identifies the absence of toilet provision as a key issue.	Consider long term options for management agreement with Kirkham Juniors FC albeit this would require exploring funding options for appropriate changing facility to service the site.	LFA County Council	Local	M-L	M	Protect Enhance
-	Mill Farm		Football	Club	AFC Fylde's new 6,000 capacity stadium is currently under construction at Mill Farm in Kirkham as part of the wider development planned onsite, to include a sports village with several AGPs and a number of accompanying retail and commercial developments.	Work with the Club to fully establish need in relation to provision of facilities as part of the new developments through use of the PPS Assessment and ensure appropriate community access arrangements are agreed in order to fully maximise use for the community.	LFA Council	Key Centre	M	H	Provide

²³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Lytham St Annes

Football

Summary of demand (in secured use)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity ²⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)		
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current total
Adult	4	4.5	-	0.5
Youth 11v11	-	-	-	-
Youth 9v9	1	1.5	-	0.5
Mini 7v7	1	-	0.5	0.5
Mini 5v5	1.5	-	1	0.5
Total	7.5	6	1.5	-

There is a requirement for an additional 0.5 match sessions on both adult and youth 9v9 pitches to accommodate current demand in the Lytham St Annes Area. However, there is actual spare capacity to accommodate both unmet demand expressed by St Annes Juniors and further mini soccer play.

Current shortfall of three full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to service training across the Borough.

Cricket

There is sufficient capacity to accommodate current demand on existing squares. There is also enough capacity to accommodate anticipated increases in demand at junior level.

Rugby union

Overplay at Fylde RFC amounts to five match sessions and largely derives from Pitch Two which is used heavily for midweek floodlit training and junior training in the absence of fixtures on Sundays.

Much of the existing overplay at Fylde RFC derives from training demand and there is a need to access additional floodlit training facilities in order to alleviate this, preferably exclusive from match pitches.

Fylde RFC has aspirations for the creation of a 3G pitch to replace the current main grass pitch onsite, which would be made available for wider community and school use. Current development priorities are to improve the main changing room and the quality of shower provision.

AKEQMS is not regularly used and is available at peak time but it is likely that the limited carrying capacity and extent of curricular use causes this pitch to be overplayed.

²⁵ In match equivalent sessions

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Hockey

AKEQMS has midweek capacity and does not permit football use. Lytham St Annes HC reports no problems accessing capacity for training there and would be able to access more if required.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁶	Cost ²⁷	Aim
2	Arnold King Edward VII and Queen Mary School (AKEQMS)	FY8 1DT	Football	School	Two good quality adult football pitches available for community use but unused.	Explore future community use options with the School in order to maximise use.	LFA	Key Centre	M	L	Project Enhance Provide
			Rugby		One poor quality adult rugby pitch with some occasional community use by Fylde RFC.	Explore options to improve quality and further develop community use and use by Fylde RFC for junior teams and establish a formal use agreement.	RFU		S	L-M	
			Cricket		Two good quality pitches with some use by Lytham CC but unsecure.	Further develop community use and use and establish a formal use agreement.	LCCB		S	L	
			Hockey		One sand dressed AGP built in 2006 and assessed as standard quality. No football use and key site for hockey and is home venue of Lytham St Annes HC.	Monitor the need for future resurfacing and ensure quality is sustained/improved. Work to establish sufficient access to changing provision for Lytham St Annes HC.	EH		S	M-H	
5	Blackpool Road North Playing Field	FY8 3RU	Football	Borough Council	Site solely used by St Annes Juniors FC. Two standard quality adult pitches over marked by youth 9v9 and overplayed by 4.5 sessions. Two standard quality mini pitches with spare capacity. Lack of sufficient car parking space is a key issue. Site is also only serviced by two changing rooms which are poor quality.	Reconfigure pitches and reduce over marking. Improve quality and site to be put forward for Pitch Improvement Programme. Consider feasibility for future 3G pitch development. Long term redevelopment of the site should include funding for improved changing rooms and car parking.	LFA Council	Strategic	S-L	M-H	Protect Enhance Provide
9	Clifton Primary School	FY8 3PY	Football	School	One standard quality mini pitch with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
12	Fylde Rugby Football Club	FY8 4EL	Rugby union	Club	Three standard quality adult pitches (M1/D1). The two floodlit pitches are overplayed due to training by a total of five match sessions per week. One 60x40 AGP used only for mini training due to lack of RFU certification for contact practice or play. Changing rooms are of standard quality and there is a set to service each of the three grass pitches, with referees sharing a communal officials changing room with shower.	Increase access to additional floodlit training facilities. In the first instance, maximise use of existing AGP for training and upgrade to World Rugby compliant. Improve the quality of changing and ancillary provision to better service the Club's needs.	RFU	Local	S-M	M-H	Protect Enhance Provide
13	Heyhouses Endowed C of E Primary School	FY8 3EE	Football	School	One adult and one youth pitch both standard quality available for community use but unused.	Explore future community use options with the School in order to maximise use.	LFA	Local	M	L	Protect Provide

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.

**FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁶	Cost ²⁷	Aim
20	LSA Technology & Performing Arts College	FY8 4DG	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches with spare capacity. AFC Townhouse rents pitches at the site but has no formal agreement in place.	Review maintenance. Further develop community use and use and establish a formal use agreement.	LFA	Key Centre	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Rugby union		One poor adult pitch which has a drainage grid within the playing area and is subsequently regarded as unusable for safety reasons. The school therefore has to play all rugby union fixtures away at opposition schools.	Retain for school use and improve quality.	School RFU		L	L-M	
			Hockey	YMCA Ansdell	One full size sand AGP, refurbished in 2012 and is good quality. Heavily used for football. It is likely that there is some spare capacity at weekends as the pitch is only used for one match each Saturday by Lytham St Annes HC.	Partners to work together identify the feasibility of converting to a 3G surface if current hockey usage can be accommodated and secured elsewhere in Fylde.	LFA EH		S	H	
21	Lytham C of E Primary School	FY8 4HA	Football	School	One standard quality mini pitch with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
22	Lytham Cricket Club and Sports Club	FY8 5QD	Cricket	Club	One good quality pitch with 18 grass wickets with no peak time capacity. The clubhouse is rated as poor quality and is also used by Lytham St Annes HC as its social base.	Sustain pitch quality and explore options for funding to improve clubhouse/changing facilities as a joint bid with other sports.	LCCB EH LFA	Local	M	M-H	Protect Enhance
			Football		One good quality adult pitch with no peak time capacity. One good quality youth pitch unused.	Maximise use of the site and consider reconfiguration of the youth pitch if required.	LFA		S	L	
23	Lytham Hall Park Primary School	FY8 4QU	Football	School	One poor quality youth pitch with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
24	Lytham St Annes Mayfield Primary School	FY8 2HQ	Football	School	Playing field which could accommodate pitches but no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
25	Lytham Town Football Club	FY8 4JE	Football	Club	One adult and one mini pitch both assessed as good quality with no peak time capacity. However, requires new goalposts for the adult pitches. Drainage pipes are suspected to have collapsed in two areas of the adult pitch which become very wet. Poor quality changing facility/porta cabins inhibits growth particularly for women and girl's teams. Lytham Town representatives have met with Lancashire FA (March 2016) to discuss the development which would fall in line with Step 7 Ground Grading.	Improve pitch quality as required. Support Lytham Town FC and Lytham Juniors FC with plans to develop a new clubhouse and changing facilities at Lytham Town FC. This will include new changing facilities to replace the existing poor quality porta cabins and will comply with ground grading requirements as the Club hopes to progress to play within the football pyramid at Step 7.	LFA Council	Key site	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide

**FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁶	Cost ²⁷	Aim
29	Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School	FY8 1LB	Football	School	One standard quality youth pitch with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
30	Park View Road Playing Fields	FY8 4JE	Football	Borough Council	Two adult and two youth pitches all standard quality and all overmarked with other formats. Lytham Juniors FC pays extra for a subcontractor to carry out further remedial work. No accompanying changing provision. Although the Club states no real demand for use by most junior teams. Nonetheless, the absence of changing provision limits the availability and suitability for adult teams which may be able to make greater use of the site.	Maximise use through reconfiguring pitches to better accommodate demand and reducing overmarking. Carry out feasibility for modular changing provision onsite and tie in to potential future development of a 3G pitch.	LFA Council	Strategic	S-M	M-H	Protect Enhance Provide
34	St Annes Cricket Club	FY8 2RQ	Cricket	Club	One good quality pitch with 13 grass wickets with no peak time capacity. Club uses a second pitch at Bank Lane.	Sustain quality and secure appropriate access to second pitch at Bank Lane.	LCCB	Local	L	I	Protect
35	St Annes on Sea St Thomas C of E Primary School	FY8 1JN	Football	School	One good quality mini pitch with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
36	St Bede's Catholic High School	FY8 4JL	Football	School	One adult and one youth pitch, both poor quality with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
43	William Pickles Sports Ground	FY8 5PT	Football	Club	Two youth and one mini pitch of standard quality used/managed by Lytham St Annes YMCA FC. The youth pitches are both overplayed because mini soccer teams also use the pitch.	Reconfigure pitches and improve quality. Site to be put forward for Pitch Improvement Programme.	LFA	Key Centre	S	M	Protect Enhance
46	YMCA (Lytham)	FY8 4HB	Football	Community	Three standard quality adult pitches with some spare capacity for additional peak time use.	Review maintenance and maximise use.	LFA	Key Centre	S	L	Protect
-	Lytham Juniors Pitch	FY8 5HW	Football	Unknown	Disused site which previously had three junior football pitches.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. If bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of the Framework. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location preferably as an extension to an existing multi pitch site to make it sustainable.	Borough Council LFA	Local	M	M	Protect Provide

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Rural Areas

Football

Summary of demand (in secured use)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity ²⁸	Demand (match equivalent sessions)		
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current total
Adult	1	-	-	1
Youth 11v11	-	-	-	-
Youth 9v9	-	2	-	2
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	-
Mini 5v5	1	-	-	1
Total	2	2	-	-

There is a requirement for an additional two match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches to accommodate current demand in the Rural Areas. However, there is actual spare capacity to accommodate further adult and mini 5v5 play.

Current shortfall of three full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to service training across the Borough.

Cricket

There is sufficient capacity to accommodate current demand on existing squares. There is also enough capacity to accommodate anticipated increases in demand at junior level.

Rugby union

No club demand in the area.

Hockey

Supply and demand analysis highlights that Fylde is currently well served for hockey suitable AGPs both at present and in the future.

²⁸ In match equivalent sessions

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁹	Cost ³⁰	Aim
31	Roseacre Road Playing Fields	PR4 3UD	Football	Parish Council	One small sided 3G pitch (35x32m) standard quality and one unused adult pitch also standard quality.	Review maintenance/quality and maximise use of the site. Further develop community use and use and establish a formal use agreement.	LFA Parish Council	Local	S	L	Protect Enhance
32	Singleton Church of England VA Primary School	FY6 8LN	Football	School	One standard quality youth pitch with no community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School	Reserve	L	L	Protect
33	Sport and Leisure (Ribby Hall Village)	PR4 2PR	Football Hockey	Private	One half size (33x15m) sand AGP commercially operated.	Maximise use and retain as commercial facility. May serve better as a 3G surface in the future.	LFA EH	Local	L	L	Protect
37	Staining C of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School	FY3 0BW	Football	School	One standard quality mini pitch available for community use but unused.	Explore future community use options with the School in order to maximise use.	LFA	Local	M	L	Protect Provide
38	Staining Playing Fields	FY3 0DF	Football	Parish Council	Two poor quality youth pitches (one overmarked with mini pitch) both used to capacity and overplayed by two matches. Staining FC is of the opinion that the pitches have improved due to use of a sit down mower and added volunteer support in maintaining pitches.	Review maintenance to ensure quality is improved to build future site capacity.	LFA	Local	S	L	Protect Enhance
40	The Green	PR4 2WW	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult pitch used to capacity used by Wrea Green FC. As a publicly accessible village green the pitch is subject to dog fouling/litter. The pond onsite can also be problematic and there is a lack of onsite changing facilities.	Consider steps to protect the pitch in order to reduce public use out of season in order to improve quality. Alternatively increase maintenance of the site.	LFA Parish Council	Local	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		One standard quality pitch with eight grass wickets and one non turf pitch used by Wrea Green CC. No peak time capacity. There is a lack of onsite changing facilities. The Club uses a makeshift changing area at the pub opposite which it states is poor quality. The Club also reports a requirement for access to better quality training facilities, particularly for fixed artificial net bays.	Consider steps to protect the square in order to reduce public use out of season in order to improve quality. Alternatively increase maintenance of the site. Work with users to establish access to appropriate changing facilities.	LCCB Parish Council				

²⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁹	Cost ³⁰	Aim
42	Weeton Barracks	PR4 3JQ	Football Rugby	Private	Two adult football pitches, half size 3G pitch and one adult rugby pitch, all standard quality and no community use.	It is highly unlikely the 3G pitch will be considered for community use.	LFA	Local	L	L	Protect
45	Wray Crescent	PR4 2WA	Football	Unknown	One poor quality mini pitch unused and located adjacent to Wrea Green Pre School.	Identify provider and retain for informal use.	Council	Reserve	S	L	Protect
-	The Croft	PR4 3ND	Football	Community Organisation	Disused site which previously had one junior football pitch.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. If bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of the Framework. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location preferably as an extension to an existing multi pitch site to make it sustainable.	Community Organisation LFA	Local	M	M	Protect Provide
-	William Pickles Park	PR4 0ZL	Football	Community Organisation	Disused site which previously had an adult football pitch but now has small sided goalposts for recreational play. Could again accommodate an adult pitch if goalposts were removed.	Explore opportunities to bring the site back into use to meet identified shortfalls in the Assessment. If bringing the site back into use is not feasible or sustainable or disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet the requirements of the second criterion of paragraph 74 of the Framework. This requires replacement provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality in a suitable location preferably as an extension to an existing multi pitch site to make it sustainable.	Community Organisation LFA	Local	M	M	Protect Provide

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

PART 7: KEEP THE STRATEGY ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

Delivery

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Fylde. 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 Fylde 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 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. Key uses for the PPS include evidence for supporting funding bids, guidance to inform planning decisions and planning applications and decision making for capital investment.

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 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. It is possible that in the interim between annual reviews the steering group could operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document, and kept up to date, the time frame can be extended to five years.

Furthermore, the process of refreshing the PPS would be much less resource intensive if changes and updates have been made throughout the five years. If there are no updates to the document within the period the nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches is likely to have changed. 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.

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 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).

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Alongside the regular steering group meetings it is recommended that Fylde Council holds annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant organisations. These meetings should 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. Things to consider include formation of new teams or loss of teams, any new formats of the sports that would impact on facilities, changes in quality or creation of new facilities.

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 or other private sites in the future. Updating the action plans will make the task of updating the PPS much easier.

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, 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.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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 and 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 and 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?		

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

APPENDIX ONE: 3G PITCH SCENARIO

Moving match play to 3G pitches

Improving pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs) alternatives 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 AGPs for competitive matches and this is something that the FA is supporting, particularly for mini football. No club teams are currently recorded as playing fixtures on 3G pitches due to absence of certified provision in Fylde. In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches the pitch must now be FA tested and approved (to either FA or FIFA standard) and it will then appear of the FA Pitch Register: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/?countyfa=Lancashire>

The table below tests a scenario if all 5v5 and 7v7 football is moved to 3G pitches. A programme of play has been created based on the current peak time (Saturday AM) in Fylde.

Table 1: 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

There are currently 15 mini 5v5 teams which would require 1.88 (rounded to two) 3G pitches and 16 mini 7v7 teams which would require 1.42 (rounded to two) 3G pitches. Based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and 7v7 matches, the overall need is for two full sized 3G pitches to accommodate all mini football demand within Fylde, whilst also leaving some spare capacity (0.12 of a pitch) for growth. The table below tests this scenario.

Table 2: Moving mini matches to 3G pitches in each analysis area

5v5 teams	3G requirement	7v7 teams	3G requirement
15	1.88	17	1.42

The table below tests a scenario if all 9v9 football is moved to 3G pitches. A programme of play has been created based on the current peak time (Saturday AM) in Fylde.

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

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.45am	2x 9v9	2/4
10.45am – 12pm	2x 9v9	2/4
12pm – 1.15pm	2x 9v9	2/4

There are currently 24 youth 9v9 teams which based on the above programming would require two full sized 3G pitches to accommodate all 9v9 football demand within Fylde.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

APPENDIX TWO: 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.

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

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

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

Sport England: 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

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- ◀ Economic Development

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) 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 Framework 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 Framework sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

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

As a prerequisite the Framework 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 Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ 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.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- ◀ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matches to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Champion Counties Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2013 which seeks to deliver successful England teams at all levels, to produce a vibrant domestic game as well as increasing participation during the period 2014-17. It builds on the 2005 plan, Building Partnerships and the subsequent 2009 initiative, Grounds to Play.

The plan will take advantage of local partnerships developed in earlier plans and support local delivery of priorities through the County network. It targets operational excellence to make maximum use of scarce resources and facilities during a time of economic austerity.

Among the targets set under the four pillars of Effective Governance, Vibrant Domestic Game, Enthusing Participation and Successful England teams, which are relevant to the playing pitch strategy, are:

- ◀ An increase in participation as measured by Sport England's Active People Survey from 183,400 to 197,500
- ◀ Expand the number of clubs participating in NatWest CricketForce from 2,000 to 2,200
- ◀ Increase the number of cricket's volunteers to 80,000 by 2017
- ◀ Expand the number of participants in women's and disabilities cricket by 10% by 2017
- ◀ To increase the number of TwelfthMan members from 220,000 to 250,000 by 2017
- ◀ Complete an approved Community Engagement programme with all 18 First Class Counties and MCC
- ◀ For each £1 provided in facility grants through the 'Sport England Whole Sport Plan Grant Programme' ensure a multiplier of three with other funding partners
- ◀ Provide a fund of £8.1m of capital investment to enhance floodlights, sightscreens, replay screens, power sub-stations and broadcasting facilities at First Class County venues
- ◀ Provide an interest-free loan fund to community clubs of £10 million
- ◀ Qualify and engage 50 Level 4 coaches to support the development of professional cricketers
- ◀ Expand the number of coaches who have received teacher level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications to 50,000
- ◀ Provide a fund of £2 million for community clubs to combat the impact of climate change
- ◀ Introduce a youth T20 competition engaging 500 teams by 2017

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

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

This plan therefore influences 'Grounds to Play' in the areas of facilities and coaches, which is where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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

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.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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’³¹

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

31

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

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- 6 Being Local with Strong Community Connections
- 7 Stretching and developing those who want it

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

APPENDIX THREE: 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, 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.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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 and 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.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

- ◀ 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:

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

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

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

APPENDIX FOUR: GLOSSARY

Displaced 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**.

FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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.