CORBY BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

NOVEMBER 2017

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>3G</td>
<td>Third generation turf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGP</td>
<td>Artificial grass pitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASC</td>
<td>All Stars Cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Bowls Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC</td>
<td>Cricket Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EG</td>
<td>England Golf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECB</td>
<td>England and Wales Cricket Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EH</td>
<td>England Hockey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FA</td>
<td>Football Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC</td>
<td>Football Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIFA</td>
<td>Fédération Internationale de Football Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>Geographical Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HC</td>
<td>Hockey Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOG</td>
<td>Institute of Groundsmanship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFC</td>
<td>Junior Football Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KKP</td>
<td>Knight, Kavanagh and Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMS</td>
<td>Last Man Stands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGB</td>
<td>National Governing Body of Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPPF</td>
<td>National Planning Policy Framework</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTP</td>
<td>Non-turf pitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAN</td>
<td>Objectively Assessed Need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONS</td>
<td>Office for National Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>Professional Golfers Association</td>
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<td>PPS</td>
<td>Playing Pitch Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PQS</td>
<td>Performance Quality Standard</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIP</td>
<td>Pitch Improvement Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFU</td>
<td>Rugby Football Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUFC</td>
<td>Rugby Union Football Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S106</td>
<td>Section 106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC</td>
<td>Tennis Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TGR</td>
<td>Team Generation Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>Under</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Corby. It has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidance and has been prepared by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) under the direction of a steering group led by the Council and including National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). It builds upon the preceding Assessment Report and is capable of:

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

The project compiles one document as part of a wider inter-related strategy for sport and recreation that also includes an Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and an Open Spaces Strategy. The inter-relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also use indoor facilities for matches or training or use open space areas for informal use, and vice versa.

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

The PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that was built up during its development. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. To assist this, all information, databases and other tools used to inform the Strategy will be handed over to the Council and full training will be offered to assist in utilisation (see Part 8 for further details).

1.1: Context

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

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

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

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

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 73 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 73 and 74 discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A PPS 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.

**1.2: Structure**

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of outdoor sports provision and usage within Corby to provide:

- A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of outdoor sport facilities.
- Evidence to help protect and enhance outdoor sport provision.
- The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- The need to provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.
- A series of strategic recommendation which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, if applicable, the rationalisation of playing pitches.
- A series of sport-by-sport recommendations that provide a strategic framework for improvements to provision.
- A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.
The Strategy and Action Plan recommends numerous priority projects for Corby that should be implemented over the course of its lifespan. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement, with potential partners and possible sources of external funding identified in light of limited council resources.

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

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships between the Council, NGBs, Sport England, education providers, leisure contractors, maintenance contractors, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve outdoor sport provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead can be limited (except in terms of Section 106 agreements and developer contributions). This document will provide clarity with regard to the way forward and will allow organisations to focus on the key issues and objectives that they can directly influence and achieve.

**Study area**

The study area is the Corby Borough Council administrative area. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. For this reason, Corby is divided into the following five analysis areas based on ward boundaries (as seen in Figure 1.1 overleaf):

- **Rural West Analysis Area**
  - Rural West
- **Staniou & Corby Old Village Analysis Area**
  - Staniou & Corby Village
- **Urban North Analysis Area**
  - Lodge Park, Rowlett Road, Lloyds, Central
- **Urban South Analysis Area**
  - Beanfield, Kingswood and Hazel Leys, Oakley, Danesholme, Oakley South
- **Weldon & Gretton Analysis Area**
  - Weldon & Gretton
Figure 1: Analysis area map
**Scope**

The PPS covers the following outdoor sports facilities:

- Football pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- Cricket pitches
- Rugby union pitches
- Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)
- Gaelic football pitches
- Outdoor tennis courts
- Outdoor netball courts
- Outdoor bowling greens
- Outdoor athletics tracks
- Golf courses

Playing pitch sports (i.e. football, cricket, rugby union and hockey) were assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England’s Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. For non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, netball, bowls, athletics, cycling and golf), the supply and demand principles of Sport England methodology: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) were followed to ensure the process is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

**Definitions**

**Capacity**

The capacity for facilities 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 or non-pitch affects the playing experience and people’s enjoyment of playing. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times. Quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage but can also be impacted upon by maintenance levels and unofficial use, amongst other factors.

As a guide, the FA, RFU and the ECB have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality.

**Table 1.1: Capacity of playing pitches**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Pitch type</th>
<th>No. of match equivalent sessions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Football</strong></td>
<td>Adult pitches</td>
<td>3 per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth pitches</td>
<td>4 per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mini pitches</td>
<td>6 per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rugby union</strong></td>
<td>Natural Inadequate (D0)</td>
<td>2 per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natural Adequate (D1)</td>
<td>3 per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pipe Drained (D2)</td>
<td>3.25 per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)</td>
<td>3.5 per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cricket</strong></td>
<td>One grass wicket</td>
<td>5 per season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One synthetic wicket</td>
<td>60 per season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above does not apply to hockey as there is no limit to how often a sand-based AGP can be used, with capacity instead limited by availability and current usage levels. A pitch without floodlighting or capacity restrictions can generally be accessed for four matches during one day.

For other grass pitch sports (e.g. Gaelic football), no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that similar principles should be followed.

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members. This varies for other court types (e.g. grass) but is not applicable to any courts within Corby.

For athletics, there is no maximum capacity set out by UK Athletics. Instead a minimum membership of 200 is required to ensure that tracks remain sustainable.

For all remaining non-pitch sports (bowls, netball, and golf) there are no nationally recognised capacity recommendations set out by NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

**Match equivalent sessions**

Most playing pitch sports (football, rugby union and cricket) have a limit in respect of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality and in turn their use is adversely affected.

As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal play. Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season. For cricket pitches, it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season given how the wickets are rotated.

**Shortfalls**

Shortfalls are expressed in match equivalent sessions. To convert match equivalents into pitches, the number of sessions should generally be halved (to take account of teams playing on a home and away basis) when considering actual match play.

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

**1.3: Headline findings**

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. Please note that this shows the picture on a local authority wide basis and does not include the findings for each specific analysis area or for each specific site (see Part 6).
Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Current picture</th>
<th>Future picture (2031)¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football (grass pitches)</td>
<td>✷ Spare capacity of 6 adult match equivalent sessions.</td>
<td>✷ Shortfall equating to 9 adult match equivalent sessions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✷ Shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches due to no pitches of this configuration existing.</td>
<td>✷ Increased shortfalls of youth 11v11 provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✷ Spare capacity of 2.5 youth 9v9 match equivalent sessions.</td>
<td>✷ Shortfall equating to 2.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✷ Potential significant shortfall of mini pitches should mini demand return to Corby.</td>
<td>✷ Potential significant shortfall of mini pitches should mini demand return to Corby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football (3G pitches)</td>
<td>✷ Sufficient supply of 3G pitches based on current demand.</td>
<td>✷ Sufficient supply of 3G pitches based on future demand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>✷ Shortfall of 13 match equivalent sessions.</td>
<td>✷ Shortfall of 38 match equivalent sessions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby union</td>
<td>✷ Currently at capacity.</td>
<td>✷ Shortfall of 1.75 match equivalent sessions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>✷ Sufficient supply of full size hockey suitable AGPs for current demand.</td>
<td>✷ Sufficient supply of full size hockey suitable AGPs for future demand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaelic football</td>
<td>✷ Current demand is being met.</td>
<td>✷ Future demand can be met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowls</td>
<td>✷ Current demand is being met.</td>
<td>✷ Future demand can be met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>✷ Corby Tennis Centre is operating at capacity.</td>
<td>✷ A need for Corby Tennis Centre to be provided with more courts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✷ All remaining courts have spare capacity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>✷ Current demand is being met.</td>
<td>✷ Future demand can be met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>✷ Current demand is being met.</td>
<td>✷ Future demand can be met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✷ A potential need for the creation of Run Together Groups and 3-2-1 routes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>✷ Current demand is being met.</td>
<td>✷ Future demand can be met.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions

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

In the main, surpluses and shortfalls expressed can be met by improving quality to increase capacity. In some instances; however, there may also by a requirement for access to existing unused provision, such as pitches located at currently unavailable school sites, pitch re-configuration, the restoration of disused or lapsed sites (if feasible) or the creation of new provision, particularly in key housing growth areas.

¹ Future demand based on population projections and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.
PART 2: VISION

2.1: Vision

Below is Corby’s vision for its sport and leisure provision in the area. It builds on the conclusions identified in the PPS Assessment Report and sets out the vision and objectives for the period 2017-2031.

‘To maintain and improve the Borough’s network of sport and leisure facilities, ensuring that they offer inclusive, better coordinated services for all residents, play their part in enabling the inactive to become active, support the talented and provide more residents with opportunity to regularly participate in sport and physical activity, thus improving their long-term health and well-being.’

To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy has the following aims:

- Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport.
- Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs.
- Ensure that there are sufficient facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand.
- Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer-term aspirations.
- Ensure that the facility stock enables residents of Corby to live a healthy, active lifestyle.
PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see Figure 1 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all stakeholders.

**AIM 1**
To protect the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

**AIM 2**
To enhance outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

**AIM 3**
To provide new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

*Figure 1: Sport England themes*

![Sport England themes diagram](source: Sport England 2015)
PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Football – grass pitches

Summary

- The audit identifies 48 grass football pitches within Corby across 25 sites, of which, 40 pitches are available for community use across 18 sites.
- There are no dedicated youth 11v11 pitches provided, meaning that all 17 youth 11v11 teams play on the incorrect pitch type.
- In total, eight community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 21 as standard quality and 11 as poor quality.
- Changing facilities servicing Danesholme Park are considered to be poor quality, whilst Butland Road Playing Field is without provision.
- There are three clubs playing in the football pyramid in Corby; Corby Town FC, Corby Pegasus FC and Gretton FC.
- There are 75 teams from within 24 clubs playing within Corby, consisting of 30 adult men’s, two adult women’s, 39 youth boys’ and four youth girls’ teams.
- There are no mini teams playing within Corby due to the use of a central venue system at North Park, in Kettering.
- Oakley Vale FC also expresses exported demand as it has an u16’s team playing outside of Corby at Geddington Sports Ground, in Kettering.
- Using TGRs, it is predicted that there will be an increase of four senior men’s, six youth 11v11 boys’, one youth 11v11 girls’ and six youth 9v9 boys’ teams.
- Of the three clubs that quantify their potential future demand, there is a predicted growth of 22 teams.
- There are six match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity identified across seven sites.
- Two pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions each.
- There is currently an adequate number of adult pitches to meet demand; however, taking into account future demand there is a shortfall equating to nine match equivalent sessions.
- Twelve youth 11v11 pitches would be required to accommodate all current youth 11v11 demand and an additional 13.5 pitches would be needed if both TGR’s and future growth expressed by clubs is realised.
- When taking future demand into consideration, a shortfall is created, amounting to 2.5 match equivalent sessions. The largest shortfall is evident in the Urban North Analysis Area (two match equivalent sessions).
- Should mini demand be accommodated within Corby, a better solution would be to utilise the 3G pitch stock rather than creating multiple grass pitches.
Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

In total, there are 11 community available pitches rated as poor quality in Corby. Improving pitch quality on such provision (i.e. through increased maintenance or improved drainage) to either standard or good quality will increase capacity and therefore reduce current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, the table below highlights that all current levels of overplay would be alleviated if quality improved to good.

Table 4.1: Levels of overplay if quality improved to good

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Pitch type</th>
<th>No. of pitches</th>
<th>Current quality</th>
<th>Current Capacity rating</th>
<th>Good quality capacity rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Abington Road Playing Fields</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Burghley Drive Playing Field</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are currently discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to poor quality. Improving pitch quality on these pitches will provide and increase overall levels of actual spare capacity, which can be used to accommodate latent and future demand. This applies to pitches at West Glebe Park (adult), Butland Road Playing Field (adult) and Burghley Drive Playing Field (7v7).

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

Providing security of tenure

Currently 1.5 match equivalent sessions are played on unsecured pitches in Corby, one at Brooke Weston Academy and 0.5 at Corby Business Academy. If use of Brooke Weston Academy was to be removed, shortfalls would be created in the Urban South Analysis Area and future shortfalls would be exacerbated.

All unsecured use is located at educational sites. Whilst not always possible, creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term. Where there is external investment on school sites, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. For such agreements, it is important to ensure that provision is accessible at peak time and affordable.

2 Match equivalent sessions
3 Match equivalent sessions
Accommodating youth 11v11 demand

As it stands, all youth 11v11 matches in Corby are played on adult pitches, with the exception of one team; Corby Town Ladies & Girls FC, which plays on a youth 9v9 pitch.

If youth 11v11 demand was to be transferred away from adult pitches, both Burghley Drive Playing Field and Abington Road Playing Fields would no longer be overplayed. In addition, spare capacity would be created within the Urban South Analysis Area of two match equivalent sessions, whilst an increase in spare capacity of 9.5 match equivalent sessions would be created in the Urban North Analysis Area.

Although this would create spare capacity and would potentially see improvements in pitch quality (in particular those which are of poor or standard quality), only 0.5 match equivalent sessions of the created spare capacity would be identified as actual spare capacity (available during peak period on a site with security of tenure), as only one team (Corby Kingswood FC) currently fields its youth 11v11 team during the peak period for adult football (Saturday PM).

Taking the above into account, it would potentially be more beneficial to look at the reconfiguration of the adult pitches that are only used by youth 11v11 teams, such as Butland Road Playing Field, Brooke Weston Academy and Corby Rugby Club. This would see some youth 11v11 teams in the area playing on the correct size pitch, as supported in the FA Youth Review.

To ensure that all youth 11v11 teams play on the correct pitch size, 12 youth 11v11 pitches would be required to accommodate all current demand and an additional 13.5 pitches would be needed if all expressed future demand was realised. To achieve these figures, it is clear that new pitches would be required, or the 3G stock could be utilised. This being said, the costs associated with accessing 3G provision needs to be considered.

Accommodating mini football

There are currently 44 mini teams affiliated to Corby that play outside of the Borough due to the use of a central venue system. Should a venue be created in Corby to accommodate this demand, either through necessity or choice, it is unclear how many grass pitches would be required as numerous mini matches can be played on the same pitch on the same day, back-to-back. The number is, however, quite likely to be high to avoid any overplay and to accommodate any future growth.

A better solution to creating a significant number of pitches would be to utilise a 3G pitch that is already provided, such as Kingswood Secondary Academy, Lodge Park Sports Centre or Tresham College. This would enable three or four matches to be played at the same time (due to how 3G pitches are marked out) and multiple fixtures on the same day would not cause any capacity or quality issues due to the amount of demand that can be accommodated on the surface. It will also avoid any postponements during bad weather spells.
**Recommendations**

- Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore reconfiguration of adult pitches to accommodate youth 11v11 teams where possible.
- Explore further options to increase the youth 11v11 pitch stock such as the creation of additional pitches or through the utilisation of 3G.
- Ensure mini demand can be catered for should demand choose to or need to return to Corby.
- Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements, in particular at Brooke Weston Academy and Corby Business Academy.
- Ensure clubs in the football pyramid; Corby Town FC, Corby Pegasus FC and Gretton FC can progress if the opportunity arises.
- Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- Look at opportunities to provide ancillary facilities at Butland Road Playing Field so that site can be used for matches in the Weetabix Youth Football League.
- Look to improve ancillary facilities at Danesholme Park.
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.

**3G pitches**

**Summary**

- There are three full size 3G pitches in Corby (Lodge Park Sports Centre, Kingswood Secondary Academy and Tresham College), all of which are floodlit and available to the community.
- In addition, there is also one smaller sized 3G pitch located at West Glebe Park that measures 35 x 34 metres.
- All full size 3G pitches are currently FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches.
- The full sized 3G at Tresham College is also World Rugby compliant and the RFU has recently given approval for contact rugby to be played on the pitch.
- The remaining two full sized 3G pitches are not World Rugby compliant 3G pitches; however, there is no immediate demand for another compliant pitch to be created in the future.
- Lodge Park Sports Centre is nearing ten years old and therefore requires imminent resurfacing to prevent quality deterioration, whereas both Kingswood Secondary Academy and Tresham College are within their recommended lifespan.
- All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate.
**Scenarios**

**Accommodating football training demand**

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 42 teams) there is a need for three full size 3G pitches in Corby; therefore, supply is currently considered sufficient to meet demand. In addition, current provision is sufficient to supply future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs).

This would suggest there is no requirement for an increase in provision, instead, a need to better utilise the existing stock, with five clubs reporting that current needs are unmet and with no clubs regularly using the pitches for matches. However, given that none of these pitches were funded by the Football Foundation and as such, there is no control over community use, another pitch may be required.

To ensure that supply remains sufficient to meet demand, there is a need to retain the current number of full size 3G pitches. To that end, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to ensure long-term sustainability. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that FA certification remains in place. It is especially key at Lodge Park Sports Centre, which is nearing the end of its lifespan.

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

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA. In Corby, all three full size 3G pitches have undergone testing and are therefore FA approved to host competitive matches. That being said, there are currently no regular users of the provision for this purpose, although the pitch at Lodge Park Sports Centre receives some match play demand from Corby Town Ladies & Girls FC and Corby Hellenic Ladies FC when grass pitches are unplayable during bad weather.

To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches be transferred. The following table therefore calculates the number of teams currently using council facilities in Corby for each pitch type at peak time.

**Table 4.3: Number of teams currently using council pitches**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pitch type</th>
<th>Pitch size</th>
<th>Peak period</th>
<th>No. of teams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>11v11</td>
<td>Saturday PM</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>11v11</td>
<td>Sunday AM</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>9v9</td>
<td>Sunday AM</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini</td>
<td>7v7</td>
<td>Sunday AM</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini</td>
<td>5v5</td>
<td>Saturday AM</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of full size, floodlit 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table below.
Table 4.4: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>No teams per time</th>
<th>No matches at PEAK TIME</th>
<th>3G units per match</th>
<th>Total units required formats</th>
<th>3G pitches required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(x)</td>
<td>(y) = x/2</td>
<td>(z)</td>
<td>(A)=(y) * (z)</td>
<td>B = (A)/64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11v11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9v9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7v7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5v5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Given that peak time is different for adult pitches (Sunday AM) compared to youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches (Saturday PM), a total of six 3G pitches would be required to accommodate all matches currently played on council pitches. This is calculated because the 3G pitch demand for adult matches is higher than adding the demand for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 matches.

In practice, creating an additional three 3G pitches in Corby to accommodate this demand may be considered unrealistic, especially in the short term. It may therefore be more appropriate to consider the requirement for specific formats of play such as youth 11v11 or mini soccer.

As it stands, all mini football is identified as being displaced demand as it is situated at a central venue in Kettering; however, many clubs express a desire to play at a venue within Corby as it will save on travel costs and due to the belief that the current site used has reached capacity. The table below therefore tests a scenario to enable all 5v5 and 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches within Corby based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 4.5: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>AGP</th>
<th>Total games/teams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30am – 10.30am</td>
<td>4 x 5v5</td>
<td>4/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30am – 11.30am</td>
<td>2 x 7v7</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30am – 12.30pm</td>
<td>2 x 7v7</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30pm – 1.30pm</td>
<td>2 x 7v7</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the above programming and separate start times for 5v5 and 7v7 matches, the overall need is for three full size 3G pitches, meaning current supply could meet demand if availability was programmed efficiently. This is calculated based on 22 teams playing 5v5 football requiring three pitches (rounded up from 2.6) and 22 teams playing 7v7 football requiring two pitches (rounded up from 1.8).

A similar scenario is run in the table below for youth 11v11 football. Given that there are no youth 11v11 grass pitches currently provided in Corby, use of 3G pitches in the area could better accommodate such demand as well as alleviating demand placed on adult pitches.
**Table 4.6: Moving all youth 11v11 matches to 3G pitches**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>AGP</th>
<th>Total games/teams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10am – 11:30am</td>
<td>1 x 11v11</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30am – 1pm</td>
<td>1 x 11v11</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pm – 2:30pm</td>
<td>1 x 11v11</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30pm – 4pm</td>
<td>1 x 11v11</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Demand for youth 11v11 football could also be accommodated on the current 3G stock as it equates to the need for three full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 2.9) based on 23 teams currently playing this format.

**Recommendations**

- Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- Encourage all providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- Explore opportunity for mini football to be brought into Corby.
- Ensure that any new 3G pitches have a robust business plan to warrant development and are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.

**Cricket pitches**

**Summary**

- In total, there are seven grass cricket squares in Corby located across six sites, all of which are available for community use.
- There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at three sites, as well as a standalone NTP at Corby Business Academy, although this is not available for community use.
- Stewarts & Lloyds CC is considered to have limited security of tenure as it is currently waiting for a new lease agreement to be finalised.
- Gretton CC and Old Eastonians CC rent their respective grounds on an annual basis and as such are not considered to have security of tenure.
- All remaining clubs have security of tenure.
- The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares found three squares to be good quality, three to be standard quality and one of poor quality. The poor quality pitch is located at East Carlton Cricket Club.
- The majority of clubs’ rate ancillary provision as good quality, with the exception of Old Eastonians CC, which rates quality as standard.
- Old Eastonians CC reports a need for training facilities to be provided in the form of mobile nets, whereas Great Oakley CC reports an aspiration for more nets to be developed.
- In total, there are seven clubs competing in Corby generating 26 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 17 senior men’s nine junior boy’s teams.
- Only Eastonians CC reports a recent decline in senior participation, with the remaining four responding clubs reporting static participation. Great Oakley CC reports a reduction in junior participation.
- Two clubs report plans to increase their number of teams in the future equating to an increase of two senior men’s and one junior boys team.
- Peak time demand for senior cricket is Saturday, whereas for junior cricket it is midweek.
Two squares have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand; Old Eastonians Cricket Club and Gretton Recreation Ground.

Stewart & Lloyds Cricket Club, Weldon Cricket Club and Great Oakley Cricket Club are classed as being overplayed, equating to 29 match equivalent sessions per season.

The Weldon & Gretton Analysis Areas is identified as having capacity to accommodate both current and future demand, although there remains a need to alleviate the overplay at Weldon Cricket Club.

The Urban North and Urban South analysis areas have a current shortfall in grass wicket square provision amounting to four match equivalent sessions and ten match equivalent sessions respectively.

Taking into account future demand the shortfall in the Urban South Analysis Area is predicted to increase to a total of 25 match equivalent sessions.

**Scenarios**

**Addressing overplay**

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay, a reduction in play is recommended to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

The minimal overplay identified on the second square at Stewarts & Lloyds Cricket Club can be alleviated either through the creation of an additional wicket (if space allows), or through transferring some of the junior demand that accesses the square to the NTP that accompanies the site's first square.

Similarly, the overplay at both Great Oakley Cricket Club and Weldon Cricket Club could be reduced through greater utilisation of the NTPs already provided at the respective sites; however, in the case of Weldon Cricket Club, poor quality currently prevents this. It is therefore recommended that it is replaced with a better quality surface.

**Accommodating future demand**

Both Great Oakley CC and Old Eastonians CC express future demand for one senior men's team, with the latter also aspiring to create an additional junior team.

It is considered that Old Eastonians CC could accommodate its expressed future demand given the levels of actual spare capacity existing at its site; however, access is currently an issue as it is situated within Rockingham Castle, meaning availability can be limited. As such, greater levels of access are required, or access to an additional site is needed. As no existing site is available for further play within the locality, new provision may therefore be required.

As Great Oakley Cricket Club is already overplayed, and because it is already at capacity during peak time for senior cricket (Saturdays), its growth plans for an additional team will have to be realised at an alternative site. As no existing provision is available within the locality, new provision may be required.
Increasing stock of NTPs

The ECB has created a local authority NTP scheme aiming to create a substantial number of new cricket pitches in areas of need and to facilitate a partnership approach between local authorities and county cricket boards. It is expected that the primary source of identified strategic need will be an up-to-date PPS. The scheme will offer capital grants towards the cost of construction of NTPs, periodic maintenance for a period of five years and equipment to engage new participants.

The above scheme is considered to be a possibility in Corby by the ECB. An increase of NTPs within Corby would not only better accommodate junior demand, but it would also assist in the possible creation of a Last Man Stands franchise.

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on pitches to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- Sustain ancillary facility quality.
- Ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining.
- For clubs without lease arrangements, ensure community use agreements are entered into to ensure long-term access.
- Explore suitability for the creation of NTPs that can accommodate LMS activity at a centrally located site.
- Address overplay through greater utilisation of the NTPs at Stewart & Lloyds Cricket Club and Great Oakley Cricket Club and the replacement of the NTP at Weldon Cricket Club.
- Ensure both Old Eastonians CC and Great Oakley CC can realise future growth plans.

Rugby union - grass pitches

Summary

- There are five senior rugby union pitches available for community use across two sites (Corby Rugby Club and Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club).
- The pitches located at Corby Rugby Club are assessed as poor quality (M0/D1), whereas the pitches at Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club are assessed as good quality (M2/D1).
- Stewarts and Lloyds RFC has aspirations to develop its social space and changing room provision.
- Tenure is secure for both clubs.
- In total, there are five senior men’s, two junior boys’ and six (mixed) mini teams provided by the clubs.
- It is predicted that future population increases (by 2031) could generate enough demand to create one mini team.
- Stewarts and Lloyds RFC has aspirations to develop three junior teams, which is linked to the RFU All Schools programme.
- Corby RFC has aspirations to start a junior section whilst also creating a second senior team.
- Stewarts and Lloyds Rugby Club contains a pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent session predominately due to hosting training demand.
CORBY BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- The Club also contains a pitch with actual spare capacity amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions, with potential capacity on the remaining pitch retained to protect quality.
- Spare capacity on both pitches at Corby Rugby Club is discounted due to quality issues.
- Overall, the rugby union pitches in Corby are currently at capacity, with future demand resulting in a shortfall of 1.75 match equivalent sessions.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

Both pitches at Corby Rugby Club are rated as poor quality (M0/D1). As it stands, the maintenance taking place on the pitches is considered to be basic. Should the pitches at the site improve to the point of being of good quality (M2/D1), their capacity would increase by 1.5 match equivalent sessions each (three match equivalent sessions across the site), thus creating actual spare capacity.

Given that Corby RFC currently has just one senior team, the current capacity of the site is sufficient; however, should the Club realise its expressed future growth, it may need more capacity. Therefore, looking to improve the maintenance regime now will be beneficial.

Maintenance at Stewart & Lloyds Rugby Club is already considered to be good quality (M2) meaning only the installation of a drainage system would increase capacity.

Increasing access to floodlit training provision

There is current overplay on one senior pitch at Stewart and Lloyds Rugby Club, with this pitch predominantly used to accommodate training demand due it being floodlit. The other floodlit pitch at the site is not used for training as it is reserved for first team matches, meaning any spare capacity remaining is retained for protection. As such, in order to alleviate overplay on the current training pitch, given that quality improvements are unrealistic (as it is already rated as good quality), consideration should be given to installing additional floodlighting (permanent or portable) on the site’s third pitch. This pitch currently has spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions and would therefore accommodate the transfer of demand from the overplayed pitch.

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- Maintain quality of pitches at Stewart and Lloyds Rugby Club.
- Support Corby RFC in making improvements to its maintenance regime in order to improve pitch quality.
- Explore community use aspects at currently unused educational sites to fully determine availability and, as a minimum, protect the pitches for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.
- Consider providing additional floodlighting at Stewart and Lloyds Rugby Club to alleviate overplay of its current training pitch.
- Support both Corby RFC and Stewart and Lloyds RFC with growth aspirations.
- Support Stewart and Lloyds RFC with its plans to improve its ancillary facilities.
- Support Corby RFC where possible to ensure that it does not fold.
Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Summary

- There are currently two full size hockey suitable AGPs in Corby; Corby Business Academy and Brooke Weston Academy.
- Both full size AGPs are floodlit and available for community use; however, only one is currently used for hockey purposes (Corby Business Academy).
- Brooke Weston Academy requires resurfacing as it has reached the end of its lifespan, whereas Corby Business Academy is one year away from consideration for resurfacing.
- There is currently one club within Corby; Corby HC.
- The Club reports aspirations to develop both a women’s and men’s hockey team as well as a strong junior section over the next three years.

Scenarios

Accommodating future demand

There is currently a sufficient supply of full size, hockey suitable AGPs in Corby to meet both current and future demand, based on the aspirations of Corby HC. This is based on England Hockey’s recommendation that a full sized, floodlit AGP can accommodate four matches at peak period (Saturday).

In order to maintain a sufficient supply, it is important to retain the hockey suitable AGP at Corby Business Academy, as well as to ensure that it is maintained to a good standard. To ensure continued use of the AGP at this site, exploring opportunities for a Community Use Agreement would also be beneficial. Furthermore, the creation of a sinking fund should be explored to make certain any repairs and refurbishments are feasible when required.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G pitches

Given that Corby HC needs access to a full-size sand based AGP and currently accesses Corby Business Academy, a conversion at this would not be recommended; however, the conversion of the sand based pitch at Brooke Weston Academy, which is only used as a satellite site by the Club for recreational hockey, could be considered, especially if mini football demand within Corby increases. Any conversions would; however, need to be agreed between EH and the FA. Given that Brooke Weston Academy is used as a satellite site by Corby HC, regardless of any conversions, its use of this site needs to be secure.

Recommendations

- Retain Corby Business Academy as hockey suitable and consider resurfacing it before it reaches the end of its lifespan in 2018.
- Explore options for establishing Community Use Agreement on this site.
- Ensure that provider has sinking fund in place at Corby Business Academy to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Look to support Corby HC to re-establish itself and bridge the gap in opportunity to play hockey in Corby.
- Given that Corby HC needs access to a full-size sand based AGP, a conversion at Corby Business Academy would not be recommended; however, the conversion of the sand based pitch at Brooke Weston Academy could be considered with agreement between EH and the FA.
Gaelic football

Summary

- There is a dedicated Gaelic football pitch in Corby, located at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex.
- The pitch is leased to Corby O'Rahilly’s GAA in an agreement that has over 70 years remaining.
- Corby O'Rahilly's GAA is the only Gaelic football club in Corby.
- It currently fields a senior team in a league administered by the Warwickshire GAA.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that the Club is also looking to create an u16s team.
- In addition to matches, the Club trains every Tuesday evening during the season, or on Sunday afternoons on non-match days.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- Protect a Gaelic football pitch for continued use by Corby O'Rahilly’s GAA.

Bowls

Summary

- There are five flat greens located across four sites in Corby.
- There are three greens located in the Urban North Analysis Area and two greens located in the Urban South Analysis Area.
- One green, located at Corby Seagrave House Bowling Club, has floodlighting.
- Three greens are assessed as good quality, one as standard quality and one as poor quality.
- Responding clubs all rate the quality of their ancillary facilities as standard or good; however, Corby Woodsend BC states that the toilet and kitchen facilities need refurbishment.
- There are four bowls clubs playing in Corby. Membership of those clubs that shared data amounts to 164 adult members and two junior members.
- Despite there being a decline in senior membership for bowls nationally, all responding clubs report that numbers have stayed the same over the last three years.
- In contrast, it is unknown whether Corby Grampian BC is still operational due to declining membership numbers and a lack of a response.
- All three responding clubs identify plans to increase membership in Corby; however, only Corby Woodsend BC quantifies growth (20 senior members and ten junior members).
- Using ONS projections, demand for bowling greens may increase slightly or at least remain static in the future due to an increase in the population aged 65 and over.
- Generally, it is considered that bowling greens in Corby have spare capacity, meaning current membership and any increase in membership is sustainable.
Scenarios

Corby Grampian BC

It is reported that Corby Grampian BC has suffered a decline in membership resulting in it potentially folding. Exploration into this should be undertaken. If the Club is still in existence, support should be offered to it to ensure it remains in operation, with looking into ways to increase membership a priority. Should it be the case that it is no longer in existence, the site may be considered for development or repurposing.

Recommendations

- Retain Corby Forest, Corby Woodsend and Corby Seagrave House bowling club.
- Seek contact with Corby Grampian BC to understand whether it remains operational and retain its green if that is the case, with quality improvements required.
- Explore options to improve the toilet and kitchen facilities at Corby Woodsend Bowls Club.
- Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.

Tennis

Summary

- There are 32 tennis courts identified in Corby, of which, 26 courts are available for community use.
- There are 13 floodlit courts spread across three sites, all of which are available for community use.
- The majority of courts have a macadam surface, representing 90% of existing supply.
- There are ten courts assessed as good quality, 17 courts assessed as standard quality and five courts assessed as poor quality.
- Corby Tennis Centre is the only tennis club within Corby, catering for 180 members.
- Despite being a club, Corby Tennis Centre also accommodates parks tennis leagues.
- Corby Tennis Centre expresses potential latent demand and reports that it is currently operating at capacity.

Scenarios

Recommended capacity

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. Although Corby Tennis Centre is operating well within these figures, it does not take into account demand from non-members or the regular coaching sessions that take place. As the Centre reports that it is operating at capacity, there may be a requirement for it to be provided with an increased number of courts, which it is actively trying to achieve with its future supply aspirations. These development plans should therefore be supported.

Informal tennis

Whilst Corby Tennis Centre reports a high pay and play demand, education and council sites report low demand. This is believed to be attributed to poor court quality and the absence of floodlighting, which can reduce availability.
As all remaining (non-club) courts are deemed to have spare capacity for a growth in demand, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites that are assessed as poor or standard quality. Doing this may also further alleviate some of the pressure on Corby Tennis Centre as it will encourage casual demand to transfer to alternative sites.

The LTA has recently set up an initiative to change the way in which people access council courts. Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of a control system following payment of an hourly court hire or annual subscription. It is working in partnership with ClubSpark and CIA Fire and Security to provide this, allowing courts to be booked and paid for online. A unique access code is then generated that the user enters at the court gate on a keypad to access the courts. This is a major improvement to the customer journey and provides clear revenue to reinvest into the courts. It also allows official use of courts to be tracked, thus providing data on how often courts are being accessed and by who to build a customer database. Nevertheless, some investment may be required to bring courts up to standard and install the access technology before the initiative can be rolled out.

**Recommendations**

- Protect existing quantity of tennis courts, particularly those at Corby Tennis Centre.
- Support Corby Tennis Centre with its plans to increase its number of courts to accommodate its latent demand.
- Review quality issues relating to poor quality courts and seek improvements, where possible.
- Improve ancillary provision at none club sites to improve the casual tennis offer.
- Explore feasibility of creating a membership scheme at council courts via an access control system.

**Netball**

**Summary**

- There are 13 netball courts located across five sites, all of which are available for community use.
- Brooke Weston Academy is assessed as good quality, Corby Business Academy and Kingswood Secondary Academy are assessed as standard quality and Lodge Park Sports Centre and West Glebe Park are assessed as poor quality.
- Kingswood Secondary Academy provides the only floodlit courts.
- There are two clubs affiliated to England Netball based in Corby; Abacus Netball Club and Corby Netball Club.
- Both clubs currently train and play predominately indoors at Lodge Park Sports Centre, meaning neither regularly access outdoor provision.
- In addition to teams fielded by the aforementioned affiliated clubs, a further 12 unaffiliated teams are entered into the Corby Netball League.
- Corby Netball Club runs Back to Netball sessions at Lodge Park Sports Centre (indoor) and also field four High 5 teams.

**Scenarios**

N/A
Recommendations

As there is little community demand for outdoor netball provision, priority should be placed on improving court quality at school sites to improve the curricular and extra-curricular offer.

Athletics

Summary

- There is one athletics tracks in Corby, located at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex.
- The track is rated as good quality.
- The current ancillary facilities at the site are described as being poor quality, with a new clubhouse soon to be developed.
- The track is owned by the Council but managed by Corby Athletics Club as part of a 40-year lease agreement.
- Corby has one athletics club; Corby Athletics Club, which currently has 240 members.
- There are also two triathlon clubs using Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex; Welland Valley Triathlon Club and Corby Triathlon Club.
- There is one Parkrun event operating in Corby every Saturday, based at West Glebe Park.
- There is also a 5k, 3-2-1 route at Welland Park.
- There is currently one RunTogether group; Body Magic Marvels, which operates within West Glebe Park.

Scenarios

The sustainability of Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex

It is thought that in order for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of 200 is required. Given that Corby Athletics Club currently has 240 members and has significant growth potential, it is believed that the track at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex is sustainable and needed.

Recommendations

- Sustain quality at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex.
- Ensure that a sinking fund is in place to address future repairs and resurfacing of the track.
- Support Corby Athletics Club with development of a new DDA compliant clubhouse and improved floodlighting.
- Work with Corby Athletics Club to ensure its aspirations for growth can be realised.
- Support Welland Valley Triathlon Club and Corby Triathlon Club, as well as various other running groups in the area, to ensure needs continue to be met.
- Support Park Run to ensure that it can sustain its increasing popularity.
- Explore future options in relation to providing more Run Together groups and 3-2-1 routes.
Golf

Summary

- There are two golf courses within Corby; Priors Hall Golf Course consists of 18-holes, whereas Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex is a short nine-hole course.
- Priors Hall Golf Course is a municipal facility and is managed by the Council; Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex is owned and managed privately.
- Priors Hall Golf Course is considered to be good quality. Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex has a few quality issues; however, it meets the demand of its users.
- Both sites are accompanied by clubhouse buildings that are in need of modernisation due to dated interiors.
- Priors Hall Golf Course is available via both membership and pay and play; Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex is predominately a play and pay facility although season tickets are available.
- An average of 39,832 people are identified as current or potential users within Corby (49,555 for Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex and 30,111 for Priors Hall Golf Course).
- Priors Hall Golf Course currently has a membership of approximately 150 people, which has significantly reduced over the previous three years.
- Footgolf is offered at Priors Hall Golf Course.
- The England Golf mapping tool suggests that there is significant demand for golf within Corby, meaning each course should be protected together with accompanying facilities.
- Given recent declining participation, emphasis must be placed on sites retaining their current members/users and capitalising on any untapped demand and future demand.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- Protect both golf courses.
- Sustain quality and seek improvements where necessary and possible.
- Support Priors Hall Golf Course and Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex in retaining current members/users and explore opportunities for growth.
PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport. Strategic recommendations should also align to outcomes set out in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (Part 1):

- Empowered and proactive communities
- Adapt to future climate change
- Distinctive environments that enhance and respect local character and enhance biodiversity.
- Excellent services and facilities easily accessed by local communities and businesses.
- A sustainable balance between local jobs and workers and a more diverse economy.
- Transformed connectivity.
- More walkable places and an excellent choice of ways to travel.
- Vibrant, well connected towns and a productive countryside.
- Stronger, more self-reliant towns with thriving centres.
- Enhanced quality of life for all residents.

**AIM 1**

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

**Recommendations:**

a. Ensure, through the use of the PPS, that outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

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

c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

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

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

NPPF paragraph 74 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or

The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or

The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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

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

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most demand is currently being met and most shortfalls are likely to be addressed through quality improvements. Including the need for additional facilities in the Local Plan is therefore not recommended as a priority.

New housing development - where proposed housing development is located within access of a high-quality outdoor sports facilities, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvements to existing provision in that area in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. The PPS should be used to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand for, and capacity of, existing sites, and whether improvement to increase capacity or new provision is required. (see Part: 7 for the applied housing growth scenarios).

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

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

Policy Exception E1:

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

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

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

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

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of some existing outdoor sport sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger better quality sites. It is imperative, however, that there is no net loss of facilities or playing field space, and that any replacement provision is made available before existing provision is lost.

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

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

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

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

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

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)\(^4\). They should also

\(^4\) [http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits](http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits)
be encouraged to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

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

**Table 5.1: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Club</strong></th>
<th><strong>Site</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award. Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links. 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. Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified. Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</td>
<td>Sites should be those identified as ‘Club Sites’ (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a City-wide significance) but that offer development potential. For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management ‘Key Centres’ are also appropriate. As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club). Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

**Community asset transfer**

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

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

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

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

- Beanfield Primary School (mini 7v7 football pitch)
- Brooke Western Academy (adult football pitch)
- Corby Business Academy (senior rugby union pitch)
- Corby Technical College (adult football pitch)
- Corby Business Academy (non-turf cricket pitch)
- Exeter Primary School (mini 7v7 football pitch)
- Hazel Leys Academy (mini 7v7 football pitch)
- Lodge Park Academy (senior rugby union pitch)
- Priors Hall Junior Academy (mini 5v5 football pitch)
- Weldon Church of England Primary School (mini 5v5 football pitch)

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

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

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

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

Given that the majority of councils’ face reducing budgets it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g. the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest). With such pressures on budgets, however, any direct investment into pitch quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should therefore be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Objective 1 or through other means such as reducing unofficial use, addressing overplay and/or creating equipment banks for the pooling of maintenance resources.

Addressing quality issues

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

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

Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to 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 quality assessments, the Strategy refers to outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of ‘Good’, ‘Standard’ or ‘Poor’ quality. For example,
Some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Addressing overplay**

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

The FA, the RFU, the ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that a good quality pitch should take, as seen in the table overleaf. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.
Table 5.2: Carrying capacity of pitches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Pitch type</th>
<th>No. of match equivalent sessions</th>
<th>Good quality</th>
<th>Standard quality</th>
<th>Poor quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football (grass)</td>
<td>Adult pitches</td>
<td>3 per week</td>
<td>2 per week</td>
<td>1 per week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth pitches</td>
<td>4 per week</td>
<td>2 per week</td>
<td>1 per week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mini pitches</td>
<td>6 per week</td>
<td>4 per week</td>
<td>2 per week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby union²</td>
<td>Natural Inadequate (D0)</td>
<td>2 per week</td>
<td>1.5 per week</td>
<td>0.5 per week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natural Adequate (D1)</td>
<td>3 per week</td>
<td>2 per week</td>
<td>1.5 per week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pipe Drained (D2)</td>
<td>3.25 per week</td>
<td>2.5 per week</td>
<td>1.75 per week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)</td>
<td>3.5 per week</td>
<td>3 per week</td>
<td>2 per week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>One grass wicket</td>
<td>5 per season</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One synthetic wicket</td>
<td>60 per season</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>Sand/water based AGP</td>
<td>Four matches per day</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members.

For athletics, there is no maximum capacity set out by UK Athletics. Instead a minimum membership of 200 is required to ensure that tracks remain sustainable.

For all remaining non-pitch sports (bowls, netball, cycling and golf) there are no capacity recommendations set out by NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

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

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

For rugby union, additional floodlighting will reduce the expressed overplay as it will allow Stewarts & Lloyds RFC to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative.

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² The RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and the maintenance programme afforded to a site.
For cricket, an increase in NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares or other grass pitches. The stock of NTPs within Corby is relatively high; however, quality improvements are required. Increasing the stock could also be beneficial, particularly in relation to creating an LMS franchise, at which point a centrally located site with good ancillary facilities is seen as ideal.

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

**Increasing maintenance**

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

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

All local authority sites in Corby receive a relatively good level of maintenance through external companies, with Butland Road Playing Fields maintained by Midwest and the rest maintained by Kier. These regimes consist of bi-weekly grass cutting and yearly seeding, aeration, sand-dressing and fertilisation. Ensuring the listed regimes take place it key to ensuring pitch quality.

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

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

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.
Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

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

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

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

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

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

Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions

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

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

For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England’s new Playing Pitch Demand Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. This uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. This is then converted into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs.

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

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

As a reminder, in order to achieve objectives listed in the Joint Core Strategy, there needs to be an increase in housing stock within Corby. Policy 28 highlights each of Northamptonshire’s local authority’s housing requirements from 2011-2031. There is an identified need of an annual dwelling increase of 460 in Corby, with a total increase of 9,200 dwellings by 2031.

For scenarios relating to these figures, please see Part 7.
Recommendation (h) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council’s own outdoor sports facilities whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming that an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of outdoor 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 and are not necessarily area specific.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Future sports development trend</th>
<th>Strategy impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults.</td>
<td>Sustain current pitch stock but give consideration to pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase based on TGRs and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G AGP’s.</td>
<td>Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure regular FA testing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The FA’s strategy for Women’s and Girls’ football: 2017 – 2020 was released in March 2017. One of the major goals of the new the new strategy will be to double participation.</td>
<td>Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3G pitches</td>
<td>Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.</td>
<td>Current 3G supply in considered to be sufficient to meet future demand despite growth. Need for community use agreements to be in place as well as sinking funds. Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Demand is likely to remain static for grass wickets for both junior and adult participation.</td>
<td>Sustain current pitch stock. Isolated pockets of demand for access to additional facilities where pitches are operating at capacity. A need to install NTPs and encourage greater use for junior cricket.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An increase in non-club based play, especially from South Asian communities.</td>
<td>Develop cricket within communities that more commonly play informal formats of the game.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s and girls’ cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.</td>
<td>Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Stars Cricket initiative is likely to result in increased junior demand.</td>
<td>An increase stock of NTPs required to accommodate demand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Future sports development trend</td>
<td>Strategy impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby union</td>
<td>The RFU work towards achieving the stated outcomes of its National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017), the RFU National Women and Girls Strategy and the RFU National Male XV-a-side Strategy. Locally the RFU want to ensure access to pitches that satisfies the existing demand and predicted growth. Further, the RFU is aiming to protect and improve pitch quality plus that of ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights as current and future demand requires.</td>
<td>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 and support facility development. In particular, capital improvements are required to the existing natural turf pitches as is improvements to the quality of changing rooms, where appropriate. All clubs should have access to high quality floodlit pitches to support training and match play demand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The RFU investment strategy into AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. To achieve this, the RFU is keen to work locally with partners such as the Council and the FA to look at sites of mutual interest.</td>
<td>No demand exists for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch within Corby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>Current playing level is likely to increase with a growth rate predicted by England Hockey.</td>
<td>Retain current stock of sand-based pitches and ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High profile events (Hockey World Cup 2018)</td>
<td>These high profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England and there will be community events in the build-up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. This will inevitably raise the profile of the game with the aim to increase participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Play Hockey</td>
<td>The launch of Play Hockey and its subsequent website ensures that those wishing to play the game are able to find their local facility and club.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Membership of clubs is expected to increase, whilst casual play is expected to remain static.</td>
<td>Increases in participation can be accommodated through providing additional courts that are floodlit. An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as the access control system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowls</td>
<td>No expected net increase in memberships although an increasing elderly population could change this.</td>
<td>Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>Membership is expected to remain static.</td>
<td>Ensure membership stays above 200 to ensure that facilities are sustainable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expected increase in Park Run, Run Together Groups and 3-2-1 routes.</td>
<td>Sustain current provision used for such activity and explore options to provide additional facilities if demand requires it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Future sports development trend</td>
<td>Strategy impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>Activity is expected to stay predominately indoors.</td>
<td>Unlikely to be demand from the community for access to outdoor netball courts; however, retention is required for school activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Declining membership expected to ‘level off’.</td>
<td>Club are likely to see a rise in membership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-traditional formats of play are becoming increasingly popular.</td>
<td>Clubs should tailor their offer towards non-traditional formats of play to attract new users.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. The action plan is separated by analysis area, with an overview of each analysis area provided before the site-by-site recommendations.

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

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

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Hub sites</th>
<th>Key centres</th>
<th>Local sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site location</td>
<td>Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.</td>
<td>Strategically located within the analysis area.</td>
<td>Services the local community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site layout</td>
<td>Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.</td>
<td>Accommodates two or more grass pitches.</td>
<td>Accommodates one or more pitches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of sport</td>
<td>Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.</td>
<td>Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.</td>
<td>Single or multi-sport provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.</td>
<td>Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.</td>
<td>Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance regime</td>
<td>Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.</td>
<td>Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.</td>
<td>Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancillary facilities</td>
<td>Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.</td>
<td>Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.</td>
<td>No changing room access on site or appropriate access to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Hub sites** are of strategic Borough-wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

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

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

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

**Local sites** refer to those sites offering minimal provision. They are generally hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. Primarily they are sites with one facility or a low number of facilities that service just one sport. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the provision. NGBs would expect the facility to be transferred in an adequate condition that the club can maintain. In the longer term, the Club should be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the facilities.

**Management and development**

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

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

**Partners**

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

**Site hierarchy tier**

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

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

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

**Costs**

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

(L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above. These are based on Sport England’s estimated facility costs which can be found at: https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/

**Timescales**

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

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

**Aim**

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

### Overview of analysis area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Current picture</th>
<th>Future picture (2031)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Football       | ◦ There is currently one grass pitch, a mini 5v5 pitch at Cottingham C of E School.  
                 ◦ No teams are identified.                                                | No future demand is identified but that is not to say that isolated pockets will not exist.  
                                                                                       Whilst such demand will not be enough to warrant pitch provision being provided, it remains important  
                                                                                       that such demand can be accommodated in neighbouring analysis areas.                   |
| Cricket        | ◦ Current demand is being met.  
                 ◦ Security of tenure and accessibility is an issue at Old Eastonians Cricket Club.  
                 ◦ East Carlton Cricket Club is assessed as poor quality.                     | Future demand expressed by Old Eastonians CC results in a shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions.  
                                                                                       This can be resolved if greater security of tenure is provided and if more accessibility is granted. |
| Rugby union    | ◦ No supply or demand exists.                                                    | No future demand identified.                                                        |
| Hockey         | ◦ No supply or demand exists.                                                    | No future demand identified.                                                        |
| Gaelic football| ◦ No supply or demand exists.                                                    | No future demand identified.                                                        |
| Bowls          | ◦ No supply or demand exists.                                                    | No future demand identified.                                                        |
| Tennis         | ◦ No supply or demand exists.                                                    | No future demand identified.                                                        |
| Netball        | ◦ No supply or demand exists.                                                    | No future demand identified.                                                        |
| Athletics      | ◦ No athletics provision is supplied.                                            | Demand can be catered for at other facilities within Corby.                        |
| Golf           | ◦ Blackthorn Wood Complex provides a nine-hole course and a 25-bay driving range. | The facility requires retention and options should be explored to improve quality.   |

6 Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.
## Site-by-site action plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site Description</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Current status</th>
<th>Recommended actions</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Site hierarchy tier</th>
<th>Timescales (S)</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Aim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cottingham C of E Football School</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>One mini 5v5 pitch of standard quality. Currently available to the community but unused.</td>
<td>Retain pitch for continued curricular and extra-curricular activity.</td>
<td>FA School</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>East Carlton Cricket Club</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>One cricket square, with three grass wickets, assessed as poor quality. Pitch has spare capacity but is not considered to provide actual spare capacity due to quality issues.</td>
<td>Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity and consider carrying out a PQS assessment to resolve issues.</td>
<td>ECB Club</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Enhance Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Old Eastonians Cricket Club (Rockingham Castle)</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>One square with 11 grass wickets, assessed as standard quality. Used by Old Eastonians CC via a rental agreement from Rockingham Castle. Currently has spare capacity during peak period; however, accessibility is an issue. Ancillary facilities at the site are reported to need improving, with currently no disabled access, umpire facilities or shower provision. In addition, no training facilities are provided.</td>
<td>Improve quality through appropriate maintenance regimes to maximise capacity. Improve security of tenure through formalising use agreement. Explore options to provide the Club with increased access so that it can realise its growth plans. Look to develop ancillary facilities to at least provide shower provision, umpire facilities and disabled access. Explore opportunities to provide practice nets.</td>
<td>ECB</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Enhance Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex</td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Provides a short nine-hole course as well as a 25-bay driving range. Ancillary facilities are in need of modernisation.</td>
<td>Look to improve course quality through appropriate maintenance regimes. Explore options to refurbish ancillary facilities at the site. Explore options to increase and maximise usage.</td>
<td>England Golf</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

7 Timescales: (S) - Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).
8 Cost: (L) - Low - less than £50k; (M) - Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) - High £250k and above.
Overview of analysis area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Current picture</th>
<th>Future picture (2031)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Two pitches (one adult and one youth 9v9) are provided, both at Stanion Park.</td>
<td>No expressed future demand means supply remains sufficient to meet demand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The pitches are considered to be at capacity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Only two teams are fielded.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>No supply or demand exists.</td>
<td>No future demand identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby union</td>
<td>No supply or demand exists.</td>
<td>No future demand identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>No supply or demand exists.</td>
<td>No future demand identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaelic football</td>
<td>No supply or demand exists.</td>
<td>No future demand identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowls</td>
<td>No supply or demand exists.</td>
<td>No future demand identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>No supply or demand exists.</td>
<td>No future demand identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>No supply or demand exists.</td>
<td>No future demand identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>No athletics provision is supplied.</td>
<td>Demand can be catered for at other facilities within Corby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>No golf provision is supplied.</td>
<td>Demand can be catered for at other facilities within Corby.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.
## Site-by-site action plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Current status</th>
<th>Recommended actions</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Site hierarchy tier</th>
<th>Timescales 10</th>
<th>Cost 11</th>
<th>Aim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Stanion Park</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are currently at capacity during peak time. The adult pitch is rated as poor quality; the youth 9v9 pitch is rated as standard quality. Ancillary facilities are in need of refurbishment.</td>
<td>Improve pitch quality via drainage works, particularly in relation to the adult pitch.</td>
<td>FA</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Enhance Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Look to make improvements to changing facilities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 Timescales: (S) - Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).
11 (L) - Low - less than £50k; (M) - Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) - High £250k and above.
Overview of analysis area

| Sport      | Current picture                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Future picture (2031)
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Football   | - Spare capacity amounting to 4.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches; however, pitches at Abington Road and Burghley Drive playing field sites are overplayed.  
- Spare capacity amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches.  
- There are no youth 11v11 pitches, whereas all mini pitches are unused by the community.  
- There are 19 youth 11v11 teams playing on the incorrect pitch type.  
- There are two full-size 3G pitches; one at Lodge Park Sports Centre and one at Tresham College. | There is a future shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and two match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches.  
There is a need for ten youth 11v11 pitches to meet demand or the 3G pitch stock needs to be utilised for this format of play.  
The 3G pitches are sufficient to meet demand; however, Lodge Park Sports Centre will require imminent resurfacing. |
| Cricket    | - There are two squares provided, both at Stewart & Lloyds Cricket Club.  
- The first square is at capacity, whilst the other is overplayed by four match equivalent sessions. | No identified future demand means the shortfall remains at four match equivalent sessions. This can be alleviated through greater utilisation of the NTP on site or via installing an NTP on the second square. |
| Rugby union| - There are five senior rugby union pitches available for community use across two sites.  
- One pitch at Stewart & Lloyds Rugby Club is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.  
- All remaining pitches are either at capacity or have minimal spare capacity remaining. | Future demand results in a shortfall of 1.75 match equivalent sessions. This can be alleviated through improving pitch quality at Corby Rugby Club and via the installation of additional floodlighting at Stewarts & Lloyds Rugby Club. |
| Hockey     | - No full-size pitches are provided and no demand exists. | No future demand identified. |
| Gaelic football | - A dedicated pitch exists at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex. | Supply is sufficient to meet demand. |
| Bowls      | - There are three flat greens.  
- Supply is sufficient to meet demand. | Supply is sufficient to meet demand. |
| Tennis     | - There are 14 courts provided across three sites.  
- Corby Tennis Centre is operating at capacity. | Corby Tennis Centre requires support in its aspirations to be provided with a greater number of courts.  
Options need to be explored to reduce the pressure placed on the current facility. |

12 Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Current picture</th>
<th>Future picture (2031)$^{12}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>Four courts are provided; however, no netball demand for outdoor courts exists.</td>
<td>No future demand identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>There is one track located at Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex.</td>
<td>Supply is sufficient to meet demand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As Corby Athletics Club provides 240 members, the track is considered to be sustainable.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park Run takes place at West Glebe Park.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>No golf provision is supplied.</td>
<td>Demand can be catered for at other facilities within Corby.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Site by site action plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Current status</th>
<th>Recommended actions</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Site hierarchy</th>
<th>Timescales</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Aim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Abington Road Playing Fields</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>One adult, and one youth 9v9. Both are available for community use. Both pitches are assessed as poor quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.</td>
<td>Improve pitch quality via drainage works to alleviate overplay. Explore options to provide youth 11v11 pitch on site.</td>
<td>FA</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Enhance Protect Provide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Burghley Drive Playing Field</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all of poor quality and available for community use. The adult pitch is currently overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas spare capacity on other pitches is discounted due to the quality issues. Adult pitch solely used for youth 11v11 football.</td>
<td>Improve pitch quality to remove overplay on the adult pitch and to provide actual spare capacity on the 9v9 and 7v7 pitches. Reconfigure adult pitch to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand given that no adult teams access the site. Given the lack of 7v7 pitch demand, explore options to re-configure to another pitch type if the space allows.</td>
<td>FA</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Enhance Protect Provide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Corby Rugby Club</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Two senior pitches assessed as poor quality due to a basic maintenance regime. All actual spare capacity on pitches is discounted due to quality issues. Ancillary facilities are considered to be adequate albeit dated.</td>
<td>Improve pitch quality through better maintenance to provide actual spare capacity which will accommodate expressed future demand. Support the Club to ensure its long-term sustainability given recent uncertainty. Ensure the Club’s training demand continues to be met.</td>
<td>RFU</td>
<td>Key centre</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Enhance Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Football</td>
<td></td>
<td>One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch of standard quality, both available for community use. Both pitches have actual spare capacity, with the adult pitch being able to accommodate an additional two teams and the youth 9v9 pitch having able to accommodate one additional team. Adult pitch solely used for youth 11v11 football.</td>
<td>Utilise spare capacity to accommodate future demand or the transfer of play from currently overplayed sites. Reconfigure adult pitch to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand given that no adult teams access the site.</td>
<td>FA</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sand AGP</td>
<td></td>
<td>One small sized (46x35) hockey suitable AGP used by Corby RFC for training purposes.</td>
<td>Retain pitch for continued rugby training use. Ensure the Club is training on more appropriate surfaces for contact activity.</td>
<td>RFU</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13 Timescales: (S) - Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).
14 (L) - Low - less than £50k; (M) - Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) - High £250k and above.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Current status</th>
<th>Recommended actions</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Site hierarchy</th>
<th>Timescales</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Aim</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>One adult pitch of standard quality. Currently only used for curricular and extra-curricular football despite being available to the community.</td>
<td>Consider re-configuring to a youth 11v11 pitch to better accommodate curricular and extra-curricular activity and to encourage use by the community.</td>
<td>FA School</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Provide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>One senior rugby pitch of standard quality with no community use.</td>
<td>Retain pitch for curricular and extra-curricular use.</td>
<td>RFU School</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3G</td>
<td>Council School</td>
<td>A full size 3G pitch with floodlighting. Assessed as standard quality having been installed in 2007. FA registered to host competitive matches but no current demand received for this purpose.</td>
<td>Resurface the pitch in the near future as it is reaching the end of its recommended lifespan and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.</td>
<td>FA School</td>
<td>Key centre</td>
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<td>Protect</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Explore options to better utilise the pitch, such as via the transfer of match demand from grass pitches.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Explore the utilisation of the pitch to provide a central venue for mini football.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ensure the pitch remains on the FA register via testing every three years.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Explore options to encourage increased community use.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tennis/Netball</td>
<td>Six macadam courts that are without floodlighting. Three assessed as poor quality and three assessed as standard quality. Available to the community.</td>
<td>Improve poor quality courts to a level suitable for curricular and extra-curricular activity.</td>
<td>Improve poor quality courts to a level suitable for curricular and extra-curricular activity.</td>
<td>LTA School</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Enhance</td>
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<td>Explore options to encourage increased community use.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Club Council</td>
<td>Three adult pitches of good quality available for community use. Site has actual spare capacity at peak time for six additional teams.</td>
<td>Retain quality of pitches.</td>
<td>FA</td>
<td>Hub site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
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<td>Consider re-configuration of one of the pitches to youth 11v11 given that current adult demand can be accommodated on two pitches.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td></td>
<td>No current cricket facilities but identified as a potential site to host an LMS franchise.</td>
<td>Explore suitability for the creation of a standalone NTP that can accommodate LMS activity.</td>
<td>ECB</td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Enhance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gaelic football</td>
<td></td>
<td>Only Gaelic football pitch within Corby. It is leased to Corby O'Rahilly's GAA on a long-term basis.</td>
<td>Protect a pitch for Gaelic Football and ensure quality is sufficient.</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td></td>
<td>A good quality, 400m eight lane track that is floodlit. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities, with a new clubhouse soon to be developed and new floodlighting to be provided. Used by Corby Athletics Club via a 40-year lease agreement as well as by triathlon clubs.</td>
<td>Retain track and sustain its quality via implementation of a sinking fund for ongoing refurbishment.</td>
<td>England Athletics Club</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
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<td>Ensure clubhouse and floodlighting improvements go ahead and correct current quality issues.</td>
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<td>Support Corby Athletics Club to ensure its membership stays above 200 for sustainability purposes.</td>
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</table>

**Notes:**
- **Timescales:** (S) - Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).
- **Cost:** (L) - Low - less than £50k; (M) - Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) - High £250k and above.
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<tr>
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<th>Recommended actions</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Site hierarchy tier</th>
<th>Timescales</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Aim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Stewarts &amp; Lloyds Rugby Club/Cricket Club</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Three good quality senior pitches, two of which are floodlit. One of the floodlit pitches is predominately protected for first team matches, whereas the second floodlit pitch is used for training and as a result is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. The non-floodlit pitch has spare capacity amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Changing and social facilities are dated.</td>
<td>Sustain pitch quality through continued appropriate maintenance. Consider installation of additional floodlighting on the third pitch so that training demand can be spread out, thus alleviating current overplay. This can either be through permanent floodlighting or via mobile floodlights. Improve changing and social facilities to aid income generation.</td>
<td>RFU Club</td>
<td>Key Centre</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Enhance Protect</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket</td>
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<td>ECB Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Tresham College</td>
<td>3G</td>
<td>College</td>
<td>A full size 3G pitch with floodlighting. Assessed as good quality having been installed in 2011. FA registered to host competitive matches but no current demand received for this purpose. The pitch is also World Rugby registered.</td>
<td>Resurface the pitch before it reaches the end of its recommended lifespan (2021) and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Explore options to better utilise the pitch, such as via the transfer of match demand from grass pitches. Consider utilisation to provide a central venue for mini football. Ensure the pitch remains on the FA register via testing every three years. Ensure the pitch remains on the World Rugby Register through recommended testing timescales.</td>
<td>FA RFU School</td>
<td>Key centre</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Protect</td>
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<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>West Glebe Park</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Four adult pitches, one of poor quality and three of standard quality. The poor quality pitch is operating at capacity, whereas the standard pitches are at capacity at peak time. One of the pitches is used for Step 7 football.</td>
<td>Improve pitch quality via drainage works, particularly in relation to the poor quality pitch. Reconfigure pitches to better accommodate junior football. Once junior pitch created, retain this pitch for use by junior teams. Ensure Corby Pegasus FC can progress through the football pyramid.</td>
<td>FA Hub site</td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Enhance Protect Provide</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tennis/Netball</td>
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<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
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</table>

November 2017

Draft Strategy: Knight Kavanagh & Page
## Athletics

**Site ID** | **Site** | **Sport** | **Management** | **Current status** | **Recommended actions** | **Partners** | **Site hierarchy** | **Timescales** | **Cost** | **Aim**  
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---  
33 | Stewarts & Lloyds Football Club | Football | Club | Three adult and three youth 9v9 pitches all assessed as standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitches overmark two of the adult pitches. Both pitch types have actual spare capacity during peak time. One of the adult pitch is used for Step 7 football. Car parking is considered to be poor quality. | Consider re-configuration of pitches in order to supply dedicated youth 11v11 provision given that current adult and youth 9v9 demand could be amalgamated onto a lesser number of pitches. | FA Club | Local site | S | L | Protect Provide Enhance  
37 | Exeter Primary School | Football | School | A mini 7v7 pitch that is assessed as standard quality but is unavailable for community use. | Retain pitch for curricular needs. | FA School | Local site | L | L | Protect  
38 | Steel Park (Corby Town FC) | Football | Club | A floodlit adult pitch used for Step 3 football and assessed as good quality. | Retain spare capacity to protect quality for football pyramid activity. | FA Club | Local site | L | L | Protect  
39 | Corby Tennis Centre | Tennis | Private | Six good quality macadam courts that are floodlit. The Club reports that it is operating at capacity. Also provided are eight indoor courts that are included within the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy. Serviced by good quality ancillary facilities. | Sustain court quality. | LTA Club | Key centre | L | L | Protect Provide  
40 | Corby Forest Bowls Club | Bowls | Club | A good quality green leased by the Club from Scottish Trust. | Sustain quality. | England Bowls Club | Local site | L | L | Protect  
41 | Corby Seagrave House Bowling Club | Bowls | Club | Two good quality greens, one of which is floodlit, leased by the Club from Punch Taverns. Ancillary provision is reported to be good quality although disabled access needs improving. | Sustain green quality. | England Bowls Club | Local site | L | L | Protect Enhance  

URBAN SOUTH

Overview of analysis area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Current picture</th>
<th>Future picture (2031)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Football**  | - Adult pitches are currently operating at capacity.  
- Spare capacity amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions exists on youth 9v9 pitches.  
- There are no youth 11v11 pitches, whereas all mini pitches are unused by the community.  
- There are five youth 11v11 teams playing on the incorrect pitch type.  
- There is one full-size 3G pitch at Kingswood Secondary Academy. | There is a future shortfall of seven match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and 0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches.  
There is a need for three youth 11v11 pitches to meet demand or the 3G pitch. 3G stock needs to be utilised for this format of play.  
The 3G pitch at Kingswood Secondary Academy is sufficient to meet demand. |
| **Cricket**   | - There is one square provided at Great Oakley Cricket Club.  
- The square is overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions.                                                                                                           | Future demand expressed by Great Oakley CC results in a shortfall of 25 match equivalent sessions. Whilst this could be reduced through increased use of its NTP, it is likely that new provision will be required. |
| **Rugby union** | - There is one senior rugby union pitch at Brooke Weston Academy; however, it is unavailable for community use.  
- No teams play in the Analysis Area.                                                                                                                                      | No future demand is identified meaning no community available supply is required.         |
| **Hockey**    | - There is one full size hockey suitable AGPs, located at Brooke Weston Academy.  
- The pitch is used as a satellite site for Corby HC and is currently sufficient to meet such demand.                                                                 | Corby HC has significant future demand aspirations; however, this can be accommodated at Corby Business Academy. Regardless of surface type, as long as the AGP at Brooke Weston is available for recreational hockey play, both current and future demand is met. |
| **Gaelic football** | No supply or demand exists.                                                                                                                                                                                  | No future demand identified.                                                              |
| **Bowls**     | - There are two flat greens.  
- Supply is sufficient to meet demand.                                                                                                                                                                   | Supply is sufficient to meet demand.                                                      |
| **Tennis**    | - There are 11 courts provided across two school sites.  
- None of the courts are regularly accessed by the community.                                                                                                                                               | Courts require retention for curricular and extra-curricular activity and options should be explored to improve the offer for casual demand. |
| **Netball**   | - Five courts are provided; however, no netball demand for outdoor courts exists.                                                                                                                            | No future demand identified.                                                              |
| **Athletics** | No athletics provision is supplied.                                                                                                                                                                           | Demand can be catered for at other facilities within Corby.                                |
| **Golf**      | No golf provision is supplied.                                                                                                                                                                               | Demand can be catered for at other facilities within Corby.                                |

17 Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.
Site by site action plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Sport</th>
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<th>Timescales</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Aim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brooke Weston Academy</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, both assessed as good quality. Both are available to the community and used, with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity remaining. Adult pitch solely used for youth 11v11 football.</td>
<td>Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance. Ensure security of tenure for community users via community use agreements. Reconfigure adult pitch to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand.</td>
<td>School FA</td>
<td>Key centre</td>
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<td>Protect Enhance</td>
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<td>Provided by: School FA.</td>
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<td>Provided by: Street PRU.</td>
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<td>Provided by: LTA and AGP.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rugby union</td>
<td>Tennis/Netball</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>A standard quality senior pitch that is unavailable for community use.</td>
<td>Retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity.</td>
<td>School RFU</td>
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<td>Provided by: School RFU.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sand AGP</td>
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<td>One full size sand-based AGP that is available to the community. This site is used as a satellite site for Corby HC. It is assessed as standard quality, having been last resurfaced in 2007. Also on site are two small sized sand-based AGP. One is floodlit, the other is not; both are available to the community. No sinking funds are in place. Early considerations are being made regarding conversion of the full-sized sand-based AGP to 3G. The School have contacted the FA and a meeting is scheduled in January 2018 for further discussion.</td>
<td>Regardless of surface type, ensure continued use for Corby HC to run its satellite sessions. Explore options to resurface the pitch in the imminent future as it is reaching the end of its lifespan. Conversion to 3G could be considered. Following resurface, ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.</td>
<td>EH FA School</td>
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<td>Provided by: LTA and AGP.</td>
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<td>Provided by: School RFU.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tennis/Netball</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Three good quality macadam courts and two standard quality artificial courts. Available to the community but rarely used.</td>
<td>Retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity.</td>
<td>LTA School</td>
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<td>L</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Butland Road Playing Field</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>One adult and two youth 9v9 pitches. The adult pitch is poor quality, whereas the youth 9v9 pitches are standard quality. A total of 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity remains on both pitch types, however, this is discounted on the adult pitch due to poor quality. Adult pitch solely used for youth 11v11 football.</td>
<td>Improve pitch quality, particularly on the adult pitch. Reconfigure adult pitch to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand given that no adult teams access the site.</td>
<td>FA Local site</td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect Enhance Provide</td>
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<td>Provided by: FA.</td>
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<td>Provided by: LTA and AGP.</td>
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<td>Provided by: School RFU.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Danesholme Junior Academy</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>A youth 9v9 pitch that is assessed as standard quality and is available to the community albeit</td>
<td>Explore options to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of current demand or through future demand.</td>
<td>School FA</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.
### Site ID | Site | Sport | Management | Current status | Recommended actions | Partners | Site hierarchy | Timescales | Cost | Aim
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
12 | Danesholme Park | Football | Council | A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. currently unused. One match equivalent session of actual spare capacity is provided. | Ensure security of tenure for potential community users via a community use agreement. | FA | Local site | L | L | Protect
14 | Great Oakley Cricket Club | Cricket | Club | A good quality square with 12 grass wickets and one NTP. Leased by Great Oakley CC on a long-term basis from Great Oakley estates and also used by Montagu Old Boys CC via a rental agreement. Currently overplayed by 10 match equivalent sessions which will worsen to 25 match equivalent sessions if future growth plans are realised. Great Oakley CC reports an aspiration for an increase in training provision. | Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. | ECB | Club | Local site | S | L | Protect | Provide
16 | Hazel Leys Academy | Football | School | A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use. | Retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity. | FA | School | L | L | Protect
17 | Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre Pitch | Football | Council | A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. | Sustain quality to continue accommodate demand through appropriate maintenance. | FA | Local site | L | L | Protect
18 | Kingswood Secondary Academy | Football | School | A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is available to the community and used. It is played to capacity at peak time. | Ensure security of tenure for community users via a community use agreement. | FA | Key centre | S | L | Protect
3G | | | | A full size 3G pitch that is floodlit and assessed as standard quality having been installed in 2009. It is FA registered to accommodate competitive matches but does not current cater for such demand. | Resurface the pitch before it reaches the end of its recommended lifespan (2019) and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. | FA | School | M | M | 
| | | | | | Explore options to better utilise the pitch, such as via the transfer of match demand from grass pitches. | FA | School | S | L | 
| | | | | | Consider the utilisation of the pitch to provide a central venue for mini football. | | | S | L | 
| | | | | | Ensure the pitch remains on the FA register via testing every three years. | | | L | L | 
Tennis/Netball | Six standard quality macadam courts. Available to the community but rarely used. | Retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity. | LTA | School | L | L |
23 | Maplefields Academy | Sand AGP | School | A small sized sand-based AGP that is available to the community and floodlit. | Retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity. | School | Local site | L | L | Protect
32 | Woodsend Pavilion | Football | Council | A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. | Sustain quality to continue accommodate demand and explore options to improve drainage. | FA | Local site | L | L | Protect
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Current status</th>
<th>Recommended actions</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Site hierarchy</th>
<th>Timescales</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Aim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Beanfield Primary School</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.</td>
<td>Retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity.</td>
<td>FA School</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Corby Grampian Bowls Club</td>
<td>Bowls</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>A poor quality green. Uncertainty exists as to whether the Club is still in existence.</td>
<td>Further explore the current status of the Club.</td>
<td>Bowls England Club</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>If it exists, ensure it is provided with the support necessary to ensure long-term sustainability.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>If it has folded, consider re-designation of the green.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Corby Woodsend Bowls Club</td>
<td>Bowls</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>A standard quality green rented by Corby Woodsend BC on an annual basis from the Council.</td>
<td>Retain green and ensure appropriate maintenance.</td>
<td>Bowls England Club</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Explore options to improve ancillary facilities, particularly in relation to the kitchen and toilet provision.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Enhance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WELDON & GRETTON

Overview of analysis area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Current picture</th>
<th>Future picture (2031)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Football       | - Spare capacity exists on adult pitches totalling 1.5 match equivalent sessions.  
                 - The sole youth 9v9 pitch is at capacity.  
                 - No youth 11v11, mini 7v7 or mini 5v5 pitch demand exists.                                                                                      | No future demand is identified meaning the current picture is predicted to remain unaltered, with supply therefore sufficient to meet demand. |
| Cricket        | - There are two grass wicket squares provided, one at Gretton Recreation Ground and one at Weldon Cricket Club.  
                 - Gretton Recreation Ground has actual spare capacity of 16 match equivalent sessions, whereas Weldon Cricket Club is overplayed by 15 match equivalent sessions.  
                 - Weldon Cricket Club suffers from severe sloping issues that would prevent the Club from playing at a higher level. | As there is no future demand, overall supply remains sufficient to meet demand; however, there remains a need to alleviate overplay at Weldon Cricket Club. This could be achieved through greater utilisation of the Club’s NTP, although this is not currently possible due to poor quality. |
| Rugby union    | - There is one junior rugby union pitch at Brooke Weston Academy; however, it is unavailable for community use.  
                 - No teams play in the Analysis Area.                                                                                                           | No future demand is identified meaning no community available supply is required.                        |
| Hockey         | - There is one full size hockey suitable AGP, located at Corby Business Academy.  
                 - The pitch is available for community use but is not used for hockey activity.                                                                  | The pitch at Corby Business Academy should be retained as hockey suitable to ensure access by Corby HC. |
| Gaelic football| - No supply or demand exists.                                                                                                                                                                                  | No future demand identified.                                                                             |
| Bowls          | - No supply or demand exists.                                                                                                                                                                                  | No future demand identified.                                                                             |
| Tennis         | - There are seven courts provided across two sites.  
                 - None of the courts are regularly accessed by the community.                                                                                     | Courts require retention and options should be explored to improve the offer for casual demand.           |
| Netball        | - Four courts are provided; however, no netball demand for outdoor courts exists.                                                                                                                             | No future demand identified.                                                                             |
| Athletics      | - No athletics provision is supplied.                                                                                                                                                                           | Demand can be catered for at other facilities within Corby.                                               |

20 Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Current picture</th>
<th>Future picture (2031)(^2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Priors Hall Golf Course provides an 18-hole course and a nine-hole Footgolf course.&lt;br&gt;Supply is sufficient to meet demand.</td>
<td>Supply remains sufficient to meet demand providing that quality is sustained.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Site by site action plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Current status</th>
<th>Recommended actions</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Site hierarchy tier</th>
<th>Timescales</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Aim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Corby Business Academy</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Two adult and one youth 9v9 pitch both assessed as good quality. Both pitches have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand.</td>
<td>Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.</td>
<td>FA School</td>
<td>Key centre</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td></td>
<td>A standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.</td>
<td>Retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity and explore community use options should a local club require access.</td>
<td>ECB School</td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rugby union</td>
<td></td>
<td>A standard quality junior pitch that is unavailable for community use.</td>
<td>Retain pitch for curricular and extra-curricular activity.</td>
<td>RFU School</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sand AGP</td>
<td></td>
<td>A full-size sand-based AGP that is assessed as good quality. Used by Corby HC for all activity. Last resurfaced in 2008, although no sinking fund is in place.</td>
<td>Sustain quality via regularly, appropriate maintenance.</td>
<td>EH School</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tennis/Netball</td>
<td></td>
<td>Six standard quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting. Available to the community but rarely used.</td>
<td>Retain as a hockey suitable pitch.</td>
<td>LTA School</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gretton Recreation Ground</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by good quality ancillary facilities following renovation in 2012.</td>
<td>Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and seek improvements where possible.</td>
<td>FA Local site</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect Enhance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td></td>
<td>A standard quality square with five grass wickets. Rented annually by Gretton CC. Actual spare capacity totalling 16 match equivalent sessions remains.</td>
<td>Seek quality improvements through appropriate maintenance.</td>
<td>ECB School</td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sand AGP</td>
<td></td>
<td>A small sized AGP with floodlighting.</td>
<td>Retain for continued casual demand.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td></td>
<td>One good quality artificial turf court. Available to the community but rarely used.</td>
<td>Explore options to increase community appeal.</td>
<td>LTA School</td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Weldon Church of England Primary School</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.</td>
<td>Retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity.</td>
<td>FA School</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site ID</td>
<td>Site Name</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Current status</td>
<td>Recommended actions</td>
<td>Partners</td>
<td>Site hierarchy tier</td>
<td>Timescales</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Aim</td>
</tr>
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<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Weldon Cricket Club</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>A standard quality square with eight grass wickets and one NTP. Leased by the club on a long-term basis from Singlehurst Weldon Charitable Trust. A severe slope may prevent the Club from playing at a higher level. Grass wickets are overplayed by 15 match equivalent sessions.</td>
<td>Explore options to correct quality issues so that the Club can progress. Replace NTP to alleviate overplay of grass wickets. Should overplay still exist, explore use of Gretton Recreation Ground given its actual spare capacity.</td>
<td>ECB Club</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Protect Enhance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Priors Hall Junior Academy</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.</td>
<td>Retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity.</td>
<td>FA School</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Weldon Football Club</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.</td>
<td>Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and seek improvements where possible.</td>
<td>FA</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Priors Hall Golf Course</td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>An 18-hole golf course that also provides a nine-hole Footgolf course. Ancillary facilities are dated.</td>
<td>Look to sustain course quality through appropriate maintenance regimes. Explore options to refurbish ancillary facilities at the site. Explore options to increase and maximise usage.</td>
<td>England Golf Club</td>
<td>Local site</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Protect Enhance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2031 (in line with the Local Plan). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. Sport England’s Playing Pitch Demand Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved by taking the current team generation rates (TGRs) and current population from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

The scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (it does not include non-pitch sports). The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.5 per dwelling.

Scenario 1 – Housing growth of 9,200

The housing requirement for Corby is identified as 9,200 dwellings over the period to 2031, equating to 460 dwellings per year from 2011. The estimated additional population derived from this housing growth is 23,000 (2.5 people per dwelling). This equates to 15.92 match equivalent sessions across the sports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pitch Sport</th>
<th>Estimated demand by sport (2031)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult football</td>
<td>5.85 match equivalent sessions per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth football</td>
<td>7.02 match equivalent sessions per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini soccer</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby union</td>
<td>1.29 match equivalent sessions per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby league</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>75.03 match equivalent sessions per season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £1,635,422\(^{21}\) and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £334,069.\(^{22}\)

Scenario 2 – Housing growth of 14,200

Policy 28 of the Joint Core Strategy assumes significantly higher levels of immigration into Corby than the adjusted household projections suggest. This strategic opportunity is identified as 5,000 additional dwellings, totalling 14,200 dwellings by 2031 and 710 dwellings per annum. The estimated additional population derived from this level of housing growth is 35,500.

The above equates to 24.58 match equivalent sessions across the sports.

\(^{21}\) Capital cost is based on 2016 second quarter calculations.
\(^{22}\) Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012
Table 7.2: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (2031)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pitch Sport</th>
<th>Estimated demand by sport (2031)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult football</td>
<td>9.03 match equivalent sessions per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth football</td>
<td>10.84 match equivalent sessions per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini soccer</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby union</td>
<td>1.99 match equivalent sessions per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby league</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>115.81 match equivalent sessions per season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £2,524,239\(^{23}\) and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £515,628.\(^{24}\)

Conclusion

The tables above show that over the local plan period, demand is likely to be generated for each pitch sport (with the exception of rugby league) to a lesser or greater extent. This position is, however, indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to.

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

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

---

\(^{23}\) Capital cost is based on 2016 second quarter calculations.

\(^{24}\) Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012
PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

Delivery

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Corby. 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 Corby 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.

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

Monitoring and updating

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

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.
The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for outdoor sports facilities will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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

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

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

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

- Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPS and outdoor sports 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 outdoor sports provision in the area;
- Reviews the need to update the PPS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
  - Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
  - Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
  - Lead a full review and update of the PPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

Alongside the regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships may be to hold annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings could look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.
These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings. The NGBs will also be able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area. Discussion with the league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings which it may be useful to attend to pick up any specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

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

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

**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:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Requires Attention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step 9: Apply &amp; deliver the strategy</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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?</td>
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<tr>
<td>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?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Step 10: Keep the strategy robust &amp; up to date</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?</td>
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<td>4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>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?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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

National context

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

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
Economic Development

National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)

The 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.

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

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

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

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

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

- **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
  - Pathway
  - Support
  - Elite Teams
  - England Teams

- **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
  - Fan focus
  - New audiences
  - Global stage
  - Broadcast and digital

- **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
  - Integrity
  - Community programmes
  - Our environments
  - One plan

- **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
  - People
  - Revenue and reach
  - Insight
  - Operations


The 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 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:
Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.

Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

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


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

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

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

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

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

**England Hockey Strategy**

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

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

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result, only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

   We currently have over 1,000 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) We need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country. Tactics for supporting this will include:

   - Working with hockey clubs on their facilities partnerships.
   - Influencing Playing Pitch Strategies (PPS) - Continuing the strong relationship with the FA on a local and national level to identify priorities.

2. **IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively).**

   The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset. Tactics for supporting this will include:

   - Targeted investment through England Hockey and other key funding partners.
   - Education around asset owning including when it is appropriate for clubs to asset own as opposed to hire facilities.
   - Improving the administration and business planning with asset owning organisation to ensure there is appropriate finances in place for the replacement of the surface.
   - Developing stronger partnerships between hockey clubs and the asset owner recognising that many clubs are the single largest user of an artificial grass pitch.
   - Strategic investment into pitches that provide opportunities to deliver our player pathway Supporting clubs in the national leagues to achieve the facilities Elite Operating Standards requirements.
3. **DEVELOP:** To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

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

- Targeted investment through the Capital Investment Programme and other key funding partners.
- Mapping of sites through research and priority areas.
- Clear rationale developed and implemented that identifies where multi pitch sites should be placed.

**2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy**

The new strategy is presented in a concise one page framework that includes key strategies relating to three participation "focus" areas, six participation "drivers" and three participation "enablers". To achieve success, the 12 strategy areas will need to work interdependently to stem the decline and unlock sustainable growth:

The three participation “focus” areas are where tennis is consumed:

- Deliver great service to clubs
- Build partnerships in the community, led by parks
- Enhance the tennis offer in education

The six participation "drivers" are the areas that will make the biggest difference where tennis is consumed. They must all be successful on a standalone and interconnected basis and include:

- Becoming more relevant to coaches
- Refocusing on recreational competition
- Providing results orientated facility investment
- Applying best in class marketing and promotion
- Jump starting the peak summer season
- Establishing a "no compromise" high performance programme with focus

The final layer is comprised of three participation "enablers" that underpin our ability to be successful. These enablers are rooted in how the LTA will get better; how the entire network of partners must be harnessed to work together and the need to raise more financial resources to fund our sport's turnaround. They include:

- Becoming a more effective and efficient LTA
- Harnessing the full resource network
- Generating new revenue

For further information and more detail on the framework please go to [http://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision](http://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision)
England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17 Whole Sport Plan

England Netball remains committed to its ‘10-1-1’ mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017
Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31st March 2017.

- 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- 1,500 registered coaches.
- Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- County development officer appointed by each county association.
- National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- Be progressive.
- Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- Lead the sport.
- Support clubs and county associations.


The England Athletics plan outlines a strategy to attract and retain 3 million athletics participants by 2017, from a current base of 1.9 million as measured by Active People, whilst cementing athletics as the most popular individual sporting activity in England.

“The ambition is to make England an athletic nation. Traditional athletics for some, running for many, fitness for all”.

In order to achieve this, the goals of the strategic plan are:

- To grow and sustain participation levels in the sport.
- To improve the experiences of every participant in the sport.
- To improve performance levels and to grow the next generation of senior athletic champions.

The plan also reflects a total commitment to delivering an inclusive sport, setting specific disability targets that are woven into the core measures for growth and retention of participation. Key personnel within the England Athletics staffing structure will now lead this area of work, focusing on:
Delivering inclusive formats of the sport.
National policy and programme development.
Coaching and teaching resources.


Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and the 5 year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA's Athlete/Participant Development Model. In addition to Track and Field provision, UKA recognises the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future "running" facilities.

The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

**UKA's 2014-19 Facilities Strategy key outcomes:**

- Increased participation across all athletics disciplines
- Increased club membership by providing facilities that support a participation pathway from novice through to club member
- Increased talent pool
- Long term improvement in the development of athletes of all ages and abilities
- Securing the long term future of existing facilities
- More attractive and inspiring facilities for existing and potential athletes
- Improving the athletics experience for all participants
- Improved relationships and interactions between stakeholders, particularly clubs and facility operators

**Growing the Game of Golf In England 2017-2021**

England Golf are the national governing body for amateur golf. We work at the heart of golf in England, supporting and empowering a thriving community of players, counties and clubs to get the most out of the game we all love.

The golfing community believes there is still a lot of work to be done if golf in England is to realise the potential we all know it has to thrive and grow. There’s consensus on where this work needs to be concentrated: reaching more new players, particularly women and girls, and retaining more existing players. This lays down a challenge: we’ve got to get a better understanding of players, our customers, and get better at providing what they want. We believe this is the key to unlocking the changes we need to see. More women and girls involved in golf. Rising membership revenues and flourishing modern clubs, welcoming all
with appealing membership and playing offers. We have put this focus on the customer at the heart of our new strategy to give us the greatest chance of being able to grow the game of golf in England.

We’re setting out to grow the game of golf through seven strategic objectives. Developed in consultation with the golf community, six of these objectives are developed from our work since 2014;

- Being customer focussed
- Stronger clubs and counties
- Excellent governance
- Improved image and promoting the benefits of golf
- More members and players
- Outstanding championships, competitions and events
- Winning golfers

Local context

**Supporting Northamptonshire to Flourish: Northamptonshire’s Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020**

This is the latest strategy which aims at improving the health and wellbeing of all people in Northamptonshire. The overall objective is to reduce health inequalities by enabling people to help themselves. The strategy lists four key priorities with targets associated for each priority. The importance of having accessible, good quality sports facilities will assist in achieving all four key priorities:

- Giving every child the best start
- Taking responsibility and making informed choices
- Promoting independence and quality of life for older adults
- Creating an environment for all people to flourish

**First for Wellbeing**

First for Wellbeing is a Community Interest Company (CIC), set up to serve the needs of the local communities across Northamptonshire. Working together with public, private and voluntary sectors, First for Wellbeing aims to build up a community of ‘wellbeing experts’ to:

- Provide and effective, integrated service that prevents poor physical and mental health in the county
- Provide a bespoke service – treat each and every person as an individual
- Support people to effectively balance all aspects of wellbeing
- Take a community-wide-approach – draw out the very best of public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver a more holistic approach to health and wellbeing

First for Wellbeing also hosts Northamptonshire Sport.

**Northamptonshire Sport**

One of 44 county sports partnerships (CSPs) nationally, Northamptonshire Sport is a partnership of local and national organisations working together to provide opportunities for people to participate in sport, physical activity and recreation in Northamptonshire. It is
hosted by First for Wellbeing and its activities are supported via Sport England Lottery grant funding and by other local and national partners.

The CSP leads and supports on a number of different programmes to support the development of sport in the county. These include:

- The Jog Northants Programme; this develops jogging groups that operate from communities, schools, weight loss clubs, athletics clubs, leisure centres and workplaces.
- Disability Sport; developing programmes to integrate people with a disability into mainstream sport.
- Nordic Walking; the CSP has developed a number of programmes in local parks to engage those who may feel intimidated who wish to engage in regular physical activity.
- Development of satellite school clubs
- School Sport and Competition; the CSP leads on the delivery of the School Games Programme across the county. This encourages participation in sport and competition at all levels in a wide range of sports.

In 2010 the CSP produced the Northamptonshire Strategy for Sport and Active Recreation. Its vision is to make Northamptonshire a fitter, more active and successful sporting county by 2020. This is underpinned by four key aspirations:

- To increase the participation of children, young people and adults in sport and active recreation.
- To improve the identification and development of talented performers so that more individuals from Northamptonshire compete successfully at national and international level.
- To increase capacity provision by improving access sports facilities and strengthening the volunteer and paid workforce in sport and active recreation in the county.
- To develop a fit for purpose sports system where the roles of organisations are defined as partnership working is developed.
APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding body</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Big Lottery Fund</td>
<td>Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment. For example, Awards for All which is for small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sport England</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football Foundation</td>
<td>This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rugby Football Foundation</td>
<td>The Grant Match Scheme in particular 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). Other loan schemes are also available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The England and Wales Cricket Trust</td>
<td>Interest Free Loan Scheme provides finance to clubs for capital projects and the Small Grant Scheme is also open to applications from affiliated cricket clubs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU Life Fund</td>
<td>LIFE is the EU’s financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Hockey Foundation</td>
<td>The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: Young people and hockey, Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.</td>
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Protecting Playing Fields

25 Up to date as of April 2017.
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 provide opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces. For further up to date information please go to: http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/protecting-playing-fields/

**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.

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.
- 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/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/](https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/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.
APPENDIX THREE: GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Spare capacity is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in additional 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.
Match equivalent sessions is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football and rugby union, 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.