

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS)

Strategy and Action Plan



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

For Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

December 2022

**Document prepared by Tetra Tech Environmental and Planning
Limited**

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In April 2021, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council appointed Tetrattech to support them in the production of a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy for the Borough (PPOSS). The new strategy will update the existing document (2015) and build on the work carried out in 2019, which provided an interim position statement.
- 1.2 This is the Strategy document. It considers the adequacy of provision for football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league, hockey, tennis, bowls and athletics. The Assessment, which sets out the supply and demand for each sport, and identifies the issues that need to be addressed, is found under separate cover.
- 1.3 The primary purpose of this PPOSS is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities across Stockton-on-Tees meet the needs of existing and future residents of the Borough. It will help to prioritise and target resources where resources are limited and provide an evidence base to support decision making and to stimulate investment into sport and physical activity.
- 1.4 The 2015 – 2025 strategy document was the catalyst for significant playing field / facility improvements. These include;
 - The provision of a new 3G AGP at Stockton Town FC and the conversion of the sand based AGP at Northfield Academy to 3G
 - A new 3G WR Compliant 3G AGP to support rugby in the area – located at Billingham RUFC
 - The relocation of Stockton RUFC to a new home ground
 - The refurbishment of sand based AGPs to support hockey clubs at Egglecliffe School and Norton Sports Complex
 - Improvements to the quality of several football and rugby pitches through investment into enhanced maintenance via the Pitch Improvement Fund
 - Significant investment into the improvement of cricket grounds and training facilities.
- 1.5 It is intended that this updated document will support the Council and it's partners in the delivery of further improvements. Since the 2015 PPOSS;

- Demand for football has increased. Whilst there are now more 3G AGPs, and greater use of these facilities for match play, the increasing demand means that further capacity for football (both grass playing fields and 3G AGPs) is required
- Participation in cricket remains similar, with a slight increase in adult participation. Although significant qualitative improvement works have taken place, there remain pressures on existing pitches and a requirement for improved ancillary / training facilities
- Demand for rugby union has increased and despite new facilities being provided for Stockton RUFC (and the renewal of the lease for Billingham RUFC), there remains insufficient capacity. This is exacerbated by the recent closure to the community of facilities used by Yarm RUFC
- There has been a reduction in the number of hockey clubs based in the Borough (following mergers) but there remains a need to accommodate two large Stockton-on-Tees based clubs
- The quality of facilities for tennis has declined and improvements are now required to public facilities. There remains a strong participation base in the club sector
- The supply of bowling greens remains consistent, but demand has reduced slightly.

1.6 This strategy therefore seeks to drive ongoing improvements to ensure that supply meets demand in future years. To maximise the opportunities that this PPOSS can bring, the strategy promotes collaborative working with key partners.

1.7 The strategy development itself represents the start of this collaborative process – whilst the written work and analysis has been completed by Tetratex, representatives of Stockton-on-Tees Council have led on the consultation process. It is hoped that the engagement with key stakeholders and clubs that this has generated will have helped to build relationships with the local sporting community. This should provide the foundation for a successful working relationship and support the delivery of the resulting PPOSS and action plan.

Vision and Objectives

1.8 The vision set as part of the 2015 strategy document remains valid. This is;

To provide an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of outdoor sports facilities which provide opportunities for all residents.

1.9 As in 2015, the Strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives;

- To protect the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed to meet current or future needs;
- To enhance outdoor sports facilities;
- To provide new sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

1.10 These objectives are consistent with Sport England's planning principles for sport as set out in Figure 1.1 overleaf.

Figure 1.1 - Sport England Planning for Sport principles



1.13 More specifically, this PPOSS;

- provides an updated understanding of supply and demand for playing pitches across each site in Stockton-on-Tees
- sets out the current and future picture of playing pitch and outdoor sports facility provision across the Borough as a whole, and also within specific neighbourhoods
- identifies the key issues that impact on the delivery of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- updates the recommendations and action plans from the 2015 strategy.

Methodology

1.14 This PPOSS has been produced in line with guidance by Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; 2014, (ANOG)) and 'Playing Pitch Guidance, An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).

1.15 The Playing Pitch Guidance sets out the process for delivering a strategy for football, cricket, rugby (league and union) and hockey. It advocates a 10 step approach summarised in Table 1.1. The assessment reports on Stages 1 – 6 and this document covers the strategy development phase (Stages 7 and 8). The implementation phase (9 and 10) will take place over the life of the strategy document.

Table 1.1 – Ten Step Approach

Stage	Step
1. Undertaking an Assessment	1. Prepare & Tailor the approach
2. Gather Information on Supply & Demand	2. Gather Supply information and views
	3. Gather demand information and views
3. Assessment Bring the Information Together	4. Understand the situation at individual sites
	5. Develop the current and future picture of provision
	6. Identify the key findings and issues
4. Strategy Development	7. Develop the recommendations and action plan
	8. Write and Adopt the strategy
5. Implementation	9. Apply and deliver the strategy
	10. Keep the Strategy Robust and up-to-date

- 1.16 For tennis, bowls and athletics, the ANOG guidance has been applied. Consideration has been given to the quality, quantity and accessibility of facilities.
- 1.17 Recommendations and priorities have been developed following extensive consultation, analysis and scenario testing and in conjunction with the following key stakeholders;
- Officers of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council;
 - Representatives of the Durham FA, North Riding FA and the Football Foundation, Durham Cricket Board, The ECB, the RFU, England Hockey, The LTA and England Athletics
 - Sport England.
- 1.18 The views of these groups have been used to shape this strategy and to finalise the action and implementation plan. The consultation process does not stop here - many of the identified short-term actions will involve ongoing consultation with wider groups, ensuring that any priorities implemented are reflective of the needs and aspirations of current pitch users.
- 1.19 As detailed in the assessment report, as far as possible the strategy aims to capture all playing fields and associated pitches, as well as participation within Stockton-on-Tees Borough. There may however be instances where a site / club is unknowingly omitted. Where pitches / playing field sites have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches / playing field sites and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusion of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.
- 1.20 The strategy monitoring process will ensure that the document is kept up to date as any omissions / errors arise and where changes occur.

Context and Wider Links

- 1.21 The strategy contributes to the delivery of many national, regional and local targets, in particular, the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The strategy will also help to deliver on the priorities of Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport.
- 1.22 The key principles of each strategic document, and how the delivery of this PPOSS will contribute is outlined in full in the assessment report. The links between the achievement of the objectives in this strategy document and other national, regional and local strategies and policies are summarised in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 – Contribution of PPOSS towards national and local priorities

Document	Protect the existing supply of sports facilities to meet current and future needs	Enhance outdoor sports facilities and playing fields	Provide new sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.
National Planning Framework	√	√	√
Sport England – Policy on Playing Fields	√	√	√
Sport England: Uniting the Movement	√	√	√
The Football Association – Strategic Plan, and National Facilities Strategy – Delivered through Local Football Facility Plans	√	√	√
Inspiring Generations, ECB, 2020 - 2024	√	√	√
RFU Strategic Plan	√	√	√
England Hockey National Facilities Strategy (2017 - 2021)	√	√	√
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Local Plan 2019 – 2032	√	√	√
Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping Supplementary Planning Document - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Local Development Framework - December 2009	√	√	√
Council Plan – 2022 to 2025	√	√	√
Stockton-on-Tees Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 - 2023	√	√	√

- 1.23 It is clear that the effective provision of sports facilities playing fields can directly contribute to the achievement of many of the strategic goals of local and national organisations.
- 1.24 Sport England's recently published strategic outcomes planning guidance demonstrates that sport and physical activity are increasingly seen as a co-producer of local outcomes and local authorities across the country are using their services, assets, partnerships and infrastructure to make a significant contribution to their residents' lives as a direct provider, commissioner or enabler. Sport England's guidance shows that having a clear, strategic and sustainable approach to sport and physical activity is essential to making effective investment into provision – both facilities and services.

Demographics and Geography

- 1.25 The total population of Stockton-on-Tees Borough is 199,177 residents (based on ONS population statistics). Of these residents, 49% fall within the age brackets age 5-45 (the ages most likely to participate in pitch sports), a slightly lower proportion than in England as a whole (50%). The proportion of people aged between 50 and 70 is above national averages.
- 1.26 Age profile can influence the amount and type of activity that takes place - with an ageing population, the propensity of residents of the Borough to participate in sport and physical activity, and more specifically, pitch and outdoor sports is likely to be lower than that nationally. The profile of the population therefore influences the amount and type of facilities that are required.
- 1.27 Population projections supplied by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council suggest that the population of Stockton-on-Tees will increase to 213,579 by 2032. While the total population will increase significantly however (by 7.2%), the greatest proportion of this increase will take place in the older age groups.
- 1.28 There will be a small growth in the number of people aged between 5 and 44 (3,327), which is the age group most likely to participate in pitch sports. The greatest increase in people will occur in those aged 65 and older. This means that the increase in demand for pitch sports and other outdoor sports facilities is not likely to be proportional to the total increase in population. That said, the typical participation profile of bowls players means that this sport may see higher than average growth.

Geography

1.29 Stockton-on-Tees Borough contains a mixture of busy centres, residential areas and more rural villages. The main settlements are Stockton, Billingham, Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick, Eaglescliffe and Yarm.

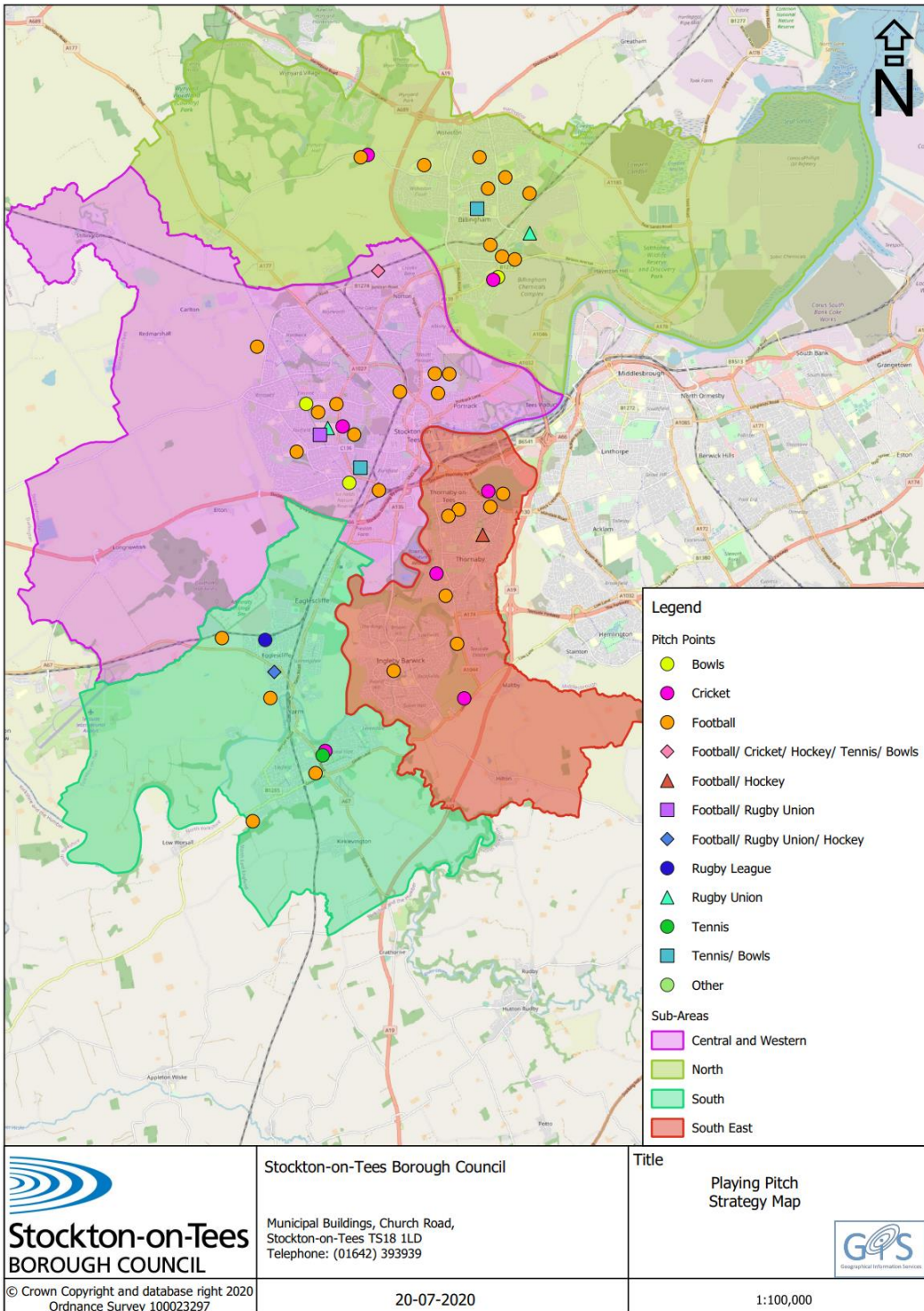
1.30 To ensure that the adequacy of provision is understood in each of the distinct areas of the Borough, as well as across the Borough as a whole, for the purposes of analysis the study area has been subdivided into 4 sub areas. These reflect the Community Areas used to drive the work of the Borough Council and are illustrated in Figure 2.1 overleaf.

1.31 These sub areas have been designed to reflect the characters of the different parts of the Borough. They comprise;

- **Central and Western** – This area is comprised of the large town of Stockton-on-Tees and its surrounding suburbs and to the west a largely rural area, including several villages such as Redmarshall and Longnewton.
- **North** – Comprised of the northern parishes which is a largely rural area containing the villages of Wynyard, Thorpe Thewles and Wolviston. The largest settlement is the small town of Billingham and its surrounding suburbs.
- **South** – Comprised of the small towns of Yarm and Eaglescliffe and their surrounding suburbs. There is the small village of Kirklevington to the south and rural parishes to the west of this area.
- **South East** - Comprised of the small towns of Ingleby Barwick and Thornaby, further south east there are the small villages of Maltby and Hilton.

1.32 Figure 1.2 overleaf illustrates the sub areas that have been used.

Figure 1.2 – Sub Areas of Stockton-on-Tees Borough



- 1.33 The Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan indicates that there is a requirement for 10,150 new homes over the plan period up to 2032. New housing development will generate demand for additional pitch and sports facility provision, but in particular will impact on the location of demand in future years.
- 1.34 Policy SD3 in the Local Plan sets out the Housing Strategy and indicates that housing will be distributed in order to promote development in the most sustainable way. This will be achieved through;
- Supporting the aspiration of delivering housing in the Regenerated River Tees Corridor (as identified on the Policies Map) in close proximity to Stockton-on-Tees Town Centre. Key regeneration sites which provide major opportunities for redevelopment include: Queens Park North, Victoria Estate, Tees Marshalling Yard and Land off Grangefield Road.
 - Supporting residential development on sites within the conurbation as defined by the limits to development which comprises the main settlements of Stockton, Billingham, Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick, Eaglescliffe and Yarm.
 - Creating a Sustainable Urban Extension to West Stockton.
 - Promoting major new residential development at Wynyard leading to the area becoming a sustainable settlement containing general market housing and areas of executive housing in a high-quality environment.
 - Supporting residential development in villages (as shown on the Policies Map) through the recognition of existing commitments and new build within the limits to development where the land is not allocated for another purpose.
- 1.35 This indicates that housing growth will be spread across the Borough and demand in each of the sub areas is therefore likely to be impacted. The specific impact of new housing development will be considered in Section 4 of this strategy.

Role of the Playing Pitch Strategy

1.36 The end goal of this strategy is to deliver the overarching vision and achieve the specific aims and objectives set out on the previous pages. To do this, it is essential that provision for each sport continues to evolve and improve to meet with changing needs and aspirations.

1.37 The focus of a PPOSS is on facilities. Sport England states that building the right facility in the right place makes taking part in sport and physical activity a realistic option for many and leads to a better experience for those who are already engaged. The clear messages from the government and Sport England are that people need to be more active – this strategy therefore seeks to ensure that the network of facilities in the Borough facilitates this.

Structure

1.38 The remainder of this strategy is set out as follows;

- Section 2 – Sport Specific Issues and Scenario Testing
- Section 3 - Recommendations
- Section 4 – Impact of New Development
- Section 5 - Action Plan and Monitoring and Review

2.0 Sport Specific Issues

Introduction

- 2.1 This section summarises the current and projected future position for each sport and the key issues that need to be addressed. The detail behind the headlines is provided in the supporting assessment report (October 2022).
- 2.2 To help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are also tested in this section. The results of these scenarios have helped to drive the sport and site-specific recommendations set out in Sections 3 and 5.
- 2.3 Recommendations for delivering on the key issues identified on a sport by sport basis are set out in Section 3, while Section 5 contains a site specific action plan.

Sport Specific Issues

Cricket

Cricket - Supply

- There are 10 grass cricket pitches available for community use. Additionally, there is a grass pitch located at Yarm school, but this is unavailable to the community. This represents a small reduction from 2015- Cowpen Bewley CC is now the home to a football club.
- There are no other grass pitches on education sites, but there are several Non-Turf Pitches (NTPs), none of which are available for community use. Geographically, cricket sites are equitably spread across the borough, with at least one pitch in each of the sub areas
- Security of tenure is strong, with 7 out of 9 sites owned by the Club. The only two exceptions also have security of tenure - Norton Cricket Club play under a license arrangement with Norton Sports Charity and Yarm Cricket Club have a long term lease with Yarm Recreation Trust.
- There has been strong investment into cricket pitches in in the last three years. Investment has largely focused on drainage and improvement of ancillary facilities
- As a result, facilities are standard to good quality, with 6 of 9 pitches achieving a good rating. Further qualitative improvements however remain a key priority and the importance of adequate maintenance was a key focus of consultation and site visits
- Squares are generally in strong condition and well maintained. The quality of the outfield is however more varying with many sites demonstrating drainage issues, poor grass coverage and undulations.
- Training facilities was key area for improvement in last PPOSS – this has improved but remains a concern, with a lack of facilities on some sites and poor quality facilities on others. Where clubs do not have off field training resources, they rely on the square for training as well as match play.
- The majority of clubs have pavilions that are functional, and many have recently invested in them. That said, several clubs identify further works that are required if pavilions are to continue to meet needs. Some pavilions are very basic and this may potentially impact on player recruitment.

Demand

- There are 68 teams in total, of which 27 are senior weekend teams. 30 of the teams are junior teams, spread across six clubs. This suggests there are strong foundations for ongoing cricket participation and transition into adult cricket. These numbers represent a slight increase in adult participation and slight decrease in junior participation since the 2015 PPOSS.
- 11 of the teams are midweek senior teams, playing in the Middlesbrough Midweek Cricket League. Whilst some of these are based at their own club home ground, there are five midweek teams playing at Norton Sports Complex (in addition to the two fielded by Norton Cricket Club). Norton Sports Complex therefore acts as a hub for cricket extending further than accommodating just Norton Cricket Club. This site also accommodates representative cricket and corporate matches.
- Feedback from clubs suggests that there has been a mixed impact of the Covid-19 pandemic however memberships are now returning to pre pandemic level. Junior cricket in particular appears to be growing again.
- Reflecting the strong foundations for cricket, there is good evidence of engagement with ECB junior development programmes, including both All Stars and Dynamos. These positive trends and interest in increasing participation suggest that demand for cricket may increase in future years
- In the summer, clubs train predominantly at their club base. Whilst training at many clubs takes place on artificial wickets and in training nets the inadequacy of facilities at some sites means that grass squares are used for training. This impacts on the wear and tear on the wickets. Training facilities are a key priority for numerous clubs and there remain issues with the quality of facilities provided

Adequacy of Provision

2.4 Analysis of the adequacy of provision demonstrates that;

- All active grass pitches accommodate cricket during the season. In general, there is some spare capacity at most sites, but most are operating close to their limits. Wolviston CC and Thornaby CC are the two main sites where there is a potential for increased capacity although this is minimal (circa 2 senior teams at each site across the season). There is limited scope for growth at any other sites
- Maltby CC experiences slight overplay, which is attributed to high demand from junior teams, as well as the standard quality of the wicket, which could be improved to increase capacity. Wickets at Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club, as well as Norton Sports Complex are played to the level that they can sustain. Both are busy sites, accommodating representative and schools cricket as well as the needs of their own teams.
- When considering the adequacy of provision across the Borough as a whole, it can be seen that spare capacity is more limited in the Central and Western and South East parts of the Borough. While there is more capacity in the North and south, this is still minimal and there are few sites that could accommodate more than one additional team.
- The spare capacity at peak time is limited. Yarm CC currently travel out of the Borough to find a pitch that is available. The only site in the Borough with any availability is Stafford

Place, but this is also considered to be the poorest facility. Without improvement to the quality of this pitch (and therefore capacity), usage for a full season by an adult team would generate overplay. There is however an option for fixtures to be played on a Sunday - Yarm CC third team currently play their fixtures on a Sunday to ensure that games can be scheduled at the club's home ground.

- A fourth team at Yarm CC, playing in the Lanbaugh Cricket League, are displaced out of the Borough to Crathorne as they require access to a ground on a Saturday which is not available at the club's home facility.
- By 2032, population change alone will have limited impact, with just one senior and one junior team created. Growth will be spread across the Borough, but there is limited spare capacity in the central and Western areas to accommodate any additional activity, and there is already displacement at peak time in the South. This means that by 2032, to ensure that the growth of cricket is not inhibited, there is likely to be a requirement for additional capacity within the infrastructure.
- Supplementing the impact of population growth, many of the clubs have aspirations to develop additional senior men's teams, as well as seeking to grow their junior teams and create women's teams, in line with the priorities of the new ECB Cricket Strategy. This will further stretch the existing facilities and result in the need to generate additional capacity. Billingham Synthonia, Norton Sports Complex, Stockton Cricket Club and Yarm Cricket Club in particular are likely to require improvements to capacity if their growth aspirations are achieved
- The ECB are also promoting the creation of NTP in settings such as parks with a view to promoting participation in informal cricket. Successful delivery of this opportunity may have long term impact on demand for club cricket.

2.5 Table 2.1 summarises the overall position across the Borough in terms of capacity, whilst Table 2.2 summarises the specific position at each of the Club Bases.

Table 2.1 – Boroughwide Capacity

Sub Area	Number of Wickets Required (Adult and Junior)	Total Number of Wickets Available	Spare Capacity (Wickets)	Spare Capacity (MES)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (MES)	Comment
Central and Western	41.5	44	2.5	13	0	Norton Sports Complex has slight overplay / played to level site can sustain. Very limited spare capacity at Stockton CC. All sites are good quality
North	22.6	30	7.4	37	0	No remaining capacity at Billingham Synthonia CC. Some spare capacity for additional play at Wolviston CC. Both sites are good quality.
South	21.9	29	7.1	35	-0.5	Spare capacity at both Yarm CC and Preston on Tees CC, opportunity to improve capacity at Preston on Tees CC through qualitative improvements
South East	32	35	2.6	13	0.5	Overplay at Maltby CC, some spare capacity at Thornaby CC and Stafford Place CC. Scope to improve capacity of both Stafford Place and Maltby CC through qualitative improvements
Total	118	138	19.7	148	0	

Table 2.2 – Position at each of the Club Bases

Club	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Future Issues	Capacity	Other Priorities
Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club	Square at capacity and no remaining availability at peak time. No existing junior participation.	Plans to create a women's team and 3 new junior teams. 2 junior teams had previously folded due to lack of player numbers	No available capacity to meet additional demand (circa 30 MES) across the season.		Removal of moss, nets, levelling of outfield
Norton Sports Complex	No spare capacity at peak time, played to level site can sustain across the week.	Plans to add additional women's team and junior girls team	No spare capacity to accommodate any further teams (at least 20 MES required). Charity have also turned down approaches from midweek teams this year.		Refurbishment of outdoor nets
Stockton Cricket Club	Some spare capacity available (16 MES across the season). No capacity at peak time	Plans to add and senior men's and women's team and 2 juniors	Scope to accommodate one additional senior team, but not at peak time. No remaining capacity for other teams.		New machinery, improved grass growth and wicket, new training wickets
Wolviston Cricket Club	Capacity for 36 additional matches, no	No stated aspirations	Scope to accommodate additional play,		Uneven outfield.

Club	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Future Issues	Capacity	Other Priorities
	spare capacity at peak time.		although not at peak time.		
Yarm Cricket Club	Able to accommodate circa 20 MES across the week, but there is already displacement at peak time.	Creation of women's team and 2 additional junior teams	Teams already displaced, creation of additional teams (circa 20 MES) would see supply equal demand, but scheduling would be very challenging.		Potential extension to pavilion, possible further changing areas and storage. Electronic scoreboard / sightscreen.
Maltby Cricket Club	Site overplayed (25 MES)	No stated aspirations	Currently a significant amount of overplay so increasing the number of teams would exacerbate issues.		Require improved practice nets
Preston on Tees Cricket Club	Small amount of spare capacity (15 MES), but not available at peak time.	Potential to develop junior team / Oxbridge CC may add a midweek team	Spare capacity just sufficient for junior / midweek team which would play outside of peak times. .		Levelling of outfield, drainage, further investment into maintenance, training facilities
Stafford Place Cricket Club	10 MES available, spare capacity of 0.5 at peak time	No stated aspirations	Would be able to accommodate a team playing at peak time but would require qualitative improvements for this not to generate overplay across the season.		Pavilion and clubhouse, nets, pitch maintenance
Thornaby Cricket Club	Some capacity available, just under 6 wickets spare	No stated aspirations	Small amount of spare capacity would see aspirations accommodated.		Require improved training facilities

2.6 The key issues that need to be addressed in relation to cricket across Stockton-on-Tees Borough are therefore summarised overleaf.

Cricket - Key Issues

The key issues for cricket are therefore;

- The protection of existing facilities and enhance ancillary facilities such as pavilions and machinery, with the priority of long term sustainability.
- The need to increase capacity for clubs who are at capacity or are overplaying facilities – Maltby CC and Billingham Synthonia are overplayed so are considered priority.
- Several sites have poor quality / a lack of training facilities, indoor facilities are in short supply
- The sustainability of smaller clubs and long term recruitment of players, promotion of cricket in schools to ensure future provision.
- The potential to develop cricket through the use of NTP in areas of higher population
- How clubs will ensure that their facilities remain adequate to meet their targets relating to women and girls participation and continue engaging with ECB programmes.

Potential Opportunities - Scenario Testing

- 2.7 Although overall, there is a small amount of spare capacity remaining across the Borough, there is little remaining spare capacity at any ground and sites where overplay is evident. Scenario testing is therefore needed to evaluate how this can be addressed.

Qualitative Improvements

- 2.8 Quality of facilities has a direct impact on capacity (with the number of senior games each wicket is able to accommodate increasing from 4 for a standard quality senior pitch to 5 for a good pitch).
- 2.9 Whilst qualitative improvements to maximise capacity (as well as enhance playability) are important at all sites, they take on greater importance where they can address existing capacity issues. Sites that are currently rated as standard, and therefore offer the opportunity to increase capacity through qualitative improvements are;

- Maltby CC – scenario testing demonstrates that this would increase site capacity by 10 MES. Given that overplay is currently 25 MES, a small shortfall would therefore remain
- Provision at Preston on Tees CC is currently sufficient to meet demand (15 MES). Improvements to capacity at this site would generate an additional 9 MES and therefore enable the club to accommodate a further additional team
- There is also already adequate capacity at Stafford Place CC currently to meet demand and spare capacity for 0.5 MES at peak time. The level of spare capacity (10 MES) is however inadequate to accommodate another senior team – a senior team using the available slot at peak time would therefore generate overplay across the season. Improving the facility to good would add 6 MES and therefore mean that overall, the site would be able to sustain the additional senior team at peak time.

2.10 The above therefore demonstrates that qualitative improvements would have particular benefit at each of the sites rated as standard, however issues would still remain at Maltby CC. There are no options to increase capacity at other sites through qualitative improvements alone.

Non-Turf Wicket

2.11 An artificial wicket will sustain 60 MES throughout the season; while a grass wicket will sustain only 4 (or 5) depending upon quality. This significantly increases the quantities of play that can be sustained at a site and (where permitted by league regulations) can therefore provide a sustainable option for improving capacity.

2.12 Whilst qualitative improvements will address immediate capacity issues, future projections suggest that demand will grow. The provision of NTP at key sites will therefore significantly improve capacity. Modelling shows that NTP would have a key role to play in the first instance in addressing the unmet demand at Maltby CC and Norton Sports Complex in particular. The supply of additional NTP at sites nearing capacity will also future proof these facilities.

Training Facilities

2.13 Preston on Tees CC, Stafford Place CC, Maltby CC, Norton Sports Complex, Stockton-on-Tees CC and Thornaby CC all have poor / no / limited training facilities – this means that some training takes place on the square. Addressing this and transferring training off field will further boost the level of capacity for match play at each ground.

2.14 While the above will address capacity issues in the short term, it is clear that continuation of the recent growth may see a requirement for additional facilities, particularly if this increases at peak time. This would need to be carefully balanced with sustainability issues.

Rugby League

Supply	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no dedicated rugby league pitches in Stockton-on-Tees. The club has previously used rugby union pitches at Allens Way West (Egglescliffe School) but these are no longer available for community use. Rugby union pitches at Grosvenor Road (Stockton RUFC) and Aislaby Road (Yarm School) are now being used for rugby league during the summer months • The quality of facilities is limited, as they are not tailored to rugby league. The pitch at Grosvenor Road is relatively poor, but is now improving following the leasing of the site by Stockton RUFC. Drainage on the site remains poor although has improved recently and is of limited concern during the summer months when rugby league takes place. The ancillary provision is however limited and this is a key concern of both the rugby union and rugby league club • The use of the pitch for rugby league during the summer months also limits the amount of out of season reinstatement / improvement work that can be done. 	
Demand	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarm Wolves are the only rugby league club currently playing in the Borough . The club run 6 teams including a senior team and several junior teams. Despite participation being impacted by Covid 19, the club is now growing. The spread of teams across the age groups means that players wishing to participate are able to progress through from primary age groups to the senior team 	

Adequacy of Provision

2.15 With a requirement for 3 MES match play, there is a need for 1 -2 pitches to meet the needs of the rugby club depending upon capacity. With just one pitch available at Grosvenor Road, unless this pitch reaches a good standard, it is insufficient to meet current demand. Once training is also taken into account there is a need for a further pitch. This means that overall, access to 2 – 3 pitches would meet the needs of the club. This level of provision would provide greater flexibility in terms of scheduling fixtures at peak time.

2.16 Whilst population projections are unlikely to generate significant growth in rugby league, the club are actively looking to grow club membership and are building relationships with the local community in order to achieve this. It is hoped that this will translate into new teams, and the short term aim is to create a new junior girls team as well as a further primary aged team.

2.17 With existing provision already identified as inadequate, this growth will add further pressures on the need for the club to access more pitches. The additional match equivalent that would be generated by the girls team, plus the 0.5 MES generated by the primary team would solidify the need to provide a third pitch.

Key Facility Issues to Address

Rugby League – Key Issues for Strategy to address
<p>The key facility issues for this strategy to address are therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to provide secured access to a dedicated rugby league facility for Yarm Wolves. Access to 2 – 3 pitches is required. This could be shared with a rugby union club, but ideally facilities appropriate to the direct needs of the rugby league club should be available • Access to appropriate ancillary facilities is also needed • Support for the club in the ongoing promotion of rugby league.

Scenario Testing

2.18 The assessment report identifies that the existing and projected future club activity requires 2 – 3 pitches for rugby league. No further scenario testing is therefore required.

Rugby Union

Supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 17 full sized pitches, all of which are available for community use on either a secured or unsecured basis. Additionally, there are six mini pitches and a 3G AGP which is WR Reg 22 Compliant for rugby use. • There is only one fully floodlit grass pitch in the Borough, which is located at Grangefield Academy. Yarm RUFC use a partially floodlit pitch for training and the 3G AGP is also floodlit. • Five venues offering rugby pitches are not available for community use. These are all education sites. • There is scope to improve the pitch quality at all three club bases. There are some underlying drainage issues impacting playability at Stockton RUFC and some issues with the playing surface at Yarm RUFC. There is significant compaction evident at all club bases, which suggests that pitches are heavily used. • In addition to improvements that could be made to pitch quality, there are clear opportunities to improve the quality of ancillary facilities available to clubs. Improvements are required to support all three clubs and to ensure ongoing sustainability.
Demand

- There are 3 rugby union clubs in the Borough; Stockton RUFC, Yarm RUFC and Billingham RUFC. This remains consistent with the previous PPOSS.
- Both Stockton RUFC and Billingham RUFC offer opportunities from mini age groups all the way through to senior rugby. Although Yarm RUFC is a smaller club, it also has a full mini section. The smaller junior section is likely to grow therefore as mini teams transition through the age groups. Membership at all clubs has now returned to pre pandemic levels.
- At Billingham RUFC, training is focused on the AGP, which means that there is limited wear and tear on the grass pitches (although the floodlit training pitch is used on occasion). The remainder of club training takes place predominantly on grass. Yarm RUFC seniors however travel to Conyers School AGP (which is not WR Reg 22 Compliant) and Stockton RUFC are occasional users of the AGP at Billingham RUFC
- Reflecting the strong club base, participation at school level is also strong, with most schools in the Borough playing rugby. There are strong relationships between clubs and schools and good transition between schools and clubs. This suggests that there are strong foundations for growth.

Adequacy of Provision

2.19 When taking into account just competitive activity;

- At Billingham RUFC, there is evidence of overplay on the grass pitches. There is a small amount of overplay on pitches 2 and 3 (1 MES and 0.5 MES) and only limited spare capacity on the fourth (small) pitch. The existing capacity is limited by the maintenance programme that is currently undertaken. Increasing this would see the capacity of the pitches improved. Capacity is also adequate at peak time
- At Yarm RUFC, there are significant pressures. This has been exacerbated by the loss of access to the pitches that the club were previously using at Egglecliffe School. The club now have access to only one pitch and with 3.5 MES demand, there is a overplay of -2 MES. Capacity is also inadequate at peak time
- Stockton RUFC have limited remaining spare capacity on their main pitches, with just 0.5 MES available on pitch 3. There is however no overplay. At Grosvenor Road, there is a small amount of overplay, which occurs primarily as a result of the limited capacity due to the poor drainage. Whilst there is scope to accommodate additional activity on a Saturday, pitches are busy on a Sunday morning at peak time for juniors.

- At both Yarm RUFC and Stockton RUFC training on the grass pitches exacerbates capacity pressures. Across the whole site, overplay increases to -9 at Stockton and -4 at Yarm RUFC
- There is spare capacity on the AGP at Billingham for midweek training activity
- None of the pitches at school sites currently sustain any community teams, but all accommodate curricular and extra curricular activity. In total therefore, spare capacity for the community equates to 2 MES on non-club bases. This level of spare capacity is not sufficient to address the quantitative deficiencies that are evident at the club bases.
- Population growth alone will have only a small impact. The growth aspirations of the clubs will however see the projected deficiencies at all clubs increase.

Table 2.3 summarises the supply and demand position and the key issues for each of the rugby clubs.

Table 2.3 – Adequacy of Provision at each rugby club

Club	Current Position	Projected Growth	Future Position	Key Issues Raised
Stockton RUFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity issues on pitch 1 due to use for training as well as competitive play (-9 MES); Pitches 2, 3 and Grosvenor Road at capacity (0, 0.5, -0.5 MES respectively) Excluding mini pitches, overplay equates to 9 MES Mini pitches have spare capacity (4.5 MES) 	Additional girls youth teams (1 MES training, 1 MES match play)	Overplay increased, primarily as a result of impact of training. Overall site deficit 11 MES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training generates overplay Scope to improve capacity by improved maintenance / drainage wear and tear from training impacts only floodlit pitch – additional floodlights would help to spread the play requirement for improved changing accommodation (Grosvenor Road)
Billingham RUFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch 2 and 3 are slightly overplayed (-1 and -0.5 MES respectively); Pitch 4 has slim additional capacity (0.5 MES) Benefits from the presence of AGP 	Additional girls youth teams (1 MES training, 1 MES match play) Additional female team (0.5 MES training, 0.5 MES match play)	Excluding training and AGP, the two full size pitches have a total deficit of 1.5 MES. Additional match play will increase this to 3 MES (could be accommodated on the AGP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overplay on grass pitches, but impacted by limited maintenance regime – improvements to this will address capacity issues Improvements to ancillary facilities also required.
Yarm RUFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant overplay – competitive activity only equates to 2 MES overplay. When taking into account training this increases to 4 MES. 	Full youth section (4 additional teams – 2 MES training, 2 MES match play) Girls section (3 teams – 1.5 MES training, 1.5 MES match play).	Existing deficit would be exacerbated, potentially up to 11 MES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet 3.5 MES match play and peak time demand, at least 2 pitches are required. Further capacity needed for training (2 MES) would increase requirement to 2 – 3 pitches. Future growth will see requirement for access to another 1 – 2 pitches Ancillary facilities require improvement.

Key Facility Issues to Address

Rugby Union – Key Issues for Strategy to address

The key priorities for the strategy to address in relation to rugby union are therefore;

- the need to secure access to additional grass pitches to meet the current and projected future needs of Yarm RUFC
- the need to increase the capacity available for Stockton RUFC and to address the qualitative issues identified. It may also be of benefit to spread the training activity across more pitches (through the provision of additional floodlighting)
- the requirement to address the small overplay at Billingham RUFC and the qualitative issues experienced
- the need to improve ancillary provision at all sites to ensure ongoing sustainability at the club bases.

Scenario Testing

2.20 With capacity pressures at all sites, there is a clear need to increase the amount of activity that can be sustained on rugby pitches in the Borough. There is scope to improve the quality at all rugby club bases. Scenario testing suggests that;

- Increasing the capacity at Billingham RUFC through improved maintenance procedures (to M2/D1) will ensure that there is adequate capacity to meet demand at this site
- Additional capacity will still be required for Stockton RUFC, even following qualitative improvement. Scenario modelling demonstrates that improvement to M2/D1 at Grosvenor Road (or greater if drainage is installed) will address issues for match play, but that deficiencies for training will still remain
- Improvements to quality at Yarm RUFC will not address all of the needs of the club.

2.21 This is summarised in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4 – Scenario Testing – Qualitative Improvements to Rugby Club Bases

Club Base	Current Picture						Impact of Improvements		
	Pitch Number	Total Demand	Capacity of Pitch (MES)	Supply / Demand Balance Match Play (MES)	Total Training Demand	Overall Position	Capacity of Pitch	Position (Match Play Only)	Including Training
Billingham RUFC	2	2.5	1.5	-1		-1	3	0.5	0.5
	3	2	1.5	-0.5		-0.5	3	1	1
	4	1	1.5	0.5		0.5	3	2	2
	AGP	3.5	N/A	N/A	8 clubs (plus additional clubs)	N/A	NA	N/A	N/A
Stockton RUFC	1	3	3	0	9	-9	3	0	-9
	2	3	3	0		0	3	0	0
	3	2.5	3	0.5		0.5	3	0.5	0.5
	Grosvenor Road	2	1.5	-0.5		-0.5	3	1	1
	Mini Pitches (2)	1.5	6	4.5		4.5	6	4.5	4.5
Yarm RUFC	1	3.5	1.5	-2	1.5	-4	3	-0.5	-2

2.22 The above considers only the current demand. Potential future increases in demand can be accommodated at Billingham RUFC following pitch improvements (supported by use of the 3G AGP) however any increased demand at Stockton RUFC and Yarm RUFC will only add to the deficiencies that exist currently.

2.23 The assessment report notes that the requirements for Yarm RUFC equate to 2 – 3 pitches to meet current demand (as well as an additional 1 – 2 pitches for future demand) depending on pitch quality. Three pitches rated M1/D2 would be required to meet current demand, but if capacity was increased to M2/D3, three pitches would be adequate to meet both current and projected future demand. With unmet demand at Stockton RUFC equating to 7.5 MES after qualitative improvements (excluding mini pitches), access to 3 further grass pitches and / or access to an WR Compliant 3G AGP would be required.

Floodlighting

2.24 Whilst all clubs have access to floodlit pitches, if more floodlit pitches were provided, training could be better spread, reducing the wear and tear on the existing floodlit pitches.

2.25 Table 2.4 demonstrates that it is the concentration of all training on one pitch at Stockton RUFC that creates the overplay on this pitch. Following qualitative improvements, pitches at Grosvenor Road, as well as pitch 3 (based on current scheduling) would have capacity to accommodate training. Floodlighting these pitches would have no impact on addressing unmet demand across the club as a whole, but would spread the impact of the training onto other pitches and therefore reducing the overplay on Pitch 1.

2.26 The impact that additional floodlighting would have at Yarm RUFC is unclear until additional pitches have been identified. At the current time, further floodlighting would not address any unmet demand, it would purely enable the activity to be better spread to reduce the concentration of activity that is currently evident. Overplay would remain evident. Once additional pitches are provided, floodlighting additional pitches may be of benefit to spread the training activity.

Hockey

Supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are four sand based full sized AGPs that are suitable for hockey. The pitches at Norton Sports Charity and Egglecliffe School and Thornaby Academy are accessible to the community, whilst Yarm School does not currently offer community use. • Three of the four pitches are of good quality – pitches at Norton Sports Charity, Egglecliffe School and Yarm school are all recently resurfaced. Thornaby Academy’s pitch is however ageing and the surface now requires improvements. • Both Norton Sports Charity and Egglecliffe School require further work to enhance their ancillary facilities to ensure that the sites continue to meet the needs of the clubs.
Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two clubs located in Stockton-on-Tees – Norton Hockey Club, based at Norton Sports Charity and Stockton Hockey Club who are based at Egglecliffe School. Both clubs are satisfied with their access arrangements and the pitches they use • Both clubs are large and sustainable clubs, with strong senior sections and developing junior sections. The recent growth indicates that there are strong foundations for hockey in the Borough and a likelihood of growth in future years. Demand at peak time equates to 3.5 MES from Norton HC and 3 MES from Stockton HC, confirming that participation is high and pitches are busy. • In addition to demand from the two clubs, there is also use of facilities from clubs outside of the Borough, as well as representative teams and school / college sides. This takes place particularly at Norton Sports Complex, which functions as a hockey hub.

Adequacy of Provision

- 2.27 There is very little remaining spare capacity at Norton Sports Complex during the week, with the majority of activity at this site being hockey. There is some ad hoc availability for training. At peak time however there is no remaining spare capacity (0.5 MES) and there is also almost no capacity on a Sunday.
- 2.28 A similar picture is evident at Stockton HC (Egglescliffe School). With 3 MES at peak time there is scope for only one additional game. During the week, circa 50% of activity is hockey, which is fit alongside football training sessions. Again there is only a small amount of spare capacity on the site
- 2.29 Demand at Thornaby Academy has been impacted by covid 19 pandemic. As a consequence, the site is not currently open at weekends, and has good availability during the week, with no hockey usage evident and the pitch mostly used for recreational football.
- 2.30 The lack of community use agreement at Yarm School means that this pitch cannot be considered to be meeting community demand at the current time, although it is well used for curricular hockey.
- 2.31 Overall therefore, there is some availability at sand based pitches during midweek peak hours and scope to increase training should clubs require this. At a weekend however, supply on the two pitches that are currently used for hockey is very closely matched with demand, particularly once the needs of other clubs are also considered.
- 2.32 Population growth alone will have limited impact on demand for hockey. Both clubs, alongside England Hockey however have realistic growth aspirations. Increasing numbers of senior teams would see demand become inadequate at peak time and each club would require access to another pitch (meaning three required in total). Both clubs also wish to grow their junior sections, which will again place greater pressures on the existing pitches.

Hockey – Key Issues

The key issues in relation to hockey are therefore;

- There is a need to protect a minimum of two sand based pitches in order to meet current demand for hockey
- Projected growth, plus the need to accommodate interests outside of the two clubs means that a third facility is likely to be required in the medium term
- Whilst the two facilities that are currently used for hockey are in good condition, ancillary improvements are required to both sites to ensure that the sites continue to meet the needs of the clubs that they host.
- There is no community use of the existing sand based AGP at Yarm School

- The pitch at Thornaby Academy is of limited and reducing quality and will need refurbishing in the short term if it is to meet demand for hockey.
- With three pitches required, community access to a functioning third pitch will need to be provided (either through resurface / community use).

Scenario Testing

2.33 The assessment report demonstrates that three pitches are required to ensure the current and projected future needs of the hockey clubs are met. No further scenario testing is therefore required.

Tennis

Supply

- There are 61 courts across Stockton-on-Tees Borough. Of these, 46 offer community use. 20 of the tennis courts offering community use are located at school sites. These courts have more restricted opening hours due to the requirement for them to also meet curricular need. All of the courts not offering community use are located at school sites – Yarm School, Red House School, Conyers School, Eggescliffe School.
- In addition to the above courts, there are five courts at Littleboy Park. These are currently coned off and unusable due to the quality of the surface. Courts at Thornaby Academy (broken up tarmac at time of site visit) and All Saints Academy (construction works on courts) were also unusable in the 2021 season.
- Just 17 out of the 46 operational tennis courts are floodlit. Almost of these are located at club sites. Northfield SportsDrome is the only site to offer floodlighting outside of a club base. This means that there are few opportunities to play tennis in an evening (outside of the summer) for people who are not / do not wish to be members of a club.
- The distribution of courts is not equitable. Provision is highest in the Central and Western area and North areas. Both of these areas offer a variety of each type of court (public / club and school) as well as floodlit facilities.
- In contrast, provision is particularly limited in the South East, with a lack of public / club courts and just three courts at a school site. This highlights the importance of facilities at Littleboy Park, which are currently unusable (and therefore excluded from calculations) in meeting the needs of residents in this area.
- Across the Borough as a whole, of the facilities that are available, 56% of courts were rated as good, whilst 39% were considered to be standard. Just 3 active courts were rated as poor. In general;
 - Public Facilities – offer a good baseline but significant potential to improve. Littleboy Park is unusable without significant investment
 - Club Provision – good and meets the needs of the clubs that they serve. There are some issues identified at all sites however which need to be addressed
 - Education Facilities – demonstrate good potential but are typically overmarked. Some of the lower standard facilities have lines that are fading, whilst others clearly have limited use.

Demand

- Access to the public facilities is free of charge and unmanaged and actual levels of participation are therefore unknown. Two of the three public facilities were locked at the time of site visit. There is also little monitoring of activity at schools sites, although almost all schools suggest that there is scope to increase participation.
- Two of the three non-commercial tennis clubs are small in size. There is however evidence of increasing participation, with limited negative impact from the Covid 19 pandemic. Clubs however believe that the challenges with the public sector facilities are limiting the transition into the club market.
- There is limited marketing or advertisement of tennis courts and minimal engagement with participation schemes or initiatives
- LTA participation profiles suggest that there is potentially strong demand in the Borough, particularly from those falling into the Senior Stalwarts / Tennis Titans category. It is clear however that there are different potential players at each site and an understanding of this can help to maximise the effectiveness on marketing
- Padel is new racket sport that is currently being piloted across the UK. There are no padel courts in Stockton-on-Tees currently and no known demand for a court.

Adequacy of Provision

- 2.34 There is variety in the type of tennis court offered, but participation is primarily club based, with limited use of the public facilities and significant scope to increase the usage of the education sites. While club provision is standard to good, some qualitative improvements are required.
- 2.35 Public tennis courts are well distributed, with John Whitehead Park serving Billingham and Ropner Park meeting the needs of people living within Stockton-on-Tees itself. There is however a gap in access for residents in Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick, arising primarily as a result of the unplayable condition of Littleboy Park. There are opportunities to provide further pay and play opportunities by improving the access to school sites. There is also a need to consider opportunities to floodlight existing public courts, as currently the majority of floodlit courts are at club sites and this limits the opportunity for year round tennis.
- 2.36 LTA insight demonstrates the importance of providing a balance of different types of facility, so the three types of facility all have a key role in meeting demand. Application of LTA parameters suggests that the existing courts can accommodate 3380 players in total. Using this as an indicator, there are sufficient facilities to accommodate demand overall at a baseline level (although there may be locational shortfalls) as well as in line with higher participation targets. Opportunities across the Borough are not necessarily even;

- Capacity in the South East sub area is low – there is scope to accommodate only 120 players (3 courts at a school site)
- There are also no public courts in the South. There is however capacity for 480 players in this part of the town. The school courts are particularly important in this area, as they may provide the opportunity for pay and play
- In the North, there is a good mix in facilities. Again, the total capacity for participation is 760 players
- Provision is highest in the central and west area with capacity for 860 players.

2.37 In areas where the capacity of courts is lower however, it will be necessary to make better use of the school facilities. This may include improving some school sites in order to enable use, as well as improving the customer journey at school sites that are already available.

2.38 Marketing will be critical if maximum tennis participation is to be achieved – LTA modelling suggests that there is scope to attract new players to the game, in particular by focusing on groups that have interest in tennis but are underrepresented in the current player profile. The key gap for public facilities is therefore Ingleby Barwick. There are no clear opportunities to provide public courts at this venue, but it should be noted that tennis is a priority at All Saints Academy (but the courts there are currently unusable due to quality).

2.39 Supporting the public facilities, the club bases provide an important differentiated offer and meet the needs of the Tennis Titans/ Tennis Troupers who wish to play regularly in a club environment. there is capacity for growth within the existing club infrastructure and quality is good, although some improvements are required.

2.40 The school facilities provide important support offering further pay and play and their role will be required to increase as participation in tennis grows. Whilst there are no clear gaps in provision, spatially, some schools are located further from existing public venues and may provide greater opportunity to fill in gaps in the existing infrastructure.

2.41 With population growth of 10, 234, if 1.4% of residents participate, an additional 143 tennis players would be generated. If this rose up to 3%, there would be 306 additional players. The existing infrastructure would be able to accommodate this level of additional demand.

2.42 The existing club based infrastructure has capacity for additional players, and there is also scope to increase the amount of activity at public and school sites. This therefore suggests that focus

should continue to remain on addressing the qualitative and access issues that are evident with the facility stock.

Key Issues for the Strategy to Address

Tennis - Key Issues

The key issues for the strategy to address are;

- There is a need to improve the use and quality of public facilities. The courts at Littleboy Park are currently unusable, but this site represents a key public venue with a large catchment
- There are also access issues to existing public venues, and sites would benefit from an improved customer journey, including online booking and gate access. There are opportunities to work with the LTA and benefit from grant funding to deliver this
- A similar issue exists at school sites – use of these sites will be more critical as participation increases. The location of some schools means that they may also have a role to play in providing pay and play facilities for local communities
- There are opportunities to increase engagement with tennis through targeted marketing, promotion and participation initiatives
- The club based infrastructure is adequate, but there are qualitative issues that need to be addressed
- The stock of existing facilities in numerical terms is broadly sufficient to meet current demand. There is therefore a need to retain existing tennis courts and support participation increases.

Bowls

Supply

- There are 12 active bowling greens. One of these is an artificial green, located at John Whitehead Park, whilst the remainder are grass greens. There are two sites with two greens – Ropner Park and John Whitehead Park. These provide an opportunity to host events etc.
- Catchment analysis suggests that bowlers use facilities local to their home - there is a proportion of residents outside of the catchment area of a bowling green in the South of the Borough
- All greens are playable and are of standard to good quality. Site quality does however vary, with three clear tiers of quality. There are no patterns of quality by location.
- All greens are compacted and the majority of greens demonstrate signs of heavy use. This impacts on the quality of the surface.
- Some greens are suffering from bare patches due to poor grass growth and there are patches of undulation. There is also evidence of thatching on some of the poorer greens
- In general, there are positive perceptions of green quality, however maintenance is viewed as the key challenge. Declining budgets are perceived to impact on green quality, and the amount of maintenance that can be carried out.
- With regards ancillary facilities, clubs believe that car parking and pathways require the most improvement.
- Half of all responding clubs suggest that they do not believe that their club has the necessary skills to carry out the required maintenance works. This is attributed to a lack of volunteers, especially volunteers with the relevant skills to maintain greens to a high standard. There are also issues with succession planning, with in many instances, knowledge of maintenance resting on just one or two people.

Demand

- National databases reveal a statistically significant decline in the number of people playing bowls. The profile of players is also much more focused towards the older age groups than other sports considered. Local participation trends suggest that participation is either static or declining, with only one club reporting an increase in participation
- There are 702 bowlers in Stockton, representing an average of 58 members per green. This represents a decline from the 2015 position.
- Bowls is played almost exclusively by adults, with only two junior bowlers. Participation is skewed towards males (with 76% of members being male). This suggests that there may be an opportunity to encourage more women to play the sport.
- Consultation with clubs did not identify any issues relating to the location of their greens as impacting membership trends. Some player movement is however attributed to the quality of greens, with players gravitating towards the better-quality facilities. In particular, clubs with poorer facilities indicate that they have recently lost players to clubs with better facilities. Participation is reportedly fluctuating at numerous clubs, as players also transfer to gain better competitive opportunities.

Adequacy of Existing Provision

2.43 Despite overall satisfaction, green and pavilion quality is perhaps the biggest issue for clubs in the Borough. In particular, there is concern around the maintenance procedures, in terms of both

the regularity that this is undertaken but also the procedures that are applied. There are concerns about the budgets, skill level and succession planning

- 2.44 There are no formal demand parameters for bowls. Guidance from Bowls England suggests that 80-100 members is considered a very healthy membership for a bowls club, while an average club will have 50 - 60 members. Club membership in Stockton-on-Tees is typically between 40 and 70 members. With 205 members, Stockton West End Bowls Club has the largest membership, which is significantly higher than any other club in the Borough and suggests that this club is at capacity. Newham Grange has the lowest membership with 20 members, indicating that there are some challenges with sustainability at this site. With an overall Borough average of 70 members (58 members per green), this suggests that the club infrastructure in Stockton-on-Tees is healthy and sustainable.
- 2.45 Bowls England use membership levels as the key reference point for the sustainability of a green. They suggest that the retention of an existing bowling green is difficult to support where membership is below 16 - 20 people. This suggests that increasing membership at Newham Grange Park is therefore a priority. Stockton Bowls Club Ltd have the second fewest members with 32 in total and this club may also require support to increase membership.
- 2.46 Whilst there is no existing provision in the South of the Borough, there are no known aspirations for a bowling green and it is not recommended that a green is developed without the initial evidence of demand whilst other greens have capacity. All clubs indicate that they are proactively looking for new members and many have identified the opportunity to increase the number of females and some clubs also have aspirations to establish junior membership. Maintaining and improving participation to ensure ongoing sustainability of bowls will be key.
- 2.47 Proportionally, the largest growth in the population is expected in the older age groups. The profile of current participants in bowls therefore means that the ageing population is likely to influence participation more so than for most other sports.
- 2.48 Based upon existing club membership, assuming participation rates remain constant, demand for bowls is likely to increase fairly significantly. This level of increase would raise average membership per green to 74. This remains sustainable and suggests that retention of the existing greens and their quality remains priority.

Key Issues for the Strategy to Address

Bowls - Key Issues

The issues to address in relation to bowls are therefore;

- Protection of existing greens
- Promoting and support strong maintenance regimes to address the high levels of use and ensure that green quality is retained
- Address site specific quality concerns.
- Support ongoing efforts to sustain and increase participation and working with clubs to improve the promotion of bowls. There is a need to increase membership at some key sites to ensure that venues remain sustainable.
- Address the identified barriers to the growth of bowls – these include increasing awareness, succession planning and supporting the volunteer base.

Athletics

Supply

- There are no synthetic athletics tracks in Stockton-on-Tees. Whilst there are two cinder tracks, these are of poor quality. Only one is available to the community (limited availability and no promotion)
- The majority of residents are however within 20 minutes drivetime of a synthetic track, with nearby facilities available at Eastbourne Sports Complex (Darlington) and Middlesbrough Sports Village (Middlesbrough)
- All residents of the Borough are within 60 minutes of an indoor athletics venue

Demand

- Active Lives Surveys report a decline in participation between 2015 – 2021 for adults, but participation amongst young people has started to increase.
- There are two existing clubs, Stockton Striders and Marsh House Harriers. Both are primarily road running clubs and both have good quality bases (Stockton Town FC and Norton Sports Complex respectively).
- The strong base that these clubs provide means that there is a significant opportunity to further develop the sport of athletics and more specifically track and field.

Adequacy of Provision

- 2.49 Analysis demonstrates that there is reasonable access to track and field athletics facilities within Stockton-on-Tees Borough, although there are no synthetic athletics tracks within the Borough itself – the borough is well served by tracks in Middlesbrough and Darlington, although some residents are outside of the proposed catchment for a facility

- 2.50 There are good foundations for athletics, with two well-functioning clubs, both of whom are affiliated to wider social hubs. Both clubs however focus on road running / cross country as opposed to track and field. There is therefore scope to increase activity in track and field in the Borough.
- 2.51 The existing poor quality cinder tracks have limited function in their current form. There is scope to improve the functionality of these sites. The location of the track at Our Lady and St Bede's Academy means upgrading this facility would ensure that all residents in the Borough have access to a synthetic track within the target 20 minutes drivetime. This (including floodlighting) is also a priority of the school. This site represents a particular opportunity due to its proximity to Stockton FC, where Stockton Striders are based. A new facility may provide the opportunity to expand the activities of this club.
- 2.52 If upgrades to the above sites are not deliverable, there will remain a gap in athletics facilities in Stockton-on-Tees. To stimulate participation, the installation of a compact athletics facility / mini track could be considered as an alternative.

Key Issues for the Strategy to Address

Athletics - Key Issues

The above therefore suggests that the strategy will need to;

- Explore how opportunities for track and field athletics can be provided in Stockton-on-Tees – either through the refurbishment of the existing cinder track or the provision of alternative facilities.
- Support ongoing efforts to sustain and increase participation and work with the clubs to support the promotion of athletics.

Football

Supply

- There are 89 grass pitches available for secured community use and a further 10 grass pitches considered to offer unsecured usage. 34% of these pitches are adult sized, whilst the remainder are youth and mini sized
- Numerous education sites offer secured access to football pitches, specifically; Conyers School, Ian Ramsey Academy, North Shore Academy, Northfield Sports Drome, Our Lady and St Bede's School, Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth (1 pitch only), SRC Bede College, Stockton Sixth Form College, Bede Sports Centre, Wynyard Primary School and The Grangefield Academy.
- All unsecured pitches are also located at school sites - at Teesside High School, St Patricks College , Thornaby Academy and Green Gates Academy.
- A further 27 pitches are marked out but not available for any community use. The majority of these are primary schools, some of which have previously offered community use. The secondary school sites that are not offering community use at the time of the preparation of this assessment are All Saints Academy, Egglecliffe School, Red House School and Yarm School.
- Management / ownership of active community pitches is mixed, with the education sector being the largest provider, highlighting the importance of schools in meeting demand for football. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, On Site Trust and Norton Sports Charity are also key providers.
- The stock of grass pitches is supported by ten active full sized AGPs. Of these facilities, six have a 3G surface and are therefore suitable for football. All of these pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register and are therefore sanctioned to sustain competitive activity as well as training. The four sand based facilities are not of the preferred surface for football, although there remains some use of these facilities by football clubs for training.
- Just 32% of clubs are happy with the stock of facilities. Key issues raised include a lack of good quality grass pitches, overuse, the cost of 3G pitch hire and issues with maintenance. Poor maintenance is highlighted as the reason why pitches are deteriorating, but also credited where pitches are improving.
- In general, the quality of grass pitches is standard (76%). 23% of pitches are poor and just 1% good. Compaction (often resulting in drainage issues) is the biggest concern– there is a need for decompaction and aeration works alongside tailored maintenance programmes at each pitch. There is also a need to address issues with grass coverage and weeds in the grass sward, again this relies on a strong maintenance programme. Added to this, some sites suffer from the impact of informal / inappropriate use.

- The quality of changing provision is varied and there are several sites where clubs have no access to changing facilities at all. Improvement to changing facilities is a key priority on several sites

Demand

- There are 257 teams playing in the Borough. This represents an increase since the 2015 PPOSS, particularly in the mini and junior age groups.
- Whilst there have been positive trends in mini and junior football, there are more mixed trends in adult football.
- Participation takes place primarily in a network of sustainable, large clubs and is broadly even across the Borough. The size of clubs continues to grow from the 2015 PPOSS (alongside the reduction in single team clubs) and this places greater pressures on the pitch stock, as clubs wish to accommodate as many fixtures as possible at one site.
- There are no professional football clubs based within the Borough boundaries, however several teams play within the National League System (NLS). These teams must adhere to specific (Ground Grading) requirements in relation to the facilities provided at the home ground.
- Most clubs who wish to play in the Borough are able to do so. Middlesbrough Women FC travel into the Borough to play at Billingham Town FC (to meet Ground Grading requirements) and this is the only clear imported demand. Billingham Synthonia FC, who play at NLS Step 6 are also displaced. The site formerly used by Billingham Synthonia is owned privately and is currently subject to a planning application proposing loss of the playing field and associated sports facilities. Having played the 2021 – 2022 season in Stockton-on-Tees (at Norton Sports Complex), the club will be travelling to Stokesley (outside of the Borough) in 2022 – 2023 season, this demand is therefore now displaced.
- Consultation demonstrates that clubs primarily use AGPs for training during the winter months. There is however some ongoing use of grass pitches and challenges accessing AGPs (as well as costs) continue to emerge as one of the key issues for clubs. There are 48 teams that do not currently train on AGPs.
- Casual use is also a feature of some of the playing fields. Some sites also function as public recreational areas, which impacts upon the quality of some pitches, particularly with regards dog fouling and litter.

Adequacy of Provision

2.53 Since the 2015 PPOSS, it is clear that;

- The use of AGPs for match play has improved – this has significantly reduced the pressures on grass pitches
- There has been a deterioration in the quality of pitches - this is attributed to the heavy usage of pitches by many clubs
- There remains a reliance on school sites to accommodate club based activity
- The number of pitches available to the community has reduced – this is as a result of a small number of Council sites being converted to open space, as well as a reduction in the availability of smaller school sites (potentially impacted by Covid 19)
- Demand has increased, and therefore whilst the AGPs have brought about positive change, overall a similar picture exists.

2.54 Overall, analysis has therefore demonstrated that overall, across the Borough as a whole, supply is closely matched with demand.

2.55 For 5v5 and 7v7 fixtures, the stock of facilities is adequate. Whilst there is little remaining spare capacity at peak time, pitches have the capacity to sustain consecutive fixtures, and the short length of matches means that this is possible from a scheduling perspective.

2.56 Boroughwide, there is also adequate capacity for adult football. The split in play (with games taking place on Saturday AM, Saturday PM, Sunday AM and Sunday PM, however means that for some pitches, there is a need to sustain activity in more than one time slot, and ensuring that there are enough pitches to meet the total demand across the weekend is as important as providing enough pitches to meet demand in the peak period (Sunday AM). In both the South and South East, there are more pressures on pitches to meet demand across the weekend than there are at peak time.

2.57 There is however clear overplay on youth 11v11 pitches and no spare capacity on 9v9 pitches either. There are issues both in providing enough pitches to sustain play in different time slots across the weekend, as well as at peak time and this picture is evident in all parts of the Borough.

2.58 Reflecting the above pressures, site specific analysis suggests that there are few facilities with very limited or no use. In most instances, overplay is caused by heavy usage but on many sites it is influenced by quality. The heavy reliance on school sites is also a contributing factor to the

issues identified with meeting demand in multiple timeslots, as school facilities must also accommodate curricular activity, which reduces the number of competitive games that they can sustain. The sites where pressure on pitch stock is greatest include;

- Conyers School (high demand, but scope to transfer more play onto the AGP and in practice, this is probably done)
- Elementis Recreation Ground – high number of teams
- Robert Atkinson Centre – high number of teams
- Northfield SportsDrome - (high demand, but scope to transfer more play onto the AGP and in practice, this is probably done)
- Norton Sports Complex – high demand
- Our Lady and St Bede College – high demand but scope to transfer more play onto the AGP at Stockton V1 Form College and in practice, this is probably done)
- Village Ground – capacity restricted by poor quality
- Tibs – high number of teams
- Wynyard Primary School – high demand.

2.59 Added to this, while 23% of pitches are currently poor a further 36% of pitches achieved scores in the lower echelons of the standard category, suggesting that any deterioration will see them become poor. This would further exacerbate the position.

2.60 Population growth alone will have relatively limited impact on participation - there will be small growth in adult football (up to 3 adult teams by 2032) and junior football (3 teams) and a potential increase of 1 9v9 team, other participation will remain static. This means that the pressures on junior and 9v9 football would be further exacerbated.

2.61 Many clubs however have aspirations for growth and the concerns about capacity were evident in discussions with clubs, with many noting that their facilities are already overplayed. Analysis of the impact of 10% growth would have the following results;

- An increase of 5 adult teams (likely to be female) would generate 2.5 MES demand. This would reduce Boroughwide spare capacity to 10 MES
- An increase of 7 youth teams would generate 3.5 match equivalents. Taking into account the projected changes to the population profile, unmet demand would increase to 13.75 MES
- Pressures would increase on 9v9 pitches, with a further 5 teams (2.5 MES) resulting in unmet demand equivalent to 4.5 MES
- The growth in 7v7 teams could be accommodated (4 teams), with spare capacity across the week reducing to 30 MES across the week but there would be significant pressures at peak time (1.5 MES remaining)
- 4 additional 5v5 teams could also be accommodated (22.5 MES across the week) but again peak time would be constrained (1.5) MES.

2.62 Table 2.5 provides an overview of the adequacy of provision to meet current demand for football in each part of the Borough. It should be noted that these figures include all pitches that are available for the community (secured and unsecured). Loss of unsecured pitches would increase the inadequacies that are identified and reduce any spare capacity.

Sub Area	Adult Football		Youth Football		9v9		7v7		5v5	
	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)
Central and Western	8	6.5	-2.75	2.5	0	1.5	9	2	3.5	0.5
			Inadequate capacity to meet demand across several timeslots. Some pitches have spare capacity on Sunday morning, but relocation of teams to address overplay in other timeslots would eliminate this. Inadequate capacity.		Some pitches with spare capacity at peak time, but relocation of teams to address overplay in other time slots would eliminate this. Inadequate capacity.		Spare capacity at peak time limited, but scope for consecutive fixtures.		Spare capacity at peak time limited, but scope for consecutive fixtures.	
South	0	1	-2.5	1	0	-2	2.5	-1.5	6.5	0.5
			Inadequate capacity to meet demand across several timeslots. Some pitches have spare capacity on Sunday morning, but relocation of teams to address overplay in other timeslots would eliminate this. Inadequate capacity.		Insufficient capacity at peak time.		Spare capacity at peak time limited, but scope for consecutive fixtures.		Spare capacity at peak time limited, but scope for consecutive fixtures.	
North	5	4.75	-4	0	-0.5	0	8.5	1.5	6.5	2.5
			Inadequate capacity to meet demand across several timeslots.		No pitches with any spare capacity at peak time. Inadequate capacity to		Spare capacity at peak time limited, but scope for consecutive fixtures.		Spare capacity at peak time limited, but scope for consecutive fixtures.	

Sub Area	Adult Football		Youth Football		9v9		7v7		5v5	
	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)
					meet demand in all timeslots.					
South East	0.5	1	0.5	-1.5	1	0	12	1.5	8	0
			Capacity to meet demand in different timeslots, but insufficient capacity on Sunday AM (peak time).		No spare capacity at peak time.		Spare capacity at peak time limited, but scope for consecutive fixtures.		No spare capacity at peak time but scope for consecutive fixtures.	
Total	13.5	13.25	-8.75	2	0.5	-1.5	32	3.5	24.5	3.5
			Inadequate capacity to meet demand across several timeslots. Some pitches have spare capacity on Sunday morning, but relocation of teams to address overplay in other timeslots would eliminate this.		Inadequate capacity both to meet demand in different timeslots and at peak time.		Spare capacity at peak time limited, but scope for consecutive fixtures.		Spare capacity at peak time limited, but scope for consecutive fixtures.	

- 2.63 Added to the pressures on grass pitches, there is little remaining spare capacity on any 3G pitches in the Borough midweek, or at weekends. The 3G pitch at Billingham RUFC offers the greatest amount of spare capacity, however this pitch is understood to be at higher cost than other facilities for external clubs. There is limited spare capacity at any other venue, with almost all slots taken between 6pm and 8pm. Where there is availability, this is typically between 5pm and 6pm or after 8pm, or on a Friday evening. This reflects the views of clubs. Whilst there is scope to increase the use of 3G pitches for competitive fixtures, the spare capacity is relatively small and there is little available at peak time.
- 2.64 There is a particular lack of 3G provision in the South / South East, with no pitches in the South East and just one (Conyers School) in the South. Using a baseline of 257 community teams FA modelling would suggest that there is a theoretical requirement for 7 full size AGPs. This means that there is currently demand for 2 more, if the pitch at Billingham RUFC is excluded (rugby focused). Analysis of current usage patterns therefore suggests that the existing infrastructure is inadequate, as there is almost no spare capacity and around 50 teams currently not using full sized AGPs to train. This therefore supports the need to provide additional 3G pitch capacity.
- 2.65 It is clear therefore that there are particular pressures in the South / South East, where there is minimal spare capacity in the pitch stock for adult football and insufficient youth 11v11 / 9v9 pitches. It is in this area where the provision of AGPs is also lower (evidenced by both AGP modelling and the Sport England FPM).
- 2.66 Table 2.6 summarises the key site specific issues.

Table 2.6 – Key Site Specific Issues

Issue	Central and Western	South	North	South East
Sites overplayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Lady and St Bede's. • Norton Sports Complex • Primrose Hill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conyers School • Elementis Recreation Ground • Tall Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRC St Bede's • Village Ground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Atkinson Centre • TIBs
Some sites not used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Ramsey C of E Academy • Green Gates Academy • Scope to increase use of Grangefield Centre, Grangefield Park and Grangefield Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teesside High School - scope to increase usage, but site is unsecured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No sites not currently used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal activity currently at St Patricks Catholic College – scope to increase this.
Sites impacted by poor quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grangefield Centre • Grangefield Park • West Street Playing Field • Yarm Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eaglescliffe Recreation Ground is disused due to poor quality – improvements would see site brought back into use • Scope to improve pitches at Tall Trees and Elementis (low standard rating) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Billingham Synthonia Sports Ground – requires improvement if standard rating is to be maintained. Some pitches poor • Rievaulx Avenue • Village Ground – poor quality contributes directly to overplay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harold Wilson Centre – poor pitches requiring improvement • Littleboy Park
NLS Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stockton FC – demand met • Norton and Stockton Ancients – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Billingham Synthonia – seeking new ground • Billingham Town – looking for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thornaby FC – Teesdale Park

Issue	Central and Western	South	North	South East
			access to additional land to support club activities, main stand requires refurbishment	
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sites heavily used • Training on grass at Norton Sports Complex • Area contains highest number of teams still training on grass • Unmet demand still evident for training despite high use of AGPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conyers School at capacity • Clubs also travel to North Shore Academy and Soccer Sensations. Small number of teams using grass. Clubs highlight issues securing appropriate training facilities • More limited 3G AGP provision than other areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small amount of spare capacity at existing sites but very limited capacity remaining. Key club currently trains on grass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 3G AGP in area. Clubs travel to other facilities.

Football – Summary Issues

The key issues that need to be addressed for football are therefore;

- The quality issues identified at the existing pitches, particularly where limited quality is reducing capacity. Many of the pitches are either poor, or a very low standard quality (basic). This impacts on the overall ability of pitches to sustain the level of demand required and pitch quality improvements are essential if the needs of clubs are to be met. Pitch quality emerged as one of the key themes of consultation, and several clubs have already started to engage with the Pitch Improvement and PitchPower FA programmes.
- School facilities are a key component of the infrastructure for football and there is therefore a need to ensure that maintenance procedures are adequate to facilitate both curricular and community football. There is an opportunity to increase the level of use on some existing school sites that are open to the community, as well as to add additional capacity by negotiating access to sites that are not currently available.
- There are significant capacity pressures, particularly for 9v9 football and youth 1v11 football. There is not enough capacity to sustain the number of fixtures required over the weekend and there are also pressures at peak time. This picture is evident in all parts of the Borough, but the following clubs are likely to struggle for capacity in particular - Billingham Synthonia (no existing adult pitch meeting Ground Grading requirements), Stockton Town, Leven Youth, Elementis FC, TIBs, Thornaby Town, Wynyard Youth FC, Norton and Stockton Ancients and Billingham United. Additional capacity will be required to meet these needs.
- Analysis suggests that an additional 2 – 3 AGPs will be needed to meet future demand – there is a particular gap in facilities in the South East / South of the Borough and there are also significant pressures on the grass pitch stock in this part of the Borough.

Football Scenario Testing - Quality

2.67 The assessment highlights the significant concerns that are evident with regards the quality of the pitch stock and indicates that the quality of many of the pitches falls within the lower echelons of the standard range. There are also several poor quality sites.

2.68 Scenario modelling evaluating the impact of improving all poor quality pitches to standard (and retaining the remainder of pitches at standard) suggests that this would alleviate all overplay on these pitches and add an additional 17 MES to the pitch stock. This is summarised in Table 2.7, which lists the poor quality pitches and their capacity position following improvement.

Table 2.7 – Impact of Improving all Poor Pitches

Site Name	Sub Area	Final Number of Pitches	Pitch Size	Improved Pitch Capacity	Total Demand (including Curricular use)	Adequacy of Provision (Weekly)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time
Billingham Synthonia Sports Ground	North	1	5v5	4	1	3	0
Eaglescliffe Recreation Ground	Eaglescliffe and Yarm	1	9v9	2	0	2	0
Grangefield Centre	Central and Western	2	11v11 senior	4	0	4	2
Grangefield Park	Central and Western	1	11v11 senior	2	1	1	0
Harold Wilson Centre	South East	3	11v11 senior	6	3	3	0
Littleboy Park	South East	1	11v11 junior	2	0.5	1.5	0.5
Primrose Hill	Central and Western	1	9v9	2	1.5	0.5	0
Rievaulx Stadium	North	2	11v11 senior	4	1.5	2.5	0.5
Village Ground	North	3	5v5	12	4.5	7.5	1.5
		2	7v7	8	3	5	1
		1	9v9	2	1.5	0.5	0
West Street Playing Field	Central and Western	1	11v11 senior	2	0.5	1.5	0.5
Yarm Recreational Ground (Yarm Road)	Central and Western	1	11v11 senior	2	0.5	1.5	0.5

2.69 Some overplay would however remain on other sites (currently rated as standard), including school sites which must accommodate curricular and community activity and the home bases of some large clubs. These include;

- Conyers School
- Elementis Recreation Ground
- Robert Atkinson Centre
- Northfield SportsDrome
- Norton Sports Complex
- Our Lady and St Bede
- Bede College
- Tibs
- Wynyard C of E
- Tall Trees.

2.70 Modelling however demonstrates that almost all remaining capacity issues would be addressed by improving pitch quality at the above sites to good, with only a small amount of overplay

remaining at Northfield SportsDrome and Our Lady and St Bede. Improvement of poor quality pitches to standard, and pitches at the above sites to good would have the following impact;

- There would be capacity for 18.75 MES on adult pitches at peak time
- There would be some spare capacity on youth pitches (circa 5 MES at peak time)
- 9v9 – spare capacity would equate to 2 MES
- There would remain a small amount of spare capacity on 5v5 and 7v7 pitches.

2.71 Capacity across the week would also significantly improve, which is particularly important as the assessment demonstrated that the spread of play across timeslots means that pressures are as significant in all timeslots.

2.72 Table 2.8 summarises the overall impact of the above scenario by sub area. It includes all accessible pitches.

Table 2.8 – Impact of Pitch Improvement

Sub Area	Adult Football		Youth Football		9v9		7v7		5v5	
	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)
Central and Western	17	9	1.25	3.25	5	1.5	17	3	5.5	0.5
South	2	1	3.5	2	6	0	6.5	-1.5	10.5	0.5
North	8	6.25	-2	0	4.5	0.5	14.5	1.5	16.5	2.5

Sub Area	Adult Football		Youth Football		9v9		7v7		5v5	
	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)
South East	5.5	2.5	5.5	-0.5	3	0	18	1.5	14	0
Total	32.5	18.75	8.25	5.5	18.5	2	56	6	24.5	3.5

2.73 The above therefore suggests that qualitative improvements will make significant improvement to the pitch stock, although junior and 9v9 play will remain quite closely balanced with demand, particularly at peak time. The time that it will take to improve pitch quality, as well as the challenges maintaining good pitches, added to the need to also accommodate for future demand (which is not included above) means that there is also a need to create additional capacity to supplement the impact of quality improvements.

2.74 The assessment report highlights demand for 2 – 3 new AGPs in the Borough. The inclusion of these facilities on the FA 3G Pitch register would ensure that they can be used for match play, and therefore provide additional capacity for match play both at peak time and across the week. These new facilities will therefore provide necessary additional capacity.

2.75 Improving quality is a key priority of the FA and funding is available from the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund to enhance pitch quality. Table 2.9 therefore considers the impact of improving all pitches that are managed and maintained by clubs to good, regardless of their current quality. It assumes that the quality of the remaining pitches is consistent with the current position.

Table 2.9 – Scenario – Improving Club Based Pitches

Sub Area	Adult Football		Youth Football		9v9		7v7		5v5	
	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)
Central and Western	8	8	-1.75	2	1	1.5	13	2	3.5	0.5
South	1	1	-1.5	1	0	-2	2.5	-1.5	10.5	0.5
North	8	6.25	-2	0	0.5	0.5	18.5	1.5	22.5	2.5
South East	1.5	1	2.5	-0.5	0	0	18	1.5	12	0
Total	18.5	16.25	-2.75	2.5	7.5	0	52	3.5	48.5	3.5

2.76 Table 2.9 above demonstrates that improvement to grass pitches at all club sites to a good rating will significantly improve the ability of the pitch stock to meet with demand. It highlights however the importance of also improving facilities belonging to other providers, as is modelled in Table 2.8.

Summary

2.77 Table 2.9 provides a brief overview of the quantitative position for each of the sports in the Borough. Qualitative improvements may still be required where capacity is adequate from a quantitative perspective.

Table 2.9 – Summary of Capacity (quantity)

Sport	Current Position	Future Position
Cricket	19.7 wickets available, 0.5 MES at peak time	0 wickets available, 0 MES at peak time
Rugby League	Insufficient provision – 5 MES deficit	Insufficient provision – 6.5 MES deficit
Rugby Union	Overplay at club sites totals 14 MES	Potential deficit of 25 MES if club growth aspirations are achieved
Hockey	4 Sand based AGPs provided	3 Sand based AGPs (with full accessibility) required
Tennis	Capacity adequate to meet current demand	Capacity adequate to meet projected future demand.
Bowls	Capacity adequate to meet existing demand	Capacity adequate to meet projected future demand.
Football	<p>Adult Football – 13.25 MES spare capacity at peak time</p> <p>Youth 11v11 Football – - 8.75 MES deficit across the week</p> <p>9v9 Football – unmet demand 1.5 MES peak time</p> <p>7v7 Football – 3.5 MES peak time</p> <p>5v5 Football – 3.5 MES Peak time</p> <p>The above assume that all pitches currently available remain available.</p>	<p>Adult Football – 10 MES spare capacity peak time</p> <p>Youth 11v11 Football – overplay of 13.75 MES across the week</p> <p>9v9 Football – unmet demand of 4.5 MES at peak time</p> <p>7v7 Football – 1.5 MES at peak time</p> <p>5v5 Football – 1.5 MES at peak time</p> <p>The above assume that all pitches currently available remain available and 10% growth occurs as outlined in the assessment report.</p>

3.0 Strategic Framework

- 3.1 Section 2 summarised the context for each sport and the key issues that need to be addressed across Stockton-on-Tees Borough drawing upon supply and demand modelling, consultation and site visits. The full assessment of issues identified, modelling and evaluation of options using site specific modelling is set out under separate cover (assessment report).
- 3.2 This section sets out a strategy for the future delivery of facilities for football, cricket, rugby league, rugby union, hockey, bowls, tennis and athletics.
- 3.3 It seeks to address the issues identified for each sport and to guide the proactive improvement of playing fields and outdoor sports facilities in Stockton-on-Tees. It is focused around the following principles;
- Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision – the strategy seeks to ensure that the Borough contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and type and in the right place. It promotes the protection of existing provision, but also recognises the need to improve the quality of existing facilities and the impact that qualitative improvements can have on capacity.
 - It is essential to maximise the role of existing resources – the strategy will seek to extend the capacity and function of existing facilities;
 - The strategy will seek to maximise sustainability – it will seek to build relationships between sports, promote good practice and deliver sustainable solutions for sport and recreation across the Borough;
 - Pitch provision will be delivered in partnership. The strategy seeks to bring together key partners in the delivery of playing fields and outdoor sports facilities and to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and effectively aligned to maximise the value of assets to the community. The strategy recognises the important roles that Schools, Clubs and others play in the provision of sports facilities across the Borough.
- 3.4 Section 1 set out the key objectives for this strategy. To deliver these objectives there are a series of key themes and recommendations which are relevant to all sports. They provide a framework for the protection, management and enhancement of the facility infrastructure and for the sport specific recommendations.
- 3.5 The strategic priorities are set out below and the sport specific priorities for each sport are summarised in Table 3.1

Objective 1 – Protect the existing supply of sports facilities to meet current and future needs

The strategy will seek to ensure that there are enough facilities by;

- Providing evidence to protect the supply of outdoor sports facilities and playing fields where required to meet demand – this PPOSS will support the application of policies protecting playing fields, building on the requirements of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF Paragraph 99) and Sport England’s statutory consultee role on planning applications affecting playing field land
- Clearly identifying the actions required to ensure that each site meets current and projected future need.
- Securing long term usage agreements for clubs to ensure ongoing security of tenure
- Maximising the role that school facilities play in meeting community need and securing long term community access
- Ensuring new development that generates demand for additional pitches contributes towards playing pitch and outdoor sports provision in the Borough.

3.6 The assessment demonstrates that all facilities in the Borough are valuable resources and indicates that demand will increase in future years both as a result of population growth, but also if aspirations to develop new teams are realised.

3.7 Both Sport England and NPPF policy require that playing fields are afforded protection unless specific exception criteria are met. This also applies to disused playing fields.

3.8 The site specific table (Table 5.1) details that all playing field sites should be afforded protection. This table will be reviewed as part of the ongoing monitoring of this document as strategy recommendations are delivered.

3.9 The protection of the existing facilities will form the basis of the strategy. Work is however required to ensure that the stock of facilities offers adequate capacity both to meet current demand, but also to include future demand. There may be some benefit in the release of some sites to support improvement / new provision at others. These decisions will be taken on a site by site basis and in consideration of National Planning Policy and Sport England Playing Fields Policy. Any loss of playing fields is likely to require replacement, as policy requires the demonstration of surplus provision before sites can be released without.

- 3.10 School sites are a critical part of the infrastructure for all sports in Stockton-on-Tees. Access to school grounds creates significant benefits for clubs and the loss of school facilities with community access would generate shortfalls of provision and would see several clubs displaced. It is essential to secure against changes to access arrangements at any time in the future. This strategy therefore seeks to promote the use of school sites and prioritises action to work alongside schools to protect and formalise long term agreements as well as securing agreement for access to sites that are not currently available.
- 3.11 The strategy also recognises the value of clubs securing long term leases, particularly with regards the opportunities that this brings to secure funding. Clubs wishing to secure leases should meet key criteria, including;
- Clubmark / appropriate NGB charter mark accreditation
 - Proactive approach to school club links
 - Sustainability both financially and in terms of internal management
 - Processes in place to prove capacity to maintain sites to existing / better standards
- 3.12 Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.
- 3.13 The projected population growth will place greater pressures on the existing infrastructure (and will negate the impact of the ageing population). This increases the importance of protecting the existing stock of facilities.

Objective 2 – To enhance outdoor sports facilities and playing fields

The strategy promotes the provision of facilities of adequate quality by;

- Ensuring that all pitches are maintained using regimes appropriate for the level of use that they sustain and the activities that are undertaken. This should include both regular maintenance and out of season reinstatement and capital investment
- Prioritising improvements and enhancement at sites that do not meet current or projected future need in order to improve capacity for future use
- Ensuring that pitches are accompanied by appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. changing / catering where required)
- Supporting clubs that require improved facilities in order to play at a higher standard and developing a hierarchy of pitch and training facilities.

3.14 Pitch quality is perhaps the key issue in Stockton-on-Tees Borough, with many clubs facing challenges in capacity caused in full or in part by the quality of facilities, many existing sites not operating at full capacity, or providing a poor player experience due to quality challenges that are faced. Qualitative issues were highlighted by the majority of clubs in most sports as the key issue impacting club development and satisfaction and it is clear that quality impacts the number of games that can be sustained. Qualitative improvements will be the key focus of the strategy and will be used as the main vehicle to improve capacity. Scenario testing highlighted the significant opportunities to improve capacity through grass pitch enhancement, particularly for football and rugby union.

3.15 Poor grass pitch quality is often not a result of issues with the pitch, but more the appropriateness of the maintenance regime for the pitch conditions that takes into account the level/standard of play. This strategy therefore seeks to ensure that pitches are subjected to appropriate maintenance programmes prior to rectifying any underlying quality issues (to ensure that quality issues are not caused by issues with the maintenance process).

3.16 Each NGB, in partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes and new tools are now being introduced (PitchPower) which enable clubs / providers to proactively seek advice and to tailor the maintenance procedures. The programme of improvement therefore focuses on engagement with these tools in the first instance, ensuring that maintenance is tailored to the characteristics of the pitch and the demand. Capital investment to address specific issues may subsequently be required on some sites (in addition to tailored maintenance schedules) and requirements can also be evaluated through the same pitch improvement programmes. It will be essential that providers

have access to appropriate machinery, as well as to the knowledge of the maintenance procedures required. For football, revenue funding and machinery grants are available through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GMPF) for clubs, leagues, charities and community organisations, Support of club and community led maintenance operations is a key FF strategic priority.

- 3.17 Whilst the assessment focuses on facility requirements over the strategy period, the strategy also seeks to ensure that the infrastructure supports sustainable club development. In some instances, growing participation will be essential if facilities are to remain sustainable, whilst in others, additional capacity is required if club growth is not to be inhibited. Sustainable participation is vital if quality is to be maintained.

Objective 3 – Provide new sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

The strategy seeks to ensure that new facilities are provided where there is demand to do so by;

- Providing evidence to outline where capacity increases can be delivered through qualitative enhancements, and where additional facilities are required
- Identifying areas where new provision is required, and the types of facilities that are necessary
- Requiring contributions from new development to ensure that future demand is met.

- 3.18 For most sports the future demand for provision identified in Stockton-on-Tees can be met through a combination of;

- Investing in pitch and facility maintenance to better equip the pitches to sustain the required level of use
- Improving quality to improve the capacity of pitches where this is identified as being required
- Maximising the sustainability of existing sites, embracing new technological solutions and opportunities to improve the customer journey
- Securing long term community use – both in terms of access agreements to school sites but also leases for community clubs.
- Maximising the use of AGPs for competitive play and training (existing pitches and new facilities).

3.19 For some sports, new provision may be required, but this will need to be carefully managed to ensure sustainability. New 3G AGPs will be needed (for football and potentially rugby longer term) and there will also be a need for additional capacity for rugby union and rugby league, as well as potentially longer term for cricket. Where opportunities are available to provide football pitches (youth 11v11 / 9v9) on large scale new developments, this is also of benefit, however must provide toilet facilities as a minimum, with a potential requirement for changing facilities dependent on the age format of play.

3.20 This means that it is important to not only protect the existing provision, but also to ensure that contributions are requested from new developments. Even where new provision is not required, improvements can be made to the capacity of existing provision to ensure that it can meet the increase in demand that will be generated.

3.21 This strategy promotes the use of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) to assess the impact of each specific new development and this will be discussed in detail in Section 4. The future projected scenarios in this strategy document consider the impact of overall projected growth up to the year 2038 (including the likely changes to the population profile etc as well as the impact of growth) but the PPC will enable the impact of specific developments to be quantified as they arise.

3.22 In addition to mitigating the impact of any new development, it should also be ensured that that the existing sporting use of playing fields is not compromised by new development. For example, where there is a development that may prejudice the use of an existing facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development.

Sport Specific Recommendations

- 3.23 The strategic recommendations set out the framework for the delivery of playing fields and sports facilities across Stockton-on-Tees and guide the sport specific recommendations that are set out in Table 3.1 overleaf. The table includes the overall recommendation, as well as the key actions required to deliver each of the recommendations. It also highlights the key sites that are impacted by the recommendation.
- 3.24 While to date and for clarity, each sport has been considered separately within this strategy, recommendations should be implemented strategically, considering opportunities for partnerships between sports. There are some good examples of sustainable clubs and multi-sport partnerships already and these provide foundations for a successful future delivery model. It will be essential to ensure that good practice and insight from these successful ventures is spread across the Borough through knowledge sharing and effective training and guidance.
- 3.25 Section 5 therefore contains a site specific action plan, which brings together all of the recommendations for each of the sports. This action plan is broken down by area of the Borough, with the key issues in each area also highlighted.

Table 3.1 – Sport Specific Recommendations

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Cricket 1	<p>Protect all current club sites.</p> <p>In addition to retaining the actual ground, this should include ensuring that the existing functionality at cricket grounds is protected. This should include ensuring that risk assessments (including ball strike assessments) are undertaken and appropriate mitigation is in place where new developments are located in close proximity to sites.</p>	All club sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep list in strategy document protecting sites up to date • Incorporate appropriate policy in Local Plan • Ensure PPOSS is taken into account when making decisions on playing fields • Ensure long term security of tenure for cricket clubs (no issues identified with any current leases) 	SBC
Cricket 2	<p>To improve quality, focus initially on ensuring that maintenance regimes are focused and tailored to the needs of each ground.</p> <p>The Pitch Power tool will soon be available for use by all cricket clubs and pitch providers.</p>	<p>Scope to improve maintenance at all sites. Specific issues are highlighted with the following sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preston on Tees CC – scope to better tailor maintenance to improve both square and outfield • Stafford Place CC – investment into improved maintenance required to increase standard of square / outfield • Billingham Synthonia – working with ECB advisor to address moss / worms • Stockton CC – lack of appropriate machinery, issues with grass coverage • Yarm CC - working with ECB advisor to address moss / worms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with clubs / providers to use the Pitch Power tool and / or commission Grounds management reviews and to act on findings at all sites. • Support clubs in accessing appropriate machinery to maximise the effectiveness of maintenance regimes. 	DCB / YCB/ ECB / Clubs and Providers

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Cricket 3	<p>Invest in pitch quality improvements where pitch quality assessment (see Cricket 2) suggests this is still required following maintenance improvements and where improvements are necessary to meet with league standards / needed to ensure that play can continue. This may include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage works • Outfield levelling • Work to improve the square • Provision of appropriate facilities (e.g. sight screens) 	<p>The following issues may require further investigation (dependent upon results of quality assessment – see Recommendation 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preston on Tees CC – drainage issues, levelling • Stafford Place CC • Billingham Synthonia – levelling of outfield 	<p>Work in partnership to identify detailed improvements required through use of PQA (Recommendation 3)</p> <p>Provide support and guidance to clubs in the submission of external funding bids. This should include the identification of opportunities.</p>	DCB / YCB /SBC Clubs and Providers
Cricket 4	<p>Ancillary provision can be as important to cricket clubs as the playing facilities.</p> <p>Improve clubhouse and changing facilities to ensure all clubs have a basic facility of adequate standard (electricity / running water / changing rooms / basic kitchen). This is particularly of importance where these are needed to accommodate growth in the junior and female game and / or are required to support the delivery of targets around the women and girls game however improvements at all sites are essential to help clubs to attract new players.</p> <p>Support other improvements where they are necessary to facilitate the growth of the club and participation.</p>	<p>The following pavilions would benefit from upgrade to support the attraction and retention of players;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stafford Place CC – requires updating due to age, no officials room • Thornaby CC – soon to be refurbished • Maltby CC – internal quality is poor • Yarm CC - Club seeking extension to pavilion 	<p>Support clubs with proposals to upgrade pavilions / other improvements where necessary to meet recommendation.</p> <p>Where clubs are eligible, provide support and guidance to clubs in the submission of external funding bids. This should include the identification of opportunities for funding.</p>	DCB / YCB /SBC Clubs and Providers

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Cricket 5	<p>Improve both the availability and quality of training facilities.</p> <p>All clubs should have access to an off field training facility to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance.</p> <p>Adequate training facilities also help to attract younger players to the game.</p>	<p>Key priorities are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preston on Tees CC – lack of training facilities • Stafford Place CC – lack of training facilities • Maltby CC – replacement of existing poor practice nets • Norton Sports Complex – refurbish outdoor cricket nets • Stockton-on-Tees CC – additional nets to support playing numbers (ideally grass to meet club demand) • Thornaby CC – additional nets to support playing numbers 	<p>Support clubs in the development of appropriate facilities</p>	<p>DCB / YCB /SBC Clubs and Providers</p>
Cricket 6	<p>Ensure that all clubs have access to appropriate capacity. Whilst there is limited overplay, most clubs are operating close to their maximum capacity.</p> <p>Key priorities for addressing this issue include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking with Cricket 2 and 3, support improvements to quality to improve square capacity. Improvements to outfield will also ensure that programmes that take place on the 	<p>Key priority is those that are currently overplaying facilities and / or are at capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maltby CC – scope to improve quality from standard to good to improve capacity. Scenario testing demonstrates that overplay will still remain. NTP for junior play should therefore also be considered • Norton Sports Complex – at capacity, NTP to extend capacity 	<p>Linking with C2 and C3, improve quality to enhance capacity at sites currently rated standard.</p> <p>Following qualitative improvements, work with clubs and leagues to introduce use of non turf wickets (on the square) in order to maximise capacity across the season.</p> <p>Continue to monitor and review capacity requirements.</p>	<p>DCB / YCB /SBC</p>

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
	<p>outfield (including All Stars) can be effectively sustained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting clubs in the creation of Non Turf Pitches • Providing additional pitches on the existing square where there is scope to do so • Use of school sites • Creation of new site. <p>Demand should be monitored</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarm CC – displaced team at weekend – negotiate access to facilities at Yarm School (new playing fields will include new cricket provision with a CUA) <p>To improve capacity of remaining clubs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non turf wickets at other sites nearing capacity to support youth play; • Pitch quality improvements to Stafford Place / Preston on Tees. Improvements to Stafford Place will provide additional capacity at peak time <p>Longer term;</p> <p>Requirement for new cricket ground to meet growth in cricket, particularly in Central and western / South. Key opportunities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third ground at Norton Sports Complex • Use of cricket facility at school site - Yarm (or new facility at school site) (key clubs impacted not addressed by facility at Norton Sports Complex are Yarm, Billingham Synthonia) • New site as part of new development. 		

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Cricket 7	Explore opportunities to provide a site containing non turf wickets that can be used for informal play (for general community access) to promote informal cricket in the Borough		<p>Work to stimulate informal cricket to supplement the existing club based infrastructure.</p> <p>Informal cricket could potentially be linked with the playzone programme.</p>	DCB / YCB/ SBC
Rugby League	Secure and protect appropriate venue for Yarm Wolves to guarantee long term future for club	Club require 2 – 3 pitches, which could be shared with rugby union club, but should contain facilities directly appropriate to rugby league. This should include quality grass pitches as well as ancillary facilities for each pitch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the short term, secure access to Stockton RUFC for Yarm RLFC • Work alongside club to identify appropriate longer term venue • New club venue may require quality improvements to bring it up to club requirements. 	SBC / RFL /Club
Rugby Union 1	Protect existing club bases to ensure ongoing provision for rugby union.	<p>Billingham RUFC</p> <p>Stockton RUFC (including Grosvenor Road)</p> <p>Yarm RUFC</p>	<p>Keep list in strategy document protecting sites up to date</p> <p>Incorporate appropriate policy in Local Plan</p>	SBC

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Rugby Union 2	<p>Address identified capacity issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarm RUFC – lack of appropriate home pitches • Billingham RUFC – overplay on existing grass pitches • Stockton RUFC – overplay on existing grass pitches 	<p>Yarm RUFC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New provision - suggested site – use of new rugby pitches being created at Yarm School (2 senior, 2 junior, 2 mini). <p>Billingham RUFC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investment into maintenance procedures. Scenario modelling demonstrates that improvement to a level of M2 /D1 will address all capacity issues. <p>Stockton RUFC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investment into pitch improvements at Grosvenor Park – drainage and maintenance). Scenario Testing suggests that improvement to M2/D1 will address capacity issues for match play. • For remaining unmet demand for training, in the short term, support Stockton RUFC in accessing the 	<p>In the short term, work with Yarm RUFC to secure access to appropriate facilities to meet club needs.</p> <p>Work alongside Yarm RUFC to secure long term access to Yarm School. The planning permission for the new pitches includes a CUA</p> <p>Work alongside Billingham RUFC to tailor and improve maintenance procedures to reach M2 level</p> <p>Work alongside Stockton RUFC to tailor and improve maintenance procedures to reach M2 level at Grosvenor Road, as well as to install drainage.</p> <p>Work with club to agree regular access to RFU 3G AGP at Billingham RUFC for rugby training</p> <p>Support club in accessing funding for extra floodlights</p> <p>Linking with Football 8 and Hockey 2, establish task and finish group to finalise locations for new AGPs for all three sports.</p>	<p>RFU / Clubs / SBC</p>

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
		<p>spare capacity at the RFU 3G AGP located at Billingham RUFC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional floodlit pitch at Stockton RUFC to enable training facilities to be better spread • Longer term, work with FA to explore options for a dual use 3G AGP in the Central and Western area 		
Rugby Union 3	Ensure that associated ancillary provision meets with club need to maximise sustainability	<p>Grosvenor Road – upgrade to existing unusable facilities / toilets</p> <p>Yarm RUFC – existing pavilion requires internal refurbishment. Additional works necessary will depend upon where the existing unmet demand will be met (see Rugby Union 2).</p> <p>Billingham RUFC – extension and refurbishment to existing facilities</p>	<p>Support club in renewal of lease (or asset transfer) to enable improvements to take place.</p> <p>Support club to apply for funding to ensure that ancillary provision meets needs.</p>	RFU / Clubs
Hockey 1	<p>Protect the needs of hockey by ensuring that a minimum of two pitches (but ideally three) of appropriate surface are retained for community use.</p> <p>A Gen2 surface would provide a good level of flexibility for other sporting use potentially at the third site. Two pitches are required to meet current demand, whilst growth in participation will see a minimum of three required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norton Sports Complex • Egglecliffe School • Yarm School (secure community access) • Thornaby Academy • Alternative site 	<p>Establish a task and finish group made up of members of the steering group of this PPOSS to explore and determine the appropriate approach to AGPs in the Borough. The end goal of this group should be to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sites for 3 sand based AGPs for hockey – likely Norton Sports Complex, Egglecliffe School plus one other. • Support the delivery of 2-3 new 3G AGPs for football. This should include the delivery of a sports hub in 	SBC / EH

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
			<p>Billingham (or equivalent provision if circumstances prevent this project from coming forwards), as well as one other facility in the South of the Borough. The group should ensure that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hockey clubs are able to access the facilities that they require and that there is scope for growth – priority access to sand based AGPs • Full CUA are in place for sites designated for hockey / football usage prior to change of any surface on other pitches. <p>This group should consult with relevant schools and clubs in order to agree a final cross sport plan for AGPs in the Borough. The first step for hockey is to evaluate whether a CUA can be secured for the AGP at Yarm School.</p> <p>To facilitate the implementation of the AGP strategy, the Council should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the proper protection of the hockey surface through the planning process • Seek to apply planning conditions to ensure that full consultation with 	

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
			<p>relevant NGBs must be carried out prior to any change in pitch surface.</p> <p>To clarify, the change of surface from sand to 3G (or vice versa) would constitute engineering works and as such, would require planning permission. The replacement of sand to sand or 3g to 3g is classed as maintenance and therefore does not require planning permission.</p>	
Hockey 2	<p>The quality of the existing key sites is good and it is important that this is retained. Work with providers to ensure that required refurbishment of pitch surfaces is scheduled and that a sinking fund is in place to secure this work. Ensure that any new surface is supported by effective maintenance procedures.</p>	<p>Both club bases recently refurbished – on going maintenance required and pitch resurface will be necessary in circa 10 years.</p> <p>Third site should also be of appropriate quality.</p>	<p>Monitor existing maintenance regimes and work alongside existing providers to plan refurbishment of existing surface.</p> <p>Establish a maintenance plan to maximise the longevity of the surface.</p>	EH
Hockey 3	<p>Ensure that hockey clubs benefit from appropriate ancillary facilities. Both existing club sites currently require improvement</p>	<p>Norton Sports Complex – provision of new pitch side changing rooms and new dugouts</p> <p>Egglecliffe School – requires improved changing facilities and toilets.</p>	<p>Support clubs / providers in access to funding where necessary to ensure that required ancillary facilities are delivered.</p>	EH
Bowls 1	<p>Protect active bowling greens.</p>	<p>All sites</p>	<p>Ensure list in strategy is kept up to date</p> <p>Inclusion of appropriate policy in Local Plan</p> <p>Use of this PPOSS for decision making</p>	SBC

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Bowls 2	Promote the importance of effective maintenance regimes and support clubs in obtaining and implementing external grounds maintenance advice for their greens. Maintenance was highlighted as one of the key issue for clubs across the Borough.	All sites.	<p>Promote sustainability at bowling greens by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the help that is available on green maintenance / management • Providing support and training for volunteers • Improving knowledge sharing and joint working • Provide regular training and guidance events for the bowls clubs on the management and maintenance of facilities. • Promotion of succession planning - ensure that training targets both existing maintenance teams and other club members to maximise succession planning, enhance knowledge and reduce reliance on small numbers of volunteers. • Supporting clubs in the compilation of funding bids for machinery / external funding • Reviewing the maintenance programmes on Council owned bowls greens. 	SBC /Clubs
Bowls 3	Address quality concerns where these impact upon play and where capital investment is still identified as being necessary following attempts to tailor maintenance procedures (See bowls 2).	<p>Maintenance is currently perceived to be the key contributing factor to quality issues that have been identified.</p> <p>No existing other priorities.</p>	<p>Quality issues may be impacted / caused by poor maintenance regimes and this should be eliminated first. Professional assessments should be undertaken in order to ascertain the work required.</p> <p>Where clubs require qualitative improvements but there is not adequate capital, support clubs in the compilation of funding bids and work alongside the</p>	SBC / Clubs

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
			committee to identify other means of generating income.	
Bowls 4	<p>To ensure the club infrastructure remain sustainable, support initiatives to increase participation in bowls by improving the promotion of the clubs. This should include work to remove several key barriers to participation in the sport including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor marketing and a lack of proactive promotion; • Lack of online presence • Struggle to recruit volunteers and heavy reliance on volunteers to manage and maintain greens. 	<p>Clubs where membership numbers are currently lower and would benefit from immediate support include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newham Grange Park • Stockton Bowls Club Ltd • John Whitehead Park 	<p>Work alongside the clubs to support club development initiatives and provide advice and guidance to stimulate improvement.</p> <p>Sustainability at clubs should be monitored – sites with less than 20 members are unsustainable and immediate support will be required to increase membership. See Bowls 5 below – the majority of these sites offer capacity for new members arising from proposed new housing development</p>	SBC /Clubs
Bowls 5	<p>Monitor capacity at existing bowling green sites to ensure that increases in bowling participation can be sustained by the existing infrastructure.</p> <p>There is currently no clear requirement for new greens, with capacity in the existing infrastructure available in all areas of the Borough.</p>	<p>As per recommendation 4, several sites require additional members to be sustainable and most greens across the borough would benefit from the additional membership.</p> <p>Stockton West End Bowls Club is the only existing site with no real scope for growth (but there is significant spare capacity at nearby sites).</p> <p>It is understood that a new green has been delivered in the south of the borough. This addresses the gap in this area. There is therefore no requirement for additional provision.</p>	Monitor club membership annually in order to ensure that there remains scope for growth.	SBC

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Tennis 1	<p>Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts across the Borough to ensure that the amount of courts is adequate to meet current and projected future demand.</p> <p>To ensure sustainability of existing stock, seek to maximise use of these facilities through tennis development.</p>	All existing sites	<p>Ensure the list in the strategy document is monitored</p> <p>Include appropriate policy within the local plan</p>	SBC
Tennis 2	<p>Maximise opportunities for pay and play / parks tennis across all areas of the Borough. This includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good quality and accessible floodlit public facilities • Well promoted school sites <p>To effectively achieve this;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality public facilities will require refurbishment • Consideration should be given to the installation of LTA customer journey technology to improve booking and management systems • It is important that the opportunities for public and pay and play are linked with increased promotion of courts that are available and organised introductory activities 	<p>Key public venues:</p> <p>Littleboy Park – currently unusable and requires immediate refurbishment. Floodlights would also be of benefit.</p> <p>Address access issues at John Whitehead Park / Ropner Park (gate technology)</p> <p>John Whitehead Park / Ropner Park would also benefit from investment, all be it to a lesser degree.</p> <p>Key pay and play school sites (identified in particular due to location in areas where there are fewer other tennis opportunities);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Saints Academy (courts require quality works – currently unusable) • North Shore Academy • Thornaby Academy (require qualitative improvements) 	<p>Work alongside the LTA to prioritise the refurbishment of courts at Littleboy Park. This site is critical to meeting the tennis needs of residents and visitors and is currently poor quality with courts unusable. Improvements to this site are now progressing (October 2022) with funding support from LTA.</p> <p>Work with LTA to improve accessibility to remaining public courts (linking with access systems introduced for Littleboy Park). This is now progressing (October 2022).</p> <p>Undertake relevant marketing and promotion to increase awareness. This should also include piloting existing LTA initiatives on public facilities in order to improve grass roots take up of tennis. Marketing should be informed by the use of LTA segmentation data. These efforts should extend to all parks courts.</p> <p>Develop a strategy to improve the sustainability of public park facilities,</p>	LTA / SBC / Schools

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
	Public venues should include floodlights in order to ensure year round access.	Opportunity also exists at Conyers School / Egglecliffe School who list improvements to tennis as key priority	<p>ensuring that a sinking fund for court repair and maintenance is established.</p> <p>Work alongside Billingham TC to agree how the courts at John Whitehead will be accessed (maintaining access for club as well as pay and play) any associated fees and how community use will be managed (linking to the installation of the LTA booking system).</p> <p>Support schools in working alongside the LTA to initiate activity to improve public tennis courts – this should include quality assessments of existing facilities as well as identification of appropriate access and customer management systems.</p>	
Tennis 3	<p>Ensure that the club infrastructure remains sustainable and is able to accommodate growth by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading floodlighting to maintain capacity and reduce seasonality • Improving court quality where issues are identified • Supporting improvements to the clubhouse where necessary to support membership • Supporting clubs to attract and retain members through effective marketing and promotion. 	<p>Yarm TC – clubhouse works</p> <p>Norton TC – court resurfacing</p> <p>Billingham TC will benefit from improvements to John Whitehead Park (Tennis 2)</p>	<p>Support clubs in applications for funding where appropriate. It is understood that Yarm LTC have successfully carried out fund raising with a view to progressing clubhouse works in next 12 months.</p> <p>Linking with Tennis 2, develop a strategy to ensure that access to courts at John Whitehead Park is maintained for Billingham Tennis Club when new gate technology is introduced.</p>	LTA / Club / SBC

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Tennis 4	Monitoring the increasing popularity of Padel, and investigate opportunities to deliver a Padel court if demand arises.	Most Padel courts are currently club based. The LTA are looking to explore the feasibility of Padel in park environments.	Monitor demand for Padel across Stockton-on-Tees and support the creation of a Padel court should demand arise.	
Football 1	Protect all football playing fields to ensure that the existing capacity is protected, unless proposal can be brought forward that meets policy requirements.	All playing fields. The PPOSS action plan will identify any disused sites and recommendations for their future use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep list in strategy document protecting sites up to date • Incorporate appropriate policy in Local Plan • Ensure PPOSS is taken into account when making decisions on playing fields 	SBC
Football 2	<p>Secure the future of the existing pitch stock through qualitative improvements. This should start with the promotion of immediate improvements to maintenance and ensure that maintenance is tailored to each ground and to the level of play that each pitch must accommodate.</p> <p>This should be driven through the use of the Football Foundation PitchPower tool by all clubs and pitch providers. Many clubs across the Borough have already engaged with this tool with positive results and funding received towards maintenance has already started to result in improvements.</p>	<p>SBC to engage with PitchPower tool and GMA.</p> <p>All clubs to engage with PitchPower.</p> <p>Sites where quality is a key concern (poor quality) include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egglecliffe Recreation Ground (disused due to poor quality, requires immediate investment) • Grangefield Centre • Grangefield Park • Harold Wilson Centre • High Grange • Littleboy Park • Rievaulx Stadium • Village Ground (former Cowpen Bewley CC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with clubs to promote use of the PitchPower tool and then subsequent access to maintenance improvement support, including the Football Foundation funding streams. • With maintenance equipment highlighted as a key priority across PitchPower assessments that have already been completed, explore opportunities to establish a machinery bank or alternative ways of meeting need • Proactively support clubs at multi-sport sites to tailor their maintenance to ensure that capacity and quality for both the on site summer and winter sports is maintained 	DFA/ NRFA /SBC

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Street Playing Field (Pitch Power Assessment completed) • Yarm Road • Primrose Hill. <p>Scenario modelling suggests that 17 additional MES will be gained just by converting poor pitches to standard quality.</p> <p>Scenario modelling suggests that the majority of capacity issues will be addressed by improving pitch quality at busy sites to good, with only a small amount of overplay remaining at Northfield Sportsdrome and Our Lady and St Bede. Many of the issues with capacity arise due to the need to sustain curricular and club use.</p> <p>The key sites where improvement (standard to good) is therefore priority are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conyers School • Elementis Recreation Ground • Robert Atkinson Centre • Northfield SportsDrome • Norton Sports Complex • Our Lady and St Bede • Bede College • Tibs • Wynyard C of E • Tall Trees. <p>Many clubs on the above sites have already engaged with the PitchPower programme and received funding.</p>		

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Football 3	<p>Invest in pitch quality improvements where Pitch Quality Assessments (See Football 2) suggest that this is required (following maintenance improvements) and where improvements are necessary to meet with league standards / needed to ensure that play can continue.</p> <p>This may include decompaction, aeration, drainage works and removal of weeds / improvement of grass coverage, which are currently the key issues identified in the Borough.</p>	<p>To be determined through implementation of Football 2.</p>	<p>Work in partnership FA / Provider / Users to identify detailed improvements required through use of PitchPower etc</p> <p>Provide support and guidance to providers / clubs in the submission of external funding bids</p> <p>Seek to direct S106 funding towards pitch quality improvements where facilities requiring investment are located within catchment of new development.</p>	DFA/ NRFA /SBC
Football 4	<p>Ensure that quality of 3G pitches is retained through regular inspections and completion of any works required for ongoing inclusion on FA3G Pitch Register</p>	<p>All 3G pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register at time of PPOSS assessment report. Sites where the registration will shortly be expiring are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northfield SportsDrome (20/12/22) • Stockton Town (31/5/23) <p>Any new 3G pitches should also be to required standards</p>	<p>Work with the two providers whose facilities will shortly expire to ensure that their pitches are retested and retained on the FA 3G Pitch Register.</p> <p>Work alongside 3G pitch providers to ensure that regular inspections are undertaken</p> <p>Ensure that all 3G pitches are tested regularly to retain inclusion on the FA 3G Pitch Register</p>	DFA/ NRFA

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Football 5	Support improvement to ancillary facilities to ensure all sites have a facility of adequate standard (toilets / electricity / running water / changing rooms / basic kitchen) where these are required. Priority is for all sites to have toilet facilities as a minimum requirement, with a focus on multi-pitch sites and those accommodating older youth and adult play to have dedicated changing facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Billingham Synthonia FC (youth teams site) • Elementis Recreation Ground • Grangefield Centre • Robert Atkinson Centre • Village Ground 	Provide support and guidance to clubs / Council in the submission of funding bids. This should include the identification of opportunities for funding.	DFA/ NRFA /SBC
Football 6	<p>Support clubs in the National League System to ensure that there are enough appropriate pitches meet club needs and that facilities meet Ground Grading Standards.</p> <p>Billingham Synthonia FC senior team (Step 6) are currently displaced out of the Borough.</p>	<p>Some sites require investment. Improvements to meet grading standards needed at;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Billingham Town FC – refurbishment of main stand (need dependent upon delivery of new football hub within Billingham) - Wolviston FC – drainage, floodlighting <p>Billingham Synthonia FC – closure of Central Avenue stadium means club located in Stokesley. Require relocation back to Stockton-on-Tees.</p> <p>Main option;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of new stadia 3G pitch at potential hub site – to meet with Ground Grading criteria and to provide home base for Billingham Synthonia FC (and potentially 	<p>Work alongside Billingham Synthonia FC to proactively identify solution for current displacement in line with suggested options.</p> <p>Support other clubs with access to funding where required</p> <p>Should development of a multi 3G pitch football hub be pursued in the Billingham area, explore opportunities for the site to incorporate the facility requirements of Billingham Synthonia FC (and potentially Billingham Town FC) as an option to meet the long-term Ground Grading requirements of National League System Clubs in the Town.</p>	DFA/ NRFA /SBC

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
		<p>Billingham Town FC as a shared facility).</p> <p>If this is not delivered, a new compliant facility will be required to accommodate Billingham Synthonia FC back within the Borough, specifically within Billingham.</p>		
Football 7	<p>Work alongside providers to ensure that community access to the existing stock of facilities is maintained and improved where opportunities are available (see Football 8). This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that sites with existing CUA / planning conditions meet their community use requirements; • timely negotiation of community use agreements / leases with schools and landowners where appropriate and possible. • Seeking to negotiate community usage of sites that are not currently available • Ensure that any new schools include community use agreements for playing fields. <p>Increased access to key community use venues will be a key means of maintaining appropriate levels of capacity.</p>	<p>Key School Sites that currently offer unsecured community use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teeside High School • St Patrick's College • Thornaby Academy <p>Opportunities to increase capacity (see below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egglecliffe School • All Saints Academy • Yarm School • Outwood Academy (only one pitch currently available to community due to quality) • New primary school has been secured at Wynyard Park – this should include CUA. Potential option for new secondary school at Wynyard too – any new school should include CUA of pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor existing CUA and work alongside clubs / schools to address issues where these arise • Engage with remaining key school sites to put in place long term community use agreements and ensure community access is maintained – whilst there are existing agreements, these are currently subject to change and very regularly reviewed. These facilities are essential to maintaining adequate capacity within the infrastructure. • Seek to negotiate community access agreements to remaining pitch sites to increase pitch stock • Ensure any new schools are developed with a CUA that includes access to playing fields 	DFA / NRFA / FF / SBC

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Football 8	<p>Increase capacity through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment into maintenance resulting in improved capacity (Football 2) Maximising use of existing 3G pitches for both match play and training New 3g pitches Securing use of additional school sites that are not currently available Redesignation of some adult pitch sites following improvement Longer term, additional provision may be required to accommodate demand 	<p>Qualitative improvements – key mechanism of addressing capacity issues. Football 2 identifies some pitches to be improved from poor, and several others to go from standard to good. Scenario modelling suggests almost all existing capacity issues will be addressed through this action.</p> <p>Maximising use of existing 3G pitches Scope to increase use;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sat PM – to support adult football – Northfield Sportsdrome, Bede Sports Centre Sun AM – Northfield Sportsdrome, North Shore Academy On all sites on Sunday PM – this may be a key resource for women’s football <p>New 3G pitches</p> <p>Key priorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x 3G AGP in South / South East (to address shortage of 3G AGPs and pressures on grass pitches). Possible options include Thornaby Academy or Teesside High School – linked with 	<p>As in Football 4 above, seek to improve football pitch quality to increase capacity. In most areas, pressures across the week are as significant as at peak time and therefore quality enhancements make significant inroads into this. DFA / NRFA /SBC to work with clubs / providers to tailor and improve maintenance.</p> <p>Work with clubs and providers to increase use of 3G AGPs for match play and training.</p> <p>Establish a task and finish group made up of members of the PPOSS steering group to explore and determine the appropriate approach to AGPs in the Borough. The end goal of this group should be to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify sites for 3 sand based AGPs for hockey – likely Norton Sports Complex, Eggescliffe School plus one other. Support the delivery of 2-3 new 3G AGPs for football. This should include the delivery of a sports hub in Billingham (or equivalent provision if circumstances prevent this project from coming forwards), as well as one other facility in the South of the Borough. The group should ensure that; 	<p>DFA / NRFA / FF / SBC</p>

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
		<p>secure use agreement for grass pitches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x 3G AGP hub site - former Billingham campus site adjacent Bede College, provides an opportunity to relocate Billingham Synthonia FC and Billingham Town FC. Is likely to relocate some users of facilities in the central and western area back to Billingham, freeing up capacity in the central area. <p>If one of the above options cannot be delivered, an alternative venue(s) should be explored.</p> <p>School sites – see football 7 for key actions.</p> <p>Consider options to deliver additional playing fields through planning process including future reviews of the Local Plan.</p>	<p>The group should ensure that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hockey clubs are able to access the facilities that they require and that there is scope for growth – priority access to sand based AGPs Full CUA are in place for sites designated for hockey / football usage prior to change of any surface on other pitches. <p>This group should consult with relevant schools and clubs in order to agree a final cross sport plan for AGPs in the Borough.</p> <p>Analysis of the location of 3G AGPs should this should include viability assessments and work with clubs to identify key partners.</p> <p>Secure access to identified school sites and seek to work with clubs to relocate teams onto these sites.</p> <p>Secure CUA on any new school sites</p>	
Football 9	Proactively provide appropriate facilities to support recreational football. To maximise the sustainability and use these spaces, as well as the benefits to the local community, this action should be delivered as part of a joined up approach with other sports. This	Recreational football is becoming increasingly important and is now a key priority of the FF and FA. Football, linked with other sports, provides an opportunity to get increasing numbers of people active as well as to maximise the usage of some	Identify appropriate sites and work alongside delivery partners to increase recreational football within the Borough. Proactively pursue opportunities to deliver recreational football (and other	DFA/ NRFA / SBC

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
	<p>should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive identification of sites • Exploration of opportunities to effectively introduce football activity – for example gate technology on MUGAs, organised informal activity in partnership with other governing bodies. 	<p>existing facilities that are underutilised.</p> <p>The PlayZone programme aims to tackle inequalities in access to physical activity by providing community led spaces and provides an opportunity to create spaces for football, linked with other sports.</p>	<p>sports), including potential development of PlayZones..</p>	
Athletics 1	<p>Seek to provide access to a track and field athletics facility within Stockton-on-Tees Borough</p>	<p>Refurbish track at Our Lady and St Bedes Academy or new location</p>	<p>Work with school to upgrade existing cinder track, which is well located to meet demand as well as to link with existing athletics club Stockton Striders.</p> <p>Or,</p> <p>identify a new location at which an athletics track can be delivered.</p> <p>The above should be considered in the context of proposals in Sedgefield for a community athletics facility, which if delivered will diminish demand in Stockton-on-Tees. Full viability modelling should be carried.</p>	<p>SBC / EA</p>

4.0 Impact of New Development

4.1 The NPPF advises that specific evidence of the need for provision should be provided alongside clarity of what provision is required. The most recent Sport England guidance and advice indicates that local authorities should develop and maintain a robust and up to date evidence base for sporting provision (this PPOSS provides a starting point for this) and use the evidence base to;

- Estimate the nature and level of needs that may be generated from new development(s) for sporting provision (this should be informed by the Playing Pitch Calculator); and
- Establish clear deliverable actions that have the potential to help meet the needs that will be generated from new development in the area.
- Based on the nature of the actions, the level of new development in an area, and the realistic ability to secure investment into sport through CIL or planning obligations, decide how best to use the CIL and planning obligations alongside one another to deliver sporting infrastructure and to support development.

4.2 The preparation of this Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Assessment has been informed by the use of population projections, which take into account the impact of new developments in the Borough and the strategy therefore seeks to provide the facilities that will be needed to meet the projected level of demand.

4.3 It should be ensured however that the impact of each new development is taken into account and the costs associated with this impact (and additional facility requirements) are considered.

Application of Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator

4.4 The Sport England Playing Pitch calculator (PPC) estimates the additional demand for pitches arising from specific or cumulative developments using Team Generation Rates (TGR) established at assessment stage. The PPC quantifies the number of Match Equivalent Sessions (MES) that will be generated in the peak period for each pitch type and converts that into a number of pitches. The costs associated with that pitch provision are also given. Using the PPOSS the Council can assess whether on site pitch provision is acceptable and sustainable or if improvements to existing pitches in the locality are required. The costs provided can help identify the likely financial contribution that would be required if pitches/improvements were to be provided off site.

- 4.5 The PPC can only be accurately used in areas where a PPOSS has been developed, and remains up to date, as it directly uses information from this document to provide an estimate of the demand that the additional population will produce. It considers;
- a) The likely number of people from the new population in each of the individual pitch sport age groups (Derived from the profile of the current population)
 - b) Using the number of teams identified in the PPOSS and the profile of the population (a), the likely number of teams that will be generated by the new development
 - c) The number of match equivalent sessions that will be generated by the new population and the subsequent demand in terms of pitches and changing rooms required. The pitch requirements are split into natural turf to support match play and artificial surfaces to support training.
- 4.6 The Playing Pitch Calculator does not take into account the current levels of unmet demand in the area. The resulting figures are therefore considered in the context of the strategic findings of the assessment to understand whether the existing facilities can accommodate the additional demand and any requirements for new and / or improved provision. The actions that should be taken to address any identified needs should therefore be guided by the findings of this PPOSS.
- 4.7 The calculator details the number of new pitches that that the new population generates demand for in the peak period for each sport. However, using the PPOSS the Steering Group will be able to assess whether;
- Existing pitches have sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional demand at the times required;
 - Improvements are needed to specific pitches to accommodate the additional demand from the housing located in that sub area, or;
 - New pitches are required.
- 4.8 As documented in this assessment, pitch provision in Stockton Borough requires improvement, but there are enough adult football pitches to meet demand and the key pressures are on 9v9 and youth pitches. There is a shortfall of capacity for both rugby and rugby league both now and in future years, and improvements required to the provision of other facilities to ensure that facility provision is able to meet current and projected future demand. . There is therefore a requirement to increase the capacity across the facility stock, and this can be done through a variety of mechanisms, including qualitative improvements to the existing infrastructure as well as new AGPs.

- 4.9 In some parts of the Borough, and in larger developments, new provision may be required as part of new development – particularly for 9v9 and youth football. This is particularly the case in the South of the Borough where there is limited spare capacity.
- 4.10 For illustrative purposes, Tables 10.1 – 10.4 summarise the findings of the application of the Playing Pitch Calculator for the largest housing allocations . It demonstrates impact of these developments and highlights the significant increase in demand that they will generate. While to some extent the developments will negate the impact of the ageing population as set out in the assessment report, it is clear that projected future demand cannot be accommodated without the improvements and new provision outlined in this strategy document.
- 4.11 The Playing Pitch calculator could be used to determine the impact of each specific new development. When producing future planning policy documents, the Council should work with Sport England to determine whether the process assesses the impact of individual sites, or if a price per dwelling is more appropriate to take into account the cumulative impact across all developments irrespective of size.
- 4.12 It should be noted that Tables 4.1 – 4.4 are illustrations only of the likely impact of development to inform decision making. Some permissions have already been granted in part and some developments, there is crossover with Hartlepool BC. The calculator represents the starting point only, and will be taken into account alongside development viability and other relevant considerations.

Table 4.1 – Impact of West Stockton Strategic Urban Extension (SUE)

West Stockton SUE – 4945 residents					
Sport	Pitch Equivalent	Capital Cost	Lifecycle cost	Changing Rooms (Number)	Changing Rooms (Capital Cost)
Adult Football	0.41	£40,248	£8,492	0.82	£138,855
Youth Football	1.06	£82,913	£17,412	1.02	£172,429
Mini Soccer	1.00	£24,388	£5,122	0.00	£0
Rugby Union	0.45	£62,310	£13,334	0.91	£153,550

Rugby League	0.05	£5,258	£1,162	0.09	£15,775
Cricket	0.34	£99,170	£20,032	0.69	£115,979
Sand Based AGPs	0.04	£35,425	£1,098	0.09	£14,725
3G AGPS	0.17	£162,207	£6,124	0.33	£56,243

Table 4.2 – Impact of Allens West Development (1943 people)

Allens West Development					
Sport	Pitch Equivalent	Capital Cost	Lifecycle cost	Changing Rooms (Number)	Changing Rooms (Capital Cost)
Adult Football	0.16	£15,814	£3,337	0.32	£54,560
Youth Football	0.42	£32,580	£6,842	0.40	£67,750
Mini Soccer	0.39	£9,582	£2,012	0.00	£0
Rugby Union	0.18	£24,484	£5,239	0.36	£60,334
Rugby League	0.02	£2,066	£457	0.04	£6,199
Cricket	0.13	£38,968	£7,871	0.27	£45,572
Sand Based AGPs	0.02	£13,919	£432	0.03	£5,786
3G AGPS	0.07	£63,735	£2,406	0.13	£22,099

Table 4.3 – Impact of Potential Housing Growth at Little Maltby Farm

Little Maltby Farm 2656 people					
Sport	Pitch Equivalent	Capital Cost	Lifecycle cost	Changing Rooms (Number)	Changing Rooms (Capital Cost)
Adult Football	0.22	£21,618	£4,561	0.44	£74,581
Youth Football	0.57	£44,533	£9,352	0.55	£92,613

Mini Soccer	0.53	£13,099	£2,751	0.00	£0
Rugby Union	0.24	£33,468	£7,162	0.49	£82,474
Rugby League	0.03	£2,824	£624	0.05	£8,473
Cricket	0.18	£53,265	£10,760	0.37	£62,293
Sand Based AGPs	0.02	£19,027	£590	0.05	£7,909
3G AGPS	0.09	£87,123	£3,289	0.18	£30,208

Table 4.4 – Impact of Potential Housing Growth at Wynyard Park

Wynyard Park – 2530 residents					
Sport	Pitch Equivalent	Capital Cost	Lifecycle cost	Changing Rooms (Number)	Changing Rooms (Capital Cost)
Adult Football	0.21	£20,591	£4,345	0.42	£71,039
Youth Football	0.54	£42,423	£8,909	0.52	£88,219
Mini Soccer	0.51	£12,478	£2,620	0.00	£0
Rugby Union	0.23	£31,879	£6,822	0.46	£78,560
Rugby League	0.02	£2,690	£595	0.05	£8,071
Cricket	0.18	£50,738	£10,249	0.35	£59,337
Sand Based AGPs	0.02	£18,124	£562	0.04	£7,533
3G AGPS	0.09	£82,990	£3,133	0.17	£28,776

4.13 Once the impact of a specific development is understood, this PPOSS should be used to determine whether the existing infrastructure is able to accommodate the impact of the new development or whether additional provision and / or contributions towards improvements to increase capacity are required. For most sports, and for most developments, contributions will be

required with a view to investing in quality to improve capacity. For the above larger developments, some on site provision focusing on youth 11v11 / 9v9 provision could be considered. West Stockton SUE in particular is likely to require on site playing fields.

4.14 As noted in the recommendations, CUA should be secured with any new schools.

4.15 The Playing Pitch Calculator can be used to determine the impact of a development of any size. This strategy proposes that this tool will be adapted and used to evaluate the impact of new development in Stockton-on-Tees. This tool should be used to determine the contributions required from each new housing development.

	Recommendation	Key Actions
General 1	Establish a group to review processes relating to contributions from new development and develop a tailored approach for using the PPC and obtaining contributions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop specific subgroup (to include Sport England) • Meet to understand calculator and opportunities available • Review and tailor existing approach • Integrate approach within planning policy
General 2	Seek to create an online platform using GIS to keep the PPS alive and ensure immediate access to PPS priorities and specific information for the local community and other key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upload site specific action plan (and any other relevant data) to online GIS system for publication

5.0 Action Plan, Implementation and Monitoring.

5.1 This section provides a summary of the key recommendations by sub area and a site by site action plan.

5.2 The site by site action plan builds on the general and sport specific recommendations and provides detail on the key priorities for each site. The site by site action plan is provided by sub area in this document. An excel version including site address etc will also be supplied to the Council so that this can be monitored and updated.

Summary of Priority Recommendations by Sub Area and Site Specific Actions

Table 5.1 – Central and Western Sub Area

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41.5 wickets required, 44 available to meet current demand – supply tightly matched with demand. • No spare capacity at peak time • Norton Sports Complex has slight overplay / played to level site can sustain. Very limited spare capacity at Stockton CC. All sites are good quality • Future demand not met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing facilities • Improve maintenance procedures to retain good quality provision • Provide NTP at both sites • Improve training facilities at both sites • Demand for additional pitch. Potential location – Norton Sports Complex
Rugby League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby league club currently based alongside Stockton RUFC • Club seeking long term home ground and require 2 – 3 pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure short term ongoing availability for rugby league club at Stockton RUFC • Support club in identifying long term venue (this could be linked with Stockton RUFC).
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grangefield Road / Stockton RUFC / Grosvenor Road are key sites for Stockton RUFC • Remainder of facilities meet curricular need only • Current overplay 9 MES including training. This will rise to 11 MES. Pitches adequate to meet demand for match play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing facilities • Improvements to quality at Grosvenor Road – investment into maintenance / drainage (to reach M2/D1) • Improvements to changing accommodation at Grosvenor Road • Floodlighting additional pitch to support Stockton RUFC

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
	<p>once improvements to Grosvenor Road are delivered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training all focused on limited floodlit provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term, potential new 3G AGP for rugby (demand to be reviewed following completion of other actions). In the short term, unmet demand for training to be met at Billingham 3G AGP
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norton Sports Complex is key site for hockey in Borough – functions as a hub as well as home base for club • Pitch good quality but some improvements to dug outs / changing facilities required • Site almost at capacity both midweek and at a weekend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing pitch and ongoing sinking fund to ensure timely replacement (estimated circa 10 years) • Provision of new changing accommodation adjacent to pitch and upgraded dugouts • Depending upon results of AGP working group, potential requirement for additional pitch longer term.
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ropner Park is key public site – scope to improve customer journey • Only club is located at Norton Sports Complex – the club has capacity for additional members but courts require resurfacing medium term • Access to tennis courts at two school sites, but poorly promoted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of all courts • Refurbishment of courts at Ropner Park, installation of LTA gate technology and engagement with LTA initiatives • Support schools with promotion of opportunities for community use • Resurface of courts at Norton Sports Complex.
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of the majority of bowls greens • Opportunity to improve green quality at all greens, although most are already good quality • Low membership numbers at Newham Grange and Stockton Bowls Ltd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing greens • Focus upon tailoring maintenance regimes to improve quality. Improve identified quality issues • Work with clubs to increase membership
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply very closely matched with demand and evidence of overplay on several sites • Good capacity for adult football (6.5 MES spare at peak time) • No spare capacity for youth football (-2.75 MES at peak time) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of all sites • Focus on improving quality - engagement with PitchPower on increased maintenance to enhance pitch quality on poor sites, but also at North Shore Academy / Norton Sports Complex, Our Lady and St Bede, where pitch quality should be improved to good

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
	<p>and almost no remaining capacity for 9v9 (1.5 MES at peak time)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited spare capacity for 7v7 (- 2 at peak time) and 5v5 (0.5 MES at peak time) • Future growth will see this position more tightly matched with demand • Quality of pitches impacts capacity at several sites. – Grangefield Centre, Grangefield Park, Primrose Hill, Yarm Road • Pressures on 3G AGPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure school sites offering current access remain secured • Provision of additional 3G AGP to benefit this area –to determined through AGP working group. Should proposals for a 3G be delivered in the north of the borough, this would meet the identified shortfalls in this area as teams currently using facilities in the central and western area will be relocated (as well as the new site being accessible from this part of the Borough).

5.3 Table 5.2 overleaf summarises the site by site action plan for the Central and Western Sub Area.

Table 5.2 – Action Plan for Central and Western Area

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football	Blue Hall Recreation Ground	Disused, previously contained 2 adult pitches	n/a	N/a	Retain as open space
Football	Darlington Back Lane	One adult football pitch, disused.	n/a		No evidence to suggest that site is currently required to meet demand. Any disposal should meet with National / Sport England policy.
Football	Darlington Road Recreation Field (long Newton)(Closed)	One adult football pitch, disused.			No evidence to suggest that site is currently required to meet demand. Retain as open space.
Tennis	David Lloyd Teesside	7 courts, 4 of which are floodlit	Good	Commercial facility available to health club members.	Protect
Bowls	Elm Tree Bowling Club	1 bowling green	93.33%	Club looking to increase membership which is low than average but sustainable.	Protect, seek to tailor maintenance regime to exact requirements of the green, proactively work to increase membership.
Football	Former Norton School Site	Disused	n/a		No evidence to suggest that site is currently required to meet demand. Any disposal should meet with National / Sport England policy.
Football	Grangefield Park	1 11v11 senior	Poor	Basic park site with no changing rooms. Some issues with antisocial behaviour, pitch of limited quality and suffers from misuse. No spare capacity.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to a minimum of standard through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool) and any further pitch improvements required following review of maintenance. Encourage club to access Billingham RUFC 3G AGP in the short term, with a view to the potential provision of a WR compliant 3G AGP in closer proximity to the club longer term.
Football	Green Gates Academy	1 11v11 senior, 1 11v11 junior	Standard	Standard pitch with adequate drainage. No community use at current time so a small amount of spare capacity available. Poor changing.	Protect, improve pitch quality through tailored maintenance programme (and capital investment where subsequently required) and seek to secure long term community use agreement
Football	HMP Holme House	1 senior 11v11	N/a		Protect for use by HMP
Tennis	Ian Ramsey Church Of	6 courts	Standard	Facility used for curricular purposes	Protect for curricular use

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Rugby Union	England Academy	1 grass rugby pitch	M0/D1	Basic playing field drainage average, used for curricular use only	Protect for curricular use
Football		1 11v11 senior, 2 11v11 junior, 1 9v9, 1 7v7	standard	Playing surface believed to be adequate with some drainage concerns. Area closest to the school of more limited quality as it is location of previous building. Lack of use by community teams means that pitches have capacity across the week and at peak time.	Protect, ensure that pitch quality is as a minimum retained through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool). Promote availability of site for community usage.
Bowls	Newham Grange Park	1 bowling green	83.33%	Maintenance challenges impact quality. Membership is low and requires increase if club is to be sustainable	Protect, seek to tailor maintenance regime to exact requirements of the green, proactively work to increase membership. Increase in numbers to support sustainability is a key priority at this site.
Football		2 disused adult football pitches, since reallocated as open space		Now allocated as open space	Retain as open space
Football	North Shore Academy	1 11v11 senior, 1 11v11 junior, 2 9v9	Low standard - poor	Important site for curricular and community use. Pitches used flexibly by club. Pitches showing evidence of heavy usage, signs of wear and tear and compaction. Grass coverage poor in places, appears that maintenance regime is inadequate to keep up with usage. Some overplay on junior pitches but small amount of spare capacity on remaining facilities.	Protect, ensure that pitch quality is as a minimum retained through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool). Ensure long term availability of community use
Football		3G AGP	Good	Busy 3G AGP with almost no spare capacity. Good quality	Protect, maximise use for match play as well as training. Ensure quality is retained and that regular testing takes place to retain position on FA 3G Pitch Register

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Tennis		3 courts	Standard to poor	Standard to poor, there are issues with moss and tarmac. The site is well located though school consultation suggests it is to be relocated. Limited promotion of opportunities to use the facilities.	Protect, resurface. Support provider with promotion of opportunities for community use
Bowls	Norton Bowling Club	1 bowling green	100%	Main issue is the lack of volunteers and access to funding. Good membership but capacity for growth	Protect, seek to tailor maintenance regime to exact requirements of the green, proactively work to increase membership.
Hockey	Norton Sports Complex	Sand Based AGP	Good	Important club base for Norton Hockey Club. Key site for hockey approaching capacity at peak times. Site also functions as hub site for some schools, as well as other hockey clubs for overspill. Almost no spare capacity.	Protect. Ensure sinking fund in place to enable replacement of surface at end of current lifespan (estimate ten years. Provide new pitch side changing rooms and dug outs.
Cricket		2 grass cricket squares	Good	No spare capacity at peak time, played to level site can sustain across the week. Requires improvement to outdoor training nets.	Protect, improve quality to good through enhanced maintenance (and subsequent capital investment if required). Improve training facilities and provide NTP. Potential venue for additional cricket pitch.
Tennis		3 courts, all floodlit	Standard	Standard facility, tarmac starting to lift and courts would benefit from updating. Strong potential penetration rate, capacity to increase club membership	Protect, resurface courts.
Football		3 11v11 senior, 1 11v11 junior, 1 9v9, 1 7v7, 1 5v5 and training area	High standard	Main pitch of high standard quality, dug outs, perimeter fencing. This pitch requires drainage works and is showing signs of heavy usage. Remainder of site suffering from	Protect, continue ongoing improvements to pitch quality to reach good level through tailored maintenance programme (through ongoing use of PitchPower tool) and any pitch improvement works subsequently required (drainage)

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
				worm casts. Grass coverage strong for usage that is experienced, this is supported by rotation policy. Majority of site is compacted (again reflecting heavy usage). Good gradient on most pitches with playing surfaces on the smaller sized pitches even. Very limited spare capacity and overplay on junior pitches.	
Football	Our Lady And St Bede Catholic Academy (Stockton Town Fc)	1 11v11 senior, 1 11v11 junior, 1 9v9, 2 7v7	Low Standard	Stockton Town FC pitch - barriered adult football pitch, clearly heavily used and compacted. Grass messy and possibly a little wet. Other pitches on school site must also accommodate curricular activity. Almost all pitches overplayed across the week and no spare capacity at peak time.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to good through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool) and any pitch improvement works subsequently required. Ensure that long term community use agreements remain in place.
Football	Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth	1 11v11 junior, 1 11 v11 junior, 1 9v9. Only one pitch available for use	Standard	Pitch marking undertaken by club. Flat pitches with basic maintenance programme, playing surface adequate. Overplay and no spare capacity at peak time. Scope to increase the pitches that are available for community use.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to good through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool) and any pitch improvement works subsequently required. Ensure that long term community use agreements remain in place.
Football	Primrose Hill	1 9v9	Poor	Uneven surface, messy goals . Facility of limited quality that suffers from dog fouling and litter. Overplayed.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to a minimum of standard through tailored maintenance programme (and any further pitch improvements required following review of maintenance)
Rugby Union	Red House School	1 grass rugby pitch	M1/D1	Dual function rugby / football pitch. Size slightly below RFU specifications	Protect for curricular use
Football		1 11v11, 1 9v9	Standard	Standard school site, reasonably flat, strong grass coverage and appears underplayed.	Protect for curricular use
Tennis		3	Good	Good facilities but no access for public	Protect for curricular use
Tennis	Ropner Park	3 courts	Standard	Strong public facility and standard courts, but markings starting to fade. Scope to improve quality and	Protect, refurbish courts and floodlight. Seek to install LTA software / gate technology to enhance customer journey. Ensure that new courts are

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
				customer journey. Strong potential penetration rate.	delivered alongside engagement with LTA participation initiatives .
Bowls		2 bowling greens	96.67%	Limited number of volunteers but strong membership spread across the two greens. Scope to increase participation	Protect, seek to tailor maintenance regime to exact requirements of the green, proactively work to increase membership.
Bowls	Stockton Bowls Club Ltd	1 bowling green	73.33%	Maintenance challenges impact club, as well as a lack of volunteers and decreasing membership. Significant scope to increase capacity.	Protect, seek to tailor maintenance regime to exact requirements of the green, proactively work to increase membership. Increase in numbers to support sustainability is a key priority at this site.
Cricket	Stockton Cricket Club	1 grass cricket square	Good	Some spare capacity available (16 MES across the season). No capacity at peak time. Some capacity for growth outside of adult game at peak time. Require new training wickets. Club also seeking new machinery.	Protect, improve quality to good through enhanced maintenance (and subsequent capital investment if required). Provide additional training nets to support playing numbers and NTP on square.
Rugby Union	Stockton Rugby Club / Cricket Club	2 mini rugby pitches	M2/D1	Good grass coverage, well used	Protect. Explore whether it is possible to increase use by Mini teams from Stockton RFC. Prevent from overplay to ensure that the site is not compromised for cricket use
Football	Stockton Sixth Form College	3G AGP	Good	Pitch certificate expires shortly and requires retesting. Busy site that is key in meeting the needs of the clubs.	Protect, maximise use for match play as well as training. Ensure quality is retained and that regular testing takes place to retain position on FA 3G Pitch Register - this is a priority for this site as certificate is due to expire
Bowls	Stockton West End Bowls Club	1 bowling green	100%	Car Parking is club's key priority. Participation very high (205). Limited scope for growth.	Protect, seek to tailor maintenance regime to exact requirements of the green, proactively work to increase membership.
Football	The Glebe Primary	7v7		Curricular use only	Protect for curricular use

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football	The Grangefield Academy	1 11v11 junior	standard	Grass coverage good (benefits from no community use). Basic maintenance programme (other pitches on site enhanced by Stockton Rugby Club). Scope to increase activity.	Protect, ensure that pitch quality is as a minimum retained through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool). Ensure long term availability of community use
Tennis		2 courts	Standard to good	Courts of a good quality, scope to provide additional but school have only 2 net sets. Limited promotion of community use.	Protect for curricular use. Support school in obtaining additional nets if required and encourage promotion of community use.
Rugby Union		3 senior rugby pitches	M2/D1	Strong maintenance programme supplemented by Stockton RUFC. Heavily played but improved recently due to investment in drainage, but further drainage required. Almost no spare capacity when taking into account match play and curricular use, and significant overplay once requirements for training are also considered. Only one pitch is floodlit, which means that all training must take place on this pitch - this causes significant wear and tear.	Protect, retain strong maintenance procedures. Add floodlighting to at least one additional pitch to spread training demand. Encourage club to access Billingham RUFC 3G AGP in the short term, with a view to the potential provision of a WR compliant 3G AGP in closer proximity to the club longer term.
Football	The Grangefield Centre	2 11v11 senior	Poor	Suffers from poor drainage - boggy at time of site visit. Changing facility also very poor. Maintenance programme basic, site mainly used in summer months for pre season friendlies. Some spare capacity. Requires improvement if it is to be regularly used.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to a minimum of standard through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool) and any further pitch improvements required following review of maintenance. Improve changing facilities
Rugby Union	The Grangefield Community Centre (Grosvenor Road Playing Fields)	1 rugby union pitch	M1/D0	Grass coverage poor and requires further drainage works. Changing provision unusable. Small amount of overplay occurs due to the restricted capacity of the pitches which arises due to their poor (but improving) condition	Protect. Invest into pitch improvement works - installation of drainage works as well as ongoing enhanced maintenance. Seek to achieve a rating of M2/D1 to ensure that capacity requirements are met. Refurbish changing facilities in the short term.
Football	Tilery Site	Disused. Previously contained 3	N/a	Pitches previously provided but taken out of use due to vandalism and community safety concerns.	Retain as open space. Potential requirement to reinstate pitches if demand increases. In this instance, qualitative improvements likely required.

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
		senior football pitches but poor quality.			
Football	West Street Playing Field (Stillington)	1 11v11	Poor	Line markings burnt on. Pitch demonstrating thatching and is badly waterlogged. Goals are loose but not dangerous. Grass coverage also limited.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to a minimum of standard through tailored maintenance programme (based on existing PitchPower assessment and any further pitch improvements required following ongoing review of maintenance).
Football	Yarm Recreational Ground (Yarm Road)	11v11 senior	Poor	Undulating recreation space. Small amount of spare capacity both at peak time and across the week.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to a minimum of standard through tailored maintenance programme (and any further pitch improvements required following review of maintenance).

North Sub Area

5.4 Table 5.3 provides a summary of the breakdown of provision in the North Sub Area. Detailed site specific actions are provided in Table 5.4.

Table 5.3 – North Summary

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across the season, supply just above demand – 23 wickets required, 30 MES provided • No remaining capacity at Billingham Synthonia CC. Some spare capacity for additional play at Wolviston CC. Both sites are good quality • No peak time capacity • Some limited scope for growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing facilities • Improve maintenance procedures to retain good quality provision, subsequent capital investment may then be required • Provide NTP at both sites • Longer term, additional provision may be required to support needs of clubs.
Rugby League	No existing club and no demand evident	N/a
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At club base, Pitch 2 and 3 are slightly overplayed (-1 and -0.5 MES respectively). Pitch 4 has slim additional capacity (0.5 MES). 3G AGP is important in meeting demand for both match play and training. • Benefits from the presence of AGP Improvements to ancillary facilities also required. Future position will see capacity pressures equating to 3.5 MES • Site capacity influenced by restricted maintenance procedures • Improvement to ancillary facilities required • School sites used for curricular use only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing facilities • Improvements to maintenance procedures (m2/d1 required) • Improvements to ancillary accommodation
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No existing sand based AGPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No identified demand for hockey

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Whitehead Park is key public site – it is a club base as well as public pay and play. Scope to increase use and improve customer journey. • Northfield Sportsdrome is only other facility – courts poorly promoted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of all courts • Refurbishment of courts at John Whitehead Park installation of LTA gate technology and engagement with LTA initiatives. Ensure balance between pay and play and club use • Support school with promotion of opportunities for community use
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All greens functioning and with capacity for growth • Opportunity to improve green quality • Opportunity to increase role of floodlit green at John Whitehead Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing greens • Focus upon tailoring maintenance regimes to improve green quality • Promote development initiatives to increase participation
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply closely matched with demand and evidence of overplay on several sites • Although there is spare capacity for adult football (4.75 at peak time), this is offset by inadequate capacity for youth football (-4 MES) across the week • No spare capacity for 9v9 (-0.5 MES) • Provision at peak time constrained for 7v7 and 5v5 football • Scope to increase quality of pitches significantly • Concentration of overplay at key club bases • Billingham Synthonia displaced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of all sites • Provision of 3G AGP –Preferred option through development of a football hub to service the North area and Central and West area. • Focus on increased maintenance to enhance pitch quality particularly Village Ground, Rievaulx Avenue, and sites that require investment to bring them up to good – Bede College, Northfield Sportsdrome • New ground for Billingham Synthonia FC (potentially linked with 3G AGP requirement, which may also provide a ground for Billingham Town FC) • Ancillary provision at Billingham Synthonia Youth • New pitch provision through new school at Wynyard

Table 5.4 – Site Specific Actions in North

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football		3G AGP	Good	Busy site with almost no remaining capacity	Protect, maximise use for match play as well as training. Ensure quality is retained and that regular testing takes place to retain position on FA 3G Pitch Register
Football	Bede Sports Centre (Stockton Riverside College)	1 11v11 senior, 1 11v11 junior, 1 9v9, 1 7v7, 1 5v5	Standard (high)	Overplay on junior and 9v9 pitches, no remaining spare capacity at peak time.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to good through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool) and any pitch improvement works subsequently required. Ensure that long term community use agreements remain in place.
Rugby Union		2 senior rugby pitches, one mini rugby pitch	M0/D1	Changing facilities available but tired and old, planning permission granted on improvement works which will take a phased approach. Grass pitches overplayed and only limited spare capacity on fourth pitch. Capacity limited by maintenance procedures. Provision at the site able to accommodate demand at peak times.	Protect, improvements to maintenance programme to at least M2/D1. Extension and refurbishment of ancillary facilities
Rugby Union	Billingham Rugby Club	3G WR Compliant AGP	Good	Floodlit pitch heavily used for training and match play for Billingham RUFC as well as other rugby clubs. Scope to accommodate additional activity in particular midweek. Marked for rugby. Important facility for Billingham RUFC	Protect, ensure pitch continues to meet WR Reg 22 and FA 3G Pitch Register compliance requirements through regular maintenance and testing. Seek to increase use of pitch.
Bowls	Billingham Synthonia Bowls Club	1 bowling green	90%	Maintenance succession planning is an issue, there is lack of car parking and changing facilities, limited awareness of green. Strong membership base but capacity for growth.	Protect, seek to tailor maintenance regime to exact requirements of the green, proactively work to increase membership.
Cricket	Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club	1 grass cricket square	Good	Square at capacity and no remaining availability at peak time. Insufficient capacity to meet future demand. Good quality, but scope to level outfield. Requires improved training facilities.	Protect, improve quality to good through enhanced maintenance (and subsequent capital investment if required for outfield). Provide NTP
Football	Billingham Synthonia Sports Ground	2 11v11 junior, 1 9v9, 1 7v7, 1 5v5	Standard	Well maintained, but some slight undulations on pitches. Drainage adequate but ground is compacted potentially as a result of heavy usage. Pitches very tightly packed on site (possibly insufficient run offs if pitches are all used at the same time), spare capacity across the week but almost no capacity remaining at peak time.	Protect, ensure that pitch quality is as a minimum retained through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool). Provide new changing / toilet accommodation. Club have recently submitted an application to GPMF

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football	Billingham Town Football Club (Bedford Terrace)	1 11v11 senior	Standard	Playing field with covered stand and barriered pitch with advertising. Flat with good grass coverage. Pitch suffers from drainage and waterlogging. Element of compaction. Stand requires refurbishment. NLS pitch with small amount of capacity at peak time and across the week.	Important facility for NLS team. Protect. Depending upon final decisions on location of 3G AGP, team may potentially relocate to new pitch. If this does not occur, refurbish stand at Bedford Terrace. Ensure that pitch quality is as a minimum retained through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool) and carry out any improvements required to meet ground grading rules.
Football	Central Avenue Stadium	Closed 2013. Formerly contained senior pitch for NLS side as well as cinder athletics track. Now subject to proposal for non-sporting development.	n/a	Club now displaced following closure and strategy seeks to identify new site.	Site not required to meet demand if new facility is provided for club, any disposal should meet with National / Sport England policy.
Football / Rugby	Former Billingham Campus Site	Disused site previously contained 2 rugby union and 2 football pitches.	n/a	Playing field site closed in 2013.	Protect and seek to reinstate as functional sports facility. Potential site for new 3G AGP (hub)
Football	High Grange	2 11v11 senior	One standard (low), one poor	Playing field with car park pavilion and two pitches in residential area. Pitch 1 long grass, weeds, skids, thatch, compaction and waterlogging. Pitch 2 further from pavilion is better, but grass still long, with some compaction. Site has benefitted from pitch improvement works in recent years and is improving.	Protect, ensure that pitch quality is as a minimum retained through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool).
Tennis	John Whitehead Park	4 courts	Good	Good public facility but has suffered from vandalism, courts now locked as a result. Used by club as well as public pay and play facility, scope to improve club membership, but this will need to be balanced with role as public pay and play facility. Opportunity to improve customer journey and facility quality.	Protect, refurbish courts and floodlight. Seek to install LTA software / gate technology to enhance customer journey. Ensure that new courts are delivered alongside engagement with LTA participation initiatives and work with club to ensure that appropriate access is

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
					maintained as pay as you go usage increases.
Bowls		2 bowling greens	90%	One green floodlit providing year round bowling. Lack of volunteers, succession planning and understanding how to maintain the artificial green are key concerns. Scope to increase membership, particularly as one green is floodlit.	Protect, seek to tailor maintenance regime to exact requirements of the green, proactively work to increase membership. Increase in numbers to support sustainability is a key priority at this site.
Football	Low Grange	Former single adult football pitch of poor quality	N/a	Now allocated as open space.	Retain as open space
Football	Metcalfe Park	2 11v11 senior	Standard	Pitches well maintained but suffer from poor drainage and compaction. Drainage on main pitch particularly poor and club struggle to address drainage issues during winter months. Club also highlight car parking issues and dangerous entry / exit points. Changing rooms but not recently refurbished. 5v5 and 7v7 are played across youth pitch (overmarked). Floodlighting required to meet ground grading requirements if team was to be promoted. Small amount of spare capacity for club to increase activity.	Protect. Important facility for NLS team. As a minimum retain quality through tailored maintenance programme (engage with PitchPower tool). Carry out any improvements necessary to meet ground grading requirements - drainage and floodlighting currently required.
Rugby Union		1 grass rugby pitch	M0/D1	Pitch used for curricular use only	Protect for curricular use
Tennis	Northfield Sportsdrome	4 courts, all floodlit	Excellent – but no equipment	AGP surface, courts considered to be good	Protect, support provider with promotion of community use.

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football		3 senior 11v11, 1 11v11 junior, 2 9v9	Low standard	Pitch quality standard although maintenance regime is limited to grass cutting. Pitches showing signs of wear and tear and quality edging towards poor (grass coverage, bare patches, towards poor for time of year)	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to good through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool) and any pitch improvement works subsequently required. Ensure that long term community use agreements remain in place.
Football		3G AGP		Busy 3G AGP with almost no spare capacity. Good quality	Protect, maximise use for match play as well as training. Ensure quality is retained and that regular testing takes place to retain position on FA 3G Pitch Register
Football	Port Clarence / Bendy Rec	Disused site previously contained youth pitch.		Site now allocated as open space.	Retain as open space
Football	Rievaulx Avenue	2 11v11 senior	Poor (second pitch could be classified as low standard)	Pitch nearer pavilion has one goal which is messy and waterlogged. Grass surface weedy, thatched, undulating and compacted. Lots of worm casts. Dog fouling highlighted as key issue by clubs. Small amount of spare capacity but requires improvement.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to a minimum of standard through tailored maintenance programme (and any further pitch improvements required following review of maintenance)
Football	St. Michael's Catholic Academy	11v11 adult, 11 v11 youth, 1 9v9	Poor	Site suffers from poor drainage which impacts surface quality. Often contain standing water - pitches were formerly marshland. No community use.	Protect for curricular use
Football	Village Ground (Former Cowpen Bewley Cricket Club)	3 5v5, 2 7v7, 1 9v9	poor	Site suffers from significant drainage issues. Car parking at St Michael's Academy used as lack of parking at the village ground. Small amount of overplay on 9v9 pitch, changing accommodation requires replacement	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to a minimum of standard through tailored maintenance programme (and any further pitch improvements required following review of maintenance). Changing facilities also require investment
Football	Wolviston Community Centre	1 5v5	Standard	Scope to increase size of pitch (potentially to 9v9 maximum). Playing field belonging to community centre, used for general football recreation also. Some spare capacity	Protect, ensure that pitch quality is as a minimum retained through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool).
Cricket	Wolviston Cricket Club	1 grass cricket square	Good	Capacity for 36 additional matches, no spare capacity at peak time. Outfield slightly uneven	Protect, improve quality to good through enhanced maintenance (and subsequent capital investment if required). Provide NTP
Football	Wynyard Church Of England	1 9v9		Busy site, 7 v7 / 5v5 appears to be played over the 9v9 pitch. Overplay evident	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to good through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool). Ensure long term availability to the local community.

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
	Primary School				

5.5 Table 5.5 summarises the key recommendations in the South Sub Area, whilst Table 5.6 provides site specific actions and recommendations.

Table 5.5 – South Sub Area

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 MES required and 29 provided. There is some spare capacity at most sites • No spare capacity at peak time and one team displaced into neighbouring authority • Spare capacity at both Yarm CC and Preston on Tees CC, opportunity to improve capacity at Preston on Tees CC through qualitative improvements • Supply already insufficient as team is displaced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of all existing sites • Improve quality of facility at Preston on Tees CC through enhanced maintenance in the first instance to bring site up to good level • Improve maintenance procedures at other sites to retain good quality provision, subsequent capital investment may then be required • Provide NTP at all sites • Secure community use of pitch at Yarm School via CUA • Provide training facilities for Preston -on-Tees CC • Support Yarm CC in improvement to pavilion
Rugby League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarm Wolves RLFC require home base – no dedicated rugby league pitches in the Borough. Club require two – three pitches overall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify an appropriate site for club to function as long term home base.
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant overplay at Yarm RUFC – competitive activity only equates to 2 MES overplay. When taking into account training this increases to 4 MES. Some club training activity displaced off site due to lack of pitch capacity. Require access to 2-3 pitches to meet current demand, and an additional 1 – 2 to meet future demand • Club also require improvement to changing accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing sites • Secure short and long term venue for Yarm RUFC – Yarm School new pitches are key priority, as a CUA was required through the planning permission for this site • Improve ancillary facilities for club (exact requirements depend upon solution for new pitches)

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing sand based AGP at Yarm School is not available for community use Pitch is of good standard and is important for curricular hockey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing site Depending upon the results of the AGP T&F group, seek to secure community use at Yarm School for hockey
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No parks sites which increases importance of school bases Limited promotion of opportunities available and some poor facilities Excellent facilities at Yarm Tennis Club and scope to increase club membership. Issues with quality of clubhouse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of all courts Upgrade to clubhouse at Yarm TC Support schools with promotion of opportunities for community use – in particular Teesside High School, Conyers School / Egglescliffe School. Qualitative improvements required first.
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No greens in this part of the Borough at time of assessment (new green since delivered) No identified demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clear requirement for any further greens Monitor demand
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply very tightly balanced No spare capacity on adult pitches and overplay on youth pitches (-2.5) Supply also inadequate on 9v9 pitches (-2 MES) at peak time Provision at peak time constrained for 7v7 and 5v5 More limited provision than in other areas, but Conyers School and Elementis Recreational Ground in particular are busy sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of all sites. Improvements to pitch quality and capacity through enhanced / tailored maintenance procedures – particular priorities include Conyers School, Tall Trees and Elementis (improvement to good) Potential location for 3G AGP (depending on results of AGP working group) Secure community access to Teesside High School

Table 5.6 – Site Specific Recommendations – South Sub Area

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Rugby Union	Conyers School	1 grass rugby pitch	M1/D1	School pitch of adequate quality, used for curricular use only	Protect for curricular use
Tennis		4 courts	Poor	Not in use, would need resurfacing if to be used for tennis	Protect, improve court quality. Following improvements, seek to secure access and promote opportunities for community use.
Football		1 senior 2 11v11 junior, 1 9v9, 2 7v7	Standard (low)	Heavily used pitches which are flat but slightly uneven and demonstrating bare patches. Pitches hold water during inclement weather. Overplay during the week and no spare capacity at peak time. Important community venue, pitches accommodate curricular and community use.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to good through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool). Work alongside school to ensure long term security of tenure.
Football		3G AGP	Good	Busy 3G AGP with almost no spare capacity. Good quality	Protect, maximise use for match play as well as training. Ensure quality is retained and that regular testing takes place to retain position on FA 3G Pitch Register
Football	Eaglescliffe Recreation Ground (Durham Lane)	1 9v9	Poor	Drains have collapsed on this site. Waiting for pitches to be improved as part of new development (anticipated to be drainage and pitch surfaces). This is usually used by Leven FC. The proposed improvements will enable the club to increase the existing pitches from 1 -2.	Protect, improve site quality through pitch improvement works to a minimum of standard quality, enabling the provision of two pitches.
Hockey	Egglecliffe School / Allens Way Grass Pitches	Sand Based AGP	Good	Important club based for Stockton Hockey Club. Key site for hockey approaching capacity at peak times. Some spare capacity during the week. Some improvements to ancillary facilities required.	Protect. Ensure sinking fund in place to enable replacement of surface at end of current lifespan (estimate ten years). Improve changing rooms and toilets.
Tennis		5 courts	Considered poor	Poor facilities that are currently disused	Protect, improve court quality.
Rugby Union		2 senior rugby union pitches	M0/D1	Pitches functional but now used for curricular use only. Previously accommodated club activity	Protect for curricular use
Football		2 11v11 junior	Standard (low)	Large flat site, but poorly drained and playing surface is of limited quality. Site offers good potential for community use but no use currently available.	Protect for curricular use, seek to secure long term community access agreement.
Football	Elementis Recreational Ground	1 11v11 senior, 1 11v11 junior, 1 9v9, 1 5v5	Low standard to poor	Some heavy undulations across the site, pitch surfaces have benefitted from improved maintenance procedures / funding however are now clearly suffering from heavy usage. Limited quality but functional. Tidy but concerns over surface drainage and weeds on surface. Small amount of overplay and no spare capacity at peak time.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to good through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool) and any pitch improvement works subsequently required. Invest in changing / toilet accommodation.

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football	Hmp Kirklevington Grange	1 senior 11v11	n/a		Protect for use by HMP
Football	Junction Farm Primary	7v7		Curricular use only	Protect for curricular use
Football	Myton Park Primary School	9v9 youth		Curricular use only	Protect for curricular use
Football	St Mary'S Church Of England Primary School	7v7		Curricular use only	Protect for curricular use
Rugby Union		1 grass rugby pitch	M1/D1	Average quality playing surface, curricular use only	Protect for curricular use
Football	Teesside High School	1 11v11 senior, 1 11v11 junior	Standard	Basic school site with limited internal maintenance programme. Reasonably flat, standard quality surface. Spare capacity but unsecured for use.	Protect, improve pitch quality through tailored maintenance programme (and capital investment where subsequently required) and seek to secure long term community use agreement
Tennis	Teesside High School	2 courts	Standard	Limited promotion / information on booking.	Protect, improve promotion of community use.
Football	Westlands Academy	1 11v11 youth	Poor	Quality of pitch poor due to location of pitch on marshland - suffers from waterlogging and poor drainage. Pitch is not currently marked out and maintenance is infrequent (grass cutting only).	Protect for curricular use
Cricket	Yarm Cricket Club	1 grass cricket square	Good	Able to accommodate circa 20 MES across the week, but one team displaced at peak time. Pavilion requires extension	Protect, seek advice on maintenance to ensure good quality is retained. Support extension to pavilion and work with club to identify appropriate facility for team that is currently displaced. Provide NTP

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Cricket	Preston On Tees Cricket Club / Yarm Rugby Club	1 grass cricket square	Standard	Small amount of spare capacity (15 MES), but not available at peak time. Scope to improve quality through levelling and enhanced maintenance. Some drainage issues and lack of training facilities	Protect, improve quality to good through enhanced maintenance (and subsequent capital investment if required to address issues with drainage / levelling). Provide training facilities and NTP
Rugby Union		1 rugby union pitch, training area.	M0/D1	Pitch heavily used, floodlit training area demonstrating significant wear and tear. Compacted and slightly undulating. Site demonstrates significant overplay and club are forced to travel off site for training due to lack of capacity. Access to three to four pitches required to future proof the club.	Protect, in the short term, work with Yarm RUFC to secure access to appropriate facilities to meet club needs. Work alongside Yarm RUFC to secure long term access to Yarm School. The planning permission for the new pitches includes a CUA. Existing pavilion requires internal refurbishment. Additional works necessary will depend upon where the existing unmet demand will be met.
Hockey	Yarm School	Sand Based AGP	Good	Pitch good condition but not available for community use. Used regularly for curricular activity	Protect. Seek to secure community use to facility.
Tennis	Yarm School	3 courts	Good	AGP accommodates 9 additional tennis courts in summer months (floodlit). Not listed for hire	Protect for curricular use
Rugby Union	Yarm School (Aislaby Road Pitches)	1 senior rugby pitch	M1/D1	Pitch used for curricular use only	Protect for curricular use
Football		1 11v11 youth	low standard	Limited use by school as lower quality, no running water or toilets. Subject to flooding	Protect for curricular use. Seek to improve pitch quality and secure community access
Rugby Union	Yarm School (Green Lane Pitches)	4 senior rugby (or 2 senior rugby and 3 small)	M1/D1	Pitches in good condition but used for curricular use only	Protect. Secure use of new pitches for use by Yarm RUFC once delivered. Permission was approved with an attached CUA.
Football		2 11v11, 4 junior 11v11	Good	Good grass coverage and even pitches. Several football pitches provided.	Protect for curricular use. New pitches soon to be provided at Yarm School with a CUA attached. These should be used to meet identified demand from the community.
Cricket		1 grass cricket square	Good	Not available for community use, school use only. Potential opportunity to increase facilities that are available to the community. Pitch is standard to good but must also accommodate curricular activity.	Protect for curricular use. Seek to secure community use of facility.

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football	Yarm Sports Pavilion (Tall Trees)	1 9v9, 1 5v5	Low standard	Field slightly messy and muddy, potentially exhibiting signs of heavy usage. New facilities recently provided as part of new development - potentially still bedding in and needs to be used with caution for this reason. Small amount of overplay across the week and at peak time.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to good through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool). Ensure long term availability to the local community.
Tennis	Yarm Tennis Club	9 courts, 6 of which are floodlit	Excellent	Excellent facilities, 3 courts recently resurfaced. Court quality good but clubhouse requires improvement. Scope to increase club membership.	Protect, investment into clubhouse improvements.

5.6 Table 5.7 summarises the key recommendations in the South East Sub Area, whilst Table 5.8 provides site specific actions and recommendations.

Table 5.5 – South East Sub Area

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 MES required and 35 provided. • Little scope for growth • Spare capacity at Stafford Place at peak time (0.5 MES) but use of this by a senior team would create overplay on the square • Overplay at Maltby CC, some spare capacity at Thornaby CC and Stafford Place CC. • Scope to improve capacity of both Stafford Place and Maltby CC – both currently rated as standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of all existing sites • Improve quality of facilities at Maltby CC and Stafford Place through enhanced maintenance in the first instance to bring sites up to good level • Improve maintenance procedures at other sites to retain good quality provision, subsequent capital investment may then be required • Provide NTP at all sites • Improve / enhance training facilities at all sites • Upgrade pavilion at Maltby CC and Thornaby CC
Rugby League	No existing club base. No evidence of demand	No existing club base. No evidence of demand
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No existing club base 	N/a
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One sand based AGP at Thornaby Academy • Pitch requires resurfacing in the short term • No existing hockey usage and closed at weekends • Site has previously played an important role in meeting demand for hockey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider requirements for hockey as part of creation of AGP strategy for football, hockey and rugby. • Review of future role of sand based AGP required as part of Task and Finish Group. Will require resurface if needed to meet long term demand for hockey
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littleboy Park is key public site – courts currently unusable due to quality • Courts at school sites also poor quality – require improvement to ensure that they are usable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of all courts • Refurbishment of courts at Littleboy Park, installation of floodlights, LTA gate technology and engagement with LTA initiatives

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support schools with qualitative improvements and then secure and promote opportunities for community use
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both greens functioning but with scope to increase membership Opportunity to improve green quality at both sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing greens Focus upon tailoring maintenance regimes and subsequently address any identified quality issues Work to proactively improve membership
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply very tightly balanced Almost no spare capacity on adult pitches and overplay on youth pitches (-1.5) No spare capacity on 9v9 Provision at peak time constrained for 7v7 and 5v5 Some poor quality sites impact capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of all sites. Improvements to pitch quality and capacity through enhanced / tailored maintenance procedures – particular priorities Littleboy Park and Harold Wilson Centre, as well as Robert Atkinson Centre Secure access to Thornaby Academy and All Saints Academy Potential location for 3G AGP (depending on results of AGP T&F working group)

Table 5.8 – Site Specific Recommendations – South East Sub Area

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football	All Saints Academy	1 11v11 senior, 1 11v11 junior	Standard	Flat pitches, drainage and playing surface standard. Basic school site not marked at time of visit. Spare capacity and scope to increase the level of play.	
Tennis		courts currently unusable	Poor	Courts currently poor. Refurbishment is a key priority for the school.	Protect, improve court quality. Following improvements, seek to secure access and promote opportunities for community use.
Football	Harold Wilson Centre	3 11v11 senior	Poor	One full sized barriered pitch is floodlit and has weeds, wormcasts and an uneven and messy surface. Clearly suffers from heavy usage. Remaining two pitches not floodlit but poor surface, messy goals and compacted. Some standing water. Pitches require improvement - no spare capacity at current time.	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to a minimum of standard through tailored maintenance programme (using PitchPower tool) and any further pitch improvements required following review of maintenance
Tennis	Ingleby Manor Free School And Sixth Form	3 courts	Standard	Facility used for curricular purposes	Protect for curricular use
Tennis	Littleboy Park	5 courts (but disused)	Poor (disused)	Currently disused (5 courts on site if usable). High potential penetration rate. Well located in area that is otherwise lacking in facilities.	Protect, refurbish courts and floodlight. Seek to install LTA software / gate technology to enhance customer journey. Ensure that new courts are delivered alongside engagement with LTA participation initiatives.
Football		11v11 junior	Poor	Uneven, compacted and messy goals, weeds in grass sward. Suffers from waterlogging. Small amount of spare capacity	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to a minimum of standard through tailored maintenance programme (and any further pitch improvements required following review of maintenance)

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Bowls		1 bowling green	90%	Maintenance issues for pathways and the green, attracting members is a key issue. Membership average with scope to increase this.	Protect, seek to tailor maintenance regime to exact requirements of the green, proactively work to increase membership.
Cricket	Maltby Cricket Club	1 grass cricket square	Standard	Site overplayed (25 MES), opportunity to improve quality of playing area. Club also requires improved training nets.	Protect, improve quality to good through enhanced maintenance (and subsequent capital investment if required), replace poor practice nets and update existing poor changing rooms.
Football	Robert Atkinson Centre	2 11v11 junior, 1 7v7, 1 5v5	Low Standard	Basic site which is maintained by club, club raise issues around antisocial behaviour and dog fouling. Pitches appear reasonably flat and serviced by a portacabin as well as on site changing accommodation. Overmarking of pitches - 9v9 overmarked on 11v11. 7v7 / 5v5 appear to be played to the same	Protect, seek to improve pitch quality to good through tailored maintenance programme (using Pitch Power tool). Improve existing changing accommodation.
Football	St Patricks Catholic College / Thornaby	1 11v11, 2 11v11 junior, 1 9v9 and 1 7v7	Low standard	Grass coverage patchy in places and surface uneven in parts. Some drainage issues. Pitches appear heavily used and are of limited quality. Small amount of spare capacity both across the week and at peak time	Protect, improve pitch quality through tailored maintenance programme (and capital investment where subsequently required) and seek to secure long term community use agreement
Cricket	Stafford Place Cricket Club	1 grass cricket square	Standard	10 MES available, spare capacity of 0.5 at peak time. Quality of facility requires improvement, pavilion and clubhouse would also benefit from investment. Requires training nets.	Protect, improve quality to good through enhanced maintenance (and subsequent capital investment if required), update changing facilities and provide training facilities.
Football	Teesdale Park	1 11v11 senior, 2 disused training pitches	Good (high standard)	Single pitch in stadium site, barriered with seating dug outs and extensive function room and other entertaining areas. Strong maintenance programme, some uneven patches but otherwise site appears good.	Protect, important facility for NLS team. Retain existing quality through engagement with FA PitchPower tool. Carry out any pitch /facility improvement works necessary to meet ground grading requirements.

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football	The Village Primary School	7v7		Curricular use only	Protect for curricular use
Hockey	Thornaby Academy	Sand Based AGP	Standard to Poor	Declining quality means pitch requires refurbishment in the short term. No hockey use at the time of the PPOSS but some use for football. Pitch not available at a weekend, some spare capacity during the week.	Protect. Requires investment into pitch surface. Requirement for resurfacing to be considered as part of development of AGP strategy by task and finish group. Facility to be protected as a minimum until there are three sand based pitches in the Borough secured for community use for hockey.
Football		1 11v11 senior	Standard	Standard quality pitches with limited maintenance regime. Grass coverage appeared good, potentially benefitting from underuse. Part of playing field is subject to flooding, but this is away from the area currently marked out as pitches.	Protect, improve pitch quality through tailored maintenance programme (and capital investment where subsequently required) and seek to secure long term community use agreement. Potential location for 3G AGP.
Tennis		courts currently unusable	Poor	Courts currently unusable, require improvement. Located in an area with more limited provision.	Protect, improve court quality. Following improvements, seek to secure access and promote opportunities for community use.
Football		Thornaby And Ingleby Barwick Football Club	1 11v11 senior, 1 9v9, 2 7v7 and 2 5v5	High standard	All pitches except main pitch have portable goals suggesting flexible use / layout. Main pitch has dugouts etc. Well maintained pitches, with good grass coverage on all pitches good and gradient also strong. Some uneven patches, but drainage standard and adequate. Pitches appear close together (limited run offs). Club highlight issues with unofficial behaviour. Small amount of overplay and almost no spare capacity on other pitches.
Cricket	Thornaby Cricket Club	1 grass cricket square	Good	Some capacity available, just under 6 wickets spare, poor quality training facilities.	Protect, seek advice on maintenance to ensure good quality is retained. Improve training facilities and support refurbishment of pavilion.
Bowls	Village Park	1 bowling green	46.67%	Green quality, maintenance is a key challenge. Would benefit from increased membership.	Protect, seek to tailor maintenance regime to exact requirements of the green, proactively work to increase membership.

Implementation

- 5.7 Given the potential level of funding required, it is likely that investment will only be achieved through a combination of opportunities and funding sources as well as partnership opportunities.
- 5.8 Local authority finances remain under pressure and previous major national funding programmes are no longer available. Some funding opportunities, however, still remain and it is essential that these are capitalised upon in order to maximise the opportunities to protect and improve pitch provision. Some new funding streams may also become available to support the ongoing recovery from Covid 19.
- 5.9 The Council will seek to work on a multi-agency approach to address the facility requirements in the strategy and partnership working will be central to the achievement of this objective.
- 5.10 The main funding delivery mechanisms for the Council and others in delivering the strategy are:
- Section 106 developer contributions, potential implementation of Community Infrastructure Levy, or any new mechanism brought forward through reforms to the planning system
 - Capital Grant funding: From schools and national agencies such as Sport England, including its small grants, community asset fund and strategic facilities fund
 - National Governing Body (NGB) support.

New facilities

- 5.11 In addition to the overarching strategy principles outlined earlier in this section, the following should be considered when providing any new facilities.

- Location - When planning new facilities, the existing sporting infrastructure should be taken into account. In particular, the provision of single or double pitch sites with no or limited supporting facilities should be avoided.
- Quality - Any new pitch provision should meet with the design and quality standards guidance provided by Sport England and/or the relevant NGB (detailed below). The following general criteria must also be met:
 - a high standard of design, construction and maintenance, enabling the pitch to be played at least twice per week without detrimental impact and ensuring that sites are clean and attractive facilities
 - adequate changing facilities that:
 - are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes
 - fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act
 - provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort
 - meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines
 - managed community access
 - accessible by public transport and by car
 - sufficient car and coach parking
 - size of pitches and run offs complies with NGB specification
 - located in a no-flood zone
 - security of tenure (at least 20 years) if a club is to be based at the site
 - for rugby clubs in particular, sites should include floodlit training facilities

5.12 All new and enhanced sports facilities must be designed in accordance with the relevant Sport England and (where applicable) National Governing Body (NGB) design guidance in order to ensure that the facilities are fit for purpose and of a suitable quality.

5.13 Sport England's web site www.sportengland.org contains a range of current guidance documents which provide detailed specifications and information regarding the design of sporting and ancillary facilities. This provides a link to the NGB's supported by Sport England, and to the guidance on the respective NGB websites.

5.14 **Monitoring and Review**

- 5.15 The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust to fulfil the above roles.
- 5.16 Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy represents Step 10 of the approach to the production of a playing pitch strategy set out in the guidance for the delivery of a playing pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).
- 5.17 This strategy document has been developed in conjunction with a large steering group and this group will be retained to deliver the implementation phase, functioning as a Delivery and Implementation Group. Further people with appropriate expertise may be brought into the process as and when required to maximise the benefits that the strategy can bring.
- 5.18 Following adoption of the PPOSS, the steering group will continue to support the implementation of the specific recommendations and action plans. The group will seek to deliver the key actions of the strategy document, but will also keep the strategy alive by;

- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action
- Recording changes to the pitch stock in the Borough and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information
- Assessing the impact of changes to participation, including changing trends and the development of new formats of the game as well as affiliation data for each of the National Governing Bodies of Sport
- Assessing the impact of demographic changes and new population estimates / housing growth
- Undertaking ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs and governing bodies, and any requirements for major facilities in the area
- Analysing funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities
- Reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development.

5.19 The ongoing monitoring of the strategy will be led Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and it has been agreed that the working group members will review progress twice annually on the strategy delivery and discuss any issues arising.

5.20 The steering group will also be responsible for agreement of the requirement for a full update of this playing pitch assessment and strategy.

5.21 The delivery, implementation and monitoring process is formalised in action plan format in Table 5.9.

Table 5.9 – Monitoring Processes

Monitoring Recommendation	Recommendation /Action	Timescale
M1	Continue to meet as a steering group to monitor, evaluate and update this PPOSS.	Organise twice annual steering group meetings to monitor the delivery of the PPOSS and to ensure that the key priorities for the Borough are kept up to date
M2	<p>Establish small delivery groups to drive the implementation of key actions. These should include (but not be limited to)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developer contributions process group • Maintenance Improvement Group • AGP strategy group 	Short Term
M3	<p>Record individual updates to pitch provision and any key changes that have occurred. This should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New pitches; • Pitch improvements; • Pitch re-configuration; • Pitch loss/threat; • Community Access agreements (e.g. education or private sites); • Plans for future provision • Changes arising as a result of new development. 	Ongoing – led by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
M4	<p>Prepare annual PPOSS progress paper. This should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known changes to supply and demand • The delivery of PPOSS recommendations and any changes in priority; • Details of any developments of a specific sport or particular format; • Details of any new or emerging issues and opportunities; • Any issues with the application of the PPOSS and lessons learnt; 	Annually – led by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Monitoring Recommendation	Recommendation /Action	Timescale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions needed to keep the PPOSS 'live' and up to date. 	
M4	<p>Circulate annual progress paper to steering group for comment.</p> <p>The full annual progress paper will determine when a full refresh of the PPOSS is required.</p>	Annually

