



# **LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

## **STRATEGY REPORT MAY 2025**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

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### ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide
BC	Bowls Club
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
CIC	Community Interest Company
CIO	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
CFA	County Football Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EN	England Netball
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FE	Further Education
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MSJFL	Mid Staffordshire Junior Football League
NGB	National Governing Body
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
SASSOT	Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent
SCCB	Staffordshire County Cricket Board
SE	Sport England
SFA	Staffordshire Football Association
TBTT	Transforming British Tennis Together
TC	Tennis Club

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been commissioned by Lichfield District Council to undertake a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). This report (known as the Strategy and Action Plan, which is the second of two published documents) provides a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities. It updates and replaces the previous study from 2020 and delivers:
- ◀ A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision
  - ◀ A series of sport-by-sport scenarios and recommendations
  - ◀ A series of strategic objectives and recommendations
  - ◀ A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritises key issues
  - ◀ A range of housing growth scenario to understand the potential impact of developments
  - ◀ Guidance as to how the PPOSS can be delivered
- 1.2 The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for "non-pitch" sports. Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:
- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
  - ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
  - ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
  - ◀ Stage D: Develop the Strategy
  - ◀ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date
- 1.3 This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete
- 1.4 The ANOG has a similar staged approach, as follows:
- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
  - ◀ Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand
  - ◀ Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together
  - ◀ Application: Application of an assessment
- 1.5 Where not already implemented, the recommendations that come out of this study should be translated into local planning policy so that there is a mechanism in place to protect existing provision and to secure investment where the opportunity arises. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is regularly kept up to date.

### Why the strategy is being developed

- 1.6 Since completion of the previous PPOSS, there have been changes to the existing provision, with investment into pitches and supporting infrastructure and demand increasing. As such, a robust and up-to-date assessment is required to capture the status of current facilities and evidence Lichfield District's needs and opportunities.
- 1.7 Lichfield District Council is also currently working on a new Local Plan after withdrawing its previously planned version from examination in October 2023. The Local Plan will seek to make sure the District provides homes, jobs, community facilities and services to meet the needs of the population in a sustainable way, whilst also protecting and enhancing the environment and heritage. The PPOSS will form a key element of the evidence base to support its development and adoption, contributing to ensuring that its policies are compliant with the requirements articulated in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

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- 1.8 One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 103 stating that:

*“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.”*

- 1.9 Paragraph 104 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:
- a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
  - b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
  - c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.
- 1.10 Paragraphs 106, 107, and 108 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

#### **Scope**

- 1.11 The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the project are as follows:
- ◆ Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
  - ◆ Cricket pitches
  - ◆ Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
  - ◆ American football pitches
  - ◆ Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
  - ◆ Tennis courts
  - ◆ Bowling greens
  - ◆ Netball courts
- 1.12 Please note that, although included in the PPOSS scope as standard, no rugby league supply or demand is presently identified in Lichfield District. Therefore, it has not been referenced.

#### **Study area**

- 1.13 The study area is the whole of the District Council's administrative area. In addition, cross-boundary issues are also explored to take into account the level of imported and exported demand from neighbouring authorities such as East Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, Walsall and Tamworth.

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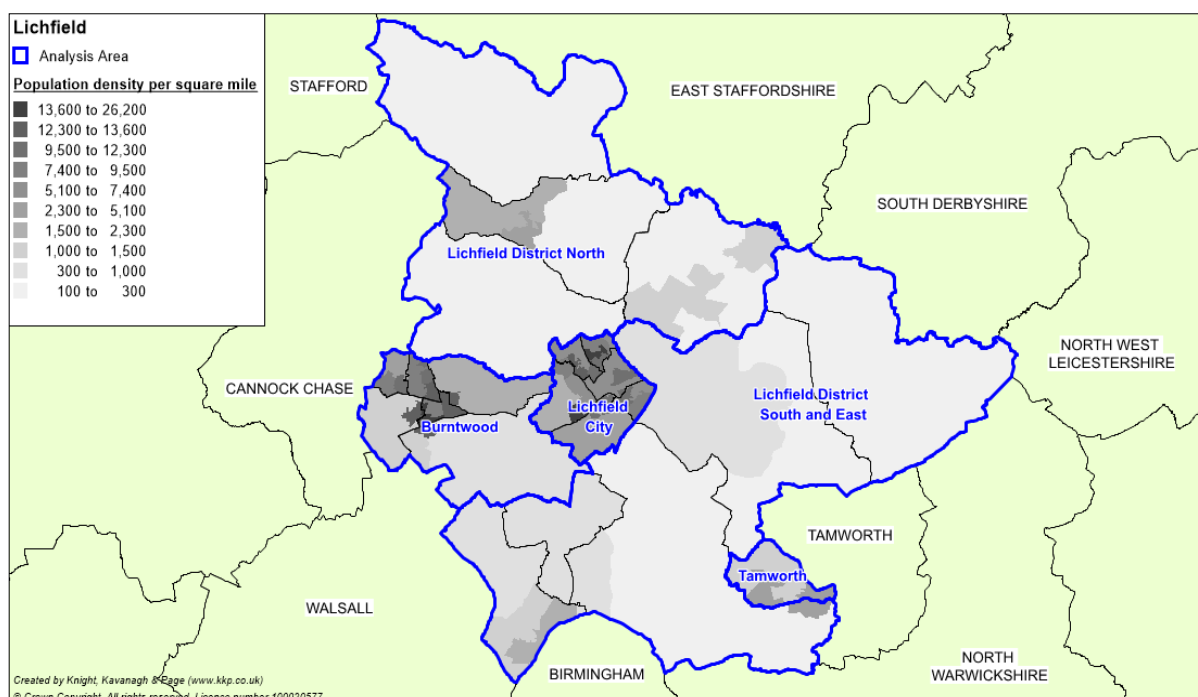
- 1.14 Analysis areas have also been used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the assessment for Lichfield District as a whole. As seen in the following table, these are based upon the grouping together of ward boundaries and have been agreed upon for use by the Steering Group as they further reflect how people play and travel to play sport. They also replicate what were used for the previous study to enable data comparison and trends to be easily presented.

Table 1.1: Analysis area breakdown

Analysis area	Wards included
Lichfield City	Lichfield
Burntwood	Burntwood, Hammerwich, Wall
Lichfield District North	Alrewas & Fradley, Armitage with Handsacre, Curborough & Elmhurst, Colton, Farewell & Chorley, Hamstall Ridware, King's Bromley, Longdon, Mavesyn Ridware
Lichfield District South & East	Clifton Campville, Drayton Bassett, Edingale, Elford, Fisherwick, Harlaston, Hints, Shenstone, Streethay, Swinfen & Packington, Thorpe Constantine, Weeford, Whittington, Wigginton & Hopwas
Tamworth	Fazeley

- 1.15 As seen, the five analysis areas are known as Burntwood, Lichfield City, Lichfield District North, Lichfield District South and East and Tamworth. These are further illustrated below.

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



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### PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

- 2.1 A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Lichfield District PPOSS.

‘To provide a robust and up-to-date assessment to enable policy provision which protects, enhances and delivers where required, an accessible network of high-quality sustainable open spaces which provide the opportunity for sport and physical activity to promote health and wellbeing within our communities. To provide evidence to support mechanisms that will enable and maintain high levels of participation that make a sustained difference for local people.’

- 2.2 To achieve the strategic vision, the PPOSS seeks to deliver the following objectives, as advised by the Council:

- ▶ To provide a documented assessment of current and future needs for outdoor sports facilities within the identified study area focusing on the assessment of quantity and quality issues in relation to supply and demand (deficits and surpluses) equation
- ▶ To identify all valuable sites/facilities (inclusive of disused and lapsed provision) to ensure they can be protected and improved for the long-term benefit of sport
- ▶ To promote a sustainable approach to the provision of outdoor sports facilities and management of sports clubs
- ▶ To ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected demand
- ▶ To ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and long-term aspirations
- ▶ To plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, including the identification of school facilities which could be utilised to address identified deficits in provision

- 2.3 In addition, the following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPOSS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all relevant stakeholders.

#### AIM 1

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

#### AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

#### AIM 3

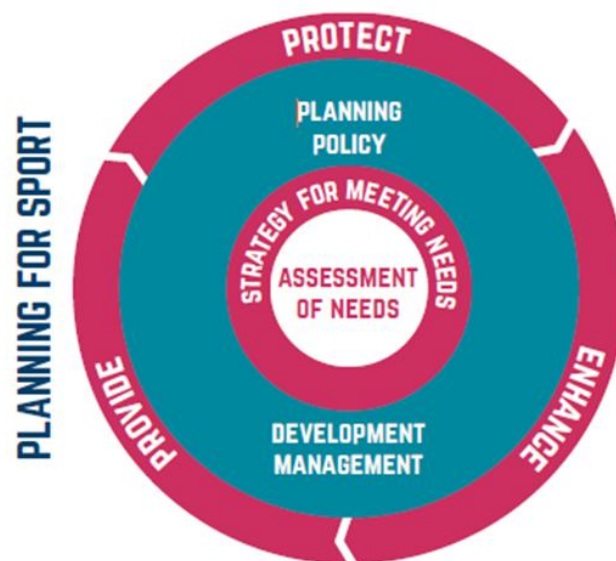
To **provide** new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

- 2.4 These are further visualised via the figure overleaf.

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Figure 2.1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (2019)



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### PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS

- 3.1 The table below highlights the current and future quantitative shortfalls for each main pitch sport included within the PPOSS, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report, both across Lichfield District and on a sub area basis. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.
- 3.2 Natural turf pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions. The table below therefore uses this for football, rugby union and cricket, converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place (its current use) into the same unit of demand to enable an analysis to be undertaken.
- 3.3 Based on how the sports tend to be played, the match equivalent session unit for football, hockey and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport, whereas for cricket, the number of match equivalent sessions is over the course of a season. This is because how much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a square, with only one match generally played per pitch per day and with the wickets rotated throughout a season to reduce wear and to allow for repair. Each wicket is therefore able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.
- 3.4 For 3G pitches, the carrying capacity of the provision is much higher, meaning how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how usage adversely affects quality, as is the case with grass pitches. Therefore, the total number of pitches required is instead used to form an analysis.

Table 3.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (2025)	Future supply/demand balance (2043)
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
Burntwood	Adult	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session
Burntwood	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions
Burntwood	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent sessions
Burntwood	Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
Burntwood	Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield City	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
Lichfield City	Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
Lichfield City	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield City	Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions

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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (2025)	Future supply/demand balance (2043)
Lichfield City	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield District North	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
Lichfield District North	Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
Lichfield District North	Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
Lichfield District North	Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
Lichfield District North	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Lichfield District South & East	Adult	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield District South & East	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
Lichfield District South & East	Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
Lichfield District South & East	Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
Lichfield District South & East	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Tamworth	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
Tamworth	Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
Tamworth	Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
Tamworth	Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
Tamworth	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Lichfield District	Adult	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield District	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield District	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session	At capacity
Lichfield District	Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
Lichfield District	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>			
Burntwood	Full size	Shortfall of 0.5 pitches	Shortfall of 0.75 pitches
Lichfield City	Full size	Shortfall of 1.25 pitches	Shortfall of 1.5 pitches
Lichfield District North	Full size	At capacity	At capacity
Lichfield District South & East	Full size	Shortfall of 1.25 pitches	Shortfall of 1.25 pitches
Tamworth	Full size	At capacity	At capacity

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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (2025)	Future supply/demand balance (2043)
<b>Lichfield District</b>	<b>Full size</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2.75 pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3.25 pitches</b>
<b>Cricket squares</b>			
Burntwood	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 15 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 27 match equivalent sessions
Burntwood	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 15 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 27 match equivalent sessions
Burntwood	Senior (midweek)	Spare capacity of 3 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 3 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield City	Senior (Saturday)	At capacity	At capacity
Lichfield City	Senior (Sunday)	Spare capacity of 24 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 24 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield City	Senior (midweek)	Spare capacity of 24 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 16 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield District North	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 14 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 26 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield District North	Senior (Sunday)	Spare capacity of 22 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 22 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield District North	Senior (midweek)	Spare capacity of 22 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 14 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield District South & East	Senior (Saturday)	Spare capacity of 7 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 7 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield District South & East	Senior (Sunday)	Spare capacity of 31 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 31 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield District South & East	Senior (midweek)	Spare capacity of 27 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 19 match equivalent sessions
Tamworth	Senior (Saturday)	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Tamworth	Senior (Sunday)	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Tamworth	Senior (midweek)	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
<b>Lichfield District</b>	<b>Senior (Saturday)</b>	<b>Shortfall of 22 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 46 match equivalent sessions</b>
<b>Lichfield District</b>	<b>Senior (Sunday)</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 62 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 50 match equivalent sessions</b>
<b>Lichfield District</b>	<b>Senior (midweek)</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 70 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 46 match equivalent sessions</b>
<b>Rugby union - grass pitches</b>			
Burntwood	Senior	Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield City	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
Lichfield District North	Senior	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Lichfield District South & East	Senior	Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions
Tamworth	Senior	No supply / demand	No supply / demand

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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (2025)	Future supply/demand balance (2043)
Lichfield District	Senior	Shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions
<b>Hockey – artificial grass pitches (AGPs)</b>			
Burntwood	Senior	Spare capacity of 8 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 8 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield City	Senior	Spare capacity of 8 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 8 match equivalent sessions
Lichfield District North	Senior	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Lichfield District South & East	Senior	Spare capacity of 3 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 3 match equivalent sessions
Tamworth	Senior	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Lichfield District	Senior	Spare capacity of 19 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 19 match equivalent sessions

- 3.5 For the remaining sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal activity. The current and future picture for each sport across Lichfield District is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

Table 3.2: Headline findings (non-pitch sports)

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	The supply of tennis provision in Lichfield District is sufficient to meet club-based demand, with no capacity issues identified and room existing for growth. However, other forms of demand are likely not being adequately met, particularly given the lack of park courts and padel courts.
<b>Netball</b>	There is an insufficient supply of netball courts in Lichfield District, with capacity issues identified at the main site that is accessed (Beacon Park) and with most other sites either being unavailable for community use, without sports lighting and/or without security of tenure. This is leading to levels of unmet demand and is likely preventing the sport from growing.
<b>Bowls</b>	Three of the four clubs in Lichfield District are operating within a “sustainable” capacity range, with only Hammerwich BC operating above the recommended limits. However, as the Club does not report any issues, it is not considered that any new provision is required. Nevertheless, demand levels should be closely monitored to ensure that this remains the case.

### Conclusion

- 3.6 The existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of additional shortfalls for some pitch/facility types and in some areas where demand is currently being met. As a result, no provision can be deemed surplus to requirements, meaning that there is a clear need to protect all existing provision. This is unless another planning policy exception is met, as per Paragraph 104 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 3.7 Whilst shortfalls are evident for some sports and facility types across Lichfield District, the largest and most pressing deficits are primarily found in the Burntwood, Lichfield City and Lichfield District South & East analysis areas. These should therefore be the priority for the actions identified.

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- 3.8 Despite the identified shortfalls, most of the deficits identified could be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, site re-configuration, installing additional sports lighting, enabling access to existing unused sites, such as at unavailable schools, and bringing disused sites back into use. This means that significant levels of new provision will not necessarily be required, providing that other solutions can be delivered to the required degree.
- 3.9 As exceptions to the above, the shortfall of 3G pitches and padel courts can only be met via the installation of new provision given that such demand cannot be met in any alternative ways (although existing sites could be utilised). Additionally, there is also a distinct need for additional cricket provision, whilst large scale housing growth could also necessitate the need for further facilities (see Part 7 of this report).
- 3.10 Furthermore, it should also be noted that even for sports and in areas where demand is being met, this does not mean that no actions will be required over the lifespan of the PPOSS. An example of this is for hockey, where demand can be met on the existing supply but only if quality improvements take place when required and if tenure for clubs can be secured.

### PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 In this section, in order to help develop actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the findings evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This then informs the sport specific recommendations.
- 4.2 The included scenarios focus on the impact that they will have on the shortfalls and key issues identified and how they can be overcome. However, whilst each can improve the picture to a greater or lesser extent, it should be noted that carrying out some scenarios to the fullest degree is likely to be unviable and that a combination of actions will instead be required to ensure that all current and future demand can be met.
- 4.3 For some sports, no scenarios are included, although that is not to say that no action is required. Instead, recommendations are clear without the requirement for scenarios to be tested. This is especially the case for non-pitch sports.
- 4.4 For site-specific and more localised recommendations, please refer to the Action Plan in Part 6 of this report.

#### 4.1: Football (grass pitches)

##### ***Assessment Report summary***

###### **Supply and demand summary**

- Actual spare capacity totals eight match equivalent sessions per week and is found across 12 pitches at six sites, whilst overplay equates to 14.5 match equivalent sessions across 12 pitches.
- There are currently shortfalls across adult, youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches, whereas spare capacity exists on youth 9v9 pitches (mini 7v7 pitches are at capacity).
- When incorporating future demand, the shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches increases, whilst a deficit of mini 7v7 pitches also develops and a capacity balance is reached on youth 9v9 pitches (this means that no pitch types are forecast to provide spare capacity).
- The overall picture is worse when compared to previous PPOSS findings, which is likely due to a combination of increasing demand levels and decreasing supply levels.

###### **Supply summary**

- The audit identifies a total of 100 grass football pitches across 41 sites, with 84 pitches across 32 sites identified as being available for community use.
- The number of community available pitches has reduced from 100 since the previous PPOSS (2020).
- A total of 21 disused pitches have been identified across seven sites.
- Plans are in place at Open House to develop residential housing and a care home facility on the land where the disused pitches reside.
- New grass pitch football provision is included as part of housing developments known as Deanslade Farm and St Johns Grange.
- By management type, there is a relatively even split of the community available pitches; 23 are managed by the Council, 27 are managed in-house by sports clubs and 33 are managed by education operators.
- Of the community available pitches, 15 are assessed as good quality, 59 as standard quality and 12 as poor quality.
- Most sites provide good or standard quality ancillary provision, although poor quality facilities are found at DMS Whittington, Elford Playing Fields and Fazeley Mile Oak Recreation Ground.
- Ancillary provision is required at AFC Fradley.

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### Demand summary

- In total, there are 214 teams across 28 clubs identified as playing in Lichfield District, with this amounting to 31 adult teams, 87 youth 11v11 teams, 39 youth 9v9 teams, 31 mini 7v7 teams and 26 mini 5v5 teams.
- The demand includes two adult women's and 20 youth girls' teams, with this representing 15% of all demand.
- The number of teams has increased from 187 since the 2020 PPOSS, representing a growth of 13%.
- Two teams play within the men's football pyramid, Chasetown FC (Step 4) and Lichfield City FC (Step 5), whilst one plays within the women's (Lichfield City FC).
- Several clubs import demand into Lichfield District from authorities including Birmingham and Tamworth, although this is generally through preference due to their proximity to the District.
- Chasetown Youth FC, Whittington FC and Lichfield City FC export several teams outside of Lichfield District to compete in the Burton Junior Football League, which operates a central venue league up to the U11 age banding.
- Four clubs report latent demand in that they report they could field more teams if facility related issues were resolved (Chasetown Youth, Fountain United, Lichfield City and Whittington football clubs).
- Future demand from population growth (to 2043) predicts an increase of 14 teams, with this totalling two adult men's, seven youth boys', one youth girls' and four mini teams.

### Scenarios

#### Improving pitch quality and addressing overplay

- 4.5 In total, there are 12 grass football pitches in Lichfield District across seven sites that are overplayed by a combined total of 14.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of such provision will increase capacity across the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls.
- 4.6 To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights that the large majority of existing overplay would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each overplayed site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

Adult pitch quality	Matches per week	Youth pitch quality	Matches per week	Mini pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity created
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	Burntwood	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	0	-
30	Hospital Road	Burntwood	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	3	1	-
45	New Mill Lane	Lichfield District South & East	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5	-



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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity created
45	New Mill Lane	Lichfield District South & East	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	1.5	0.5	-
52	Shenstone Country Club	Lichfield District South & East	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5	-
54	Shortbutts Lane	Lichfield City	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5	-
61	Stonnall Playing Fields	Lichfield District South & East	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5	-
67	The Friary School	Lichfield City	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	1	1	-
67	The Friary School	Lichfield City	Youth 11v11	2	Poor	1.5	4.5	-
67	The Friary School	Lichfield City	Youth 9v9	1	Poor	1.5	1.5	1
67	The Friary School	Lichfield City	Mini 5v5	1	Poor	1	3	1

4.7 As seen, most overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality improved to good, with 14 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity created. Only two currently overplayed pitches would remain as such, with these identified at Hospital Road and New Mill Lane.

4.8 Despite the above, it should be noted that only minimal actual spare capacity will be created on the overplayed pitches (two match equivalent sessions). This is because most of the pitches in Table 4.1 are currently played to capacity within the peak period. Furthermore, in the case of The Friary School, actual spare capacity would still be discounted due to unsecure tenure.

4.9 Improving quality as set out above will also eradicate all shortfalls on a District-wide basis, as shown below. Overall spare capacity would exist on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9, whilst mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches would be played to capacity. However, a small isolated shortfall in the Lichfield District South & East Analysis Area would remain on adult pitches.

Table 4.2: Impact on supply and demand if quality of overplayed pitches improved to good

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Burntwood	Adult	1	1
	Youth 11v11	4	0
	Youth 9v9	2.5	2.5
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	0	0
Lichfield City	Adult	0.5	0
	Youth 11v11	0	2.5



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Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
	Youth 9v9	1.5	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	1	0
Lichfield District North	Adult	0	0
	Youth 11v11	0	0
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	0	0
Lichfield District South & East	Adult	2.5	0.5
	Youth 11v11	0.5	1
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	0	0
Tamworth	Adult	0	0
	Youth 11v11	0	0
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	0	0
Lichfield District	Adult	2	0.5
	Youth 11v11	4.5	4.5
	Youth 9v9	1	2.5
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	1	0

4.10 Where overlay remains following quality improvements, or if quality improvements are not possible at specific sites, play should be encouraged to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. Furthermore, where improvements do take place, this will likely require existing maintenance regimes and budgets to be enhanced in order for the betterment to be sustainable. It should be noted that this can put added pressures on operators.

4.11 The above is especially pertinent at sites such as those operated by schools. The cost implications and ongoing maintenance requirements of such provision could be considered particularly unfeasible from a funding and management perspective.

## *Providing security of tenure*

4.12 Currently, 29.5 match equivalent sessions per week are played on unsecured pitches across Lichfield District. If these pitches were to fall out of use, on a District-wide level, shortfalls would be created on youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches and existing deficits on adult, youth 11v11, youth and mini 5v5 pitches would increase. This is further evidenced in the following table.

Table 4.4: Current supply and demand balance without unsecure sites

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Burntwood	Adult	1	1
	Youth 11v11	4	4
	Youth 9v9	2.5	0.5

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Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Lichfield City	Mini 7v7	0	2
	Mini 5v5	0	5
	Adult	0.5	0.5
	Youth 11v11	0	9.5
	Youth 9v9	1.5	6
	Mini 7v7	0	3
	Mini 5v5	1	4
Lichfield District North	Adult	0	0
	Youth 11v11	0	0
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	0	0
Lichfield District South & East	Adult	2.5	3
	Youth 11v11	0.5	0.5
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	0	0
Tamworth	Adult	0	0
	Youth 11v11	0	0
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	0	0
Lichfield District	Adult	2	2.5
	Youth 11v11	4.5	14
	Youth 9v9	1	5.5
	Mini 7v7	0	5
	Mini 5v5	1	9

- 4.13 Should the above become reality, there would be an increased need to action the other scenarios featured within this section of the report (e.g., quality improvements and bringing disused sites back into use). However, given the significant shortfalls identified, this would not be enough to accommodate all demand, meaning a definitive need for new pitches would be created.
- 4.14 Conversely, 11.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week are currently discounted due to several sites having unsecure tenure. As such, securing tenure across these would provide increased levels of spare capacity which would then reduce existing shortfalls.
- 4.15 Across Lichfield District as a whole, if tenure was secured at all community available sites, only a shortfall of adult and youth 11v11 would remain albeit at a reduced level. Overall spare capacity would exist on youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.5: Current supply and demand balance with all sites secured

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Burntwood	Adult	1	1
	Youth 11v11	4	4
	Youth 9v9	2.5	2.5

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Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Lichfield City	Mini 7v7	0	2
	Mini 5v5	0	3
	Adult	0.5	0.5
	Youth 11v11	0	3
	Youth 9v9	1.5	0.5
	Mini 7v7	0	1
Lichfield District North	Mini 5v5	1	1
	Adult	0	0
	Youth 11v11	0	0
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
Lichfield District South & East	Mini 5v5	0	0
	Adult	2.5	2
	Youth 11v11	0.5	0.5
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
Tamworth	Mini 5v5	0	0
	Adult	0	0
	Youth 11v11	0	0
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
Lichfield District	Mini 5v5	0	0
	Adult	2	1.5
	Youth 11v11	4.5	1.5
	Youth 9v9	1	3
	Mini 7v7	0	3
	Mini 5v5	1	2

*Bringing disused provision back into use / replacing pitches in line with NPPF requirements*

4.16 The Assessment Report identifies a total of four sites in Lichfield District that previously accommodated some form of football provision and that remain undeveloped, with these being:

- ✦ Baxters Field (Lichfield District South & East) – three youth 9v9
- ✦ Kings Bromley Showground (Lichfield District North) – one youth 11v11
- ✦ Open House (Burntwood) – one adult, one youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5
- ✦ Whittington Cricket Club (Lichfield District South & East) – one youth 9v9

4.17 The table below highlights the supply and demand balance impact across Lichfield District is the provision at the disused sites was re-established, or if the provision was replaced as part of any future mitigation (in accordance with NPPF requirements) due to ongoing development plans (e.g., at Open House). This is based on them being of at least standard quality (as spare capacity would be discounted on poor quality provision).

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Table 4.6: Impact on supply and demand if disused provision is brought back into use

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Burntwood	Adult	1	2
	Youth 11v11	4	4
	Youth 9v9	2.5	3.5
	Mini 7v7	0	3
	Mini 5v5	0	3
Lichfield City	Adult	0.5	0.5
	Youth 11v11	0	0
	Youth 9v9	1.5	1.5
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	1	1
Lichfield District North	Adult	0	0
	Youth 11v11	0	1
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	0	0
Lichfield District South & East	Adult	2.5	2.5
	Youth 11v11	0.5	0.5
	Youth 9v9	0	4
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	0	0
Tamworth	Adult	0	0
	Youth 11v11	0	0
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	0	0
Lichfield District	Adult	2	1
	Youth 11v11	4.5	3.5
	Youth 9v9	1	6
	Mini 7v7	0	3
	Mini 5v5	1	2

- 4.18 As seen, across Lichfield District, overall youth 9v9 capacity would increase, whilst spare capacity would also be established on mini 7v7 pitches and mini 5v5 pitches. Reduced deficits would be evident on adult and youth 11v11 provision.

### Future developments

- 4.19 The Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy (2008-2029) sets out masterplans for playing pitches to be delivered across three strategic housing allocations in the Lichfield City Analysis Area. These are:

- ♣ St Johns South of Lichfield – one adult and two mini pitches
- ♣ Deanslade South of Lichfield – one adult and two mini pitches
- ♣ Cricket Lane South of Lichfield – two adult pitches

Delivery of these will provide overall actual spare capacity on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches (on the assumption that two are mini 7v7 and two are mini 5v5) across Lichfield District and in the Lichfield District South & East Analysis Area (no other analysis area will be impacted).

## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.7: Impact on supply and demand via planned future developments

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Lichfield District South & East	Adult	2.5	1.5
	Youth 11v11	0.5	0.5
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	2
	Mini 5v5	0	2
Lichfield District	Adult	2	2
	Youth 11v11	4.5	4.5
	Youth 9v9	1	1
	Mini 7v7	0	2
	Mini 5v5	1	1

*Actioning each of the above scenarios*

- 4.20 Via a combination of improving pitch quality at overplayed sites, securing tenure, bringing disused pitches back into use and proceeding with planned future developments, all current shortfalls in Lichfield District would be alleviated on both an analysis area and a District-wide basis. Significant amounts of actual spare capacity would be created across all pitch types.

Table 4.8: Impact of actioning all scenarios

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Burntwood	Adult	1	2
	Youth 11v11	4	0
	Youth 9v9	2.5	3.5
	Mini 7v7	0	5
	Mini 5v5	0	6
Lichfield City	Adult	0.5	0
	Youth 11v11	0	5.5
	Youth 9v9	1.5	2
	Mini 7v7	0	1
	Mini 5v5	1	0
Lichfield District North	Adult	0	0
	Youth 11v11	0	1
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	0	0
Lichfield District South & East	Adult	2.5	4
	Youth 11v11	0.5	1
	Youth 9v9	0	4
	Mini 7v7	0	2
	Mini 5v5	0	2
Tamworth	Adult	0	0
	Youth 11v11	0	0
	Youth 9v9	0	0
	Mini 7v7	0	0
	Mini 5v5	0	0

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Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Lichfield District	Adult	2	6
	Youth 11v11	4.5	8.5
	Youth 9v9	1	9.5
	Mini 7v7	0	8
	Mini 5v5	1	8

- 4.21 The above evidences that, theoretically, there is not an overarching requirement for new grass provision to meet current demand, with the existing supply of pitches able to be better utilised to overcome the identified shortfalls. However, as previously referenced, actioning each scenario to the fullest degree is unlikely to be reasonably practicable. The need for new provision will increase for every scenario that cannot be undertaken to the fullest degree, whilst future growth also needs to be monitored (see scenarios below).
- 4.22 It is also imperative to state that the loss of any playing field provision will not be supported if any (and whilst) shortfalls remain, even if they can theoretically be overcome. It is only when the deficits have been overcome that provision could potentially be demonstrated as being surplus to requirements.

### *Accounting for club future demand aspirations*

- 4.23 During consultation, clubs across Lichfield District report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide, equating to a predicted growth of 43 teams. This has previously been discounted from calculations as it is considered to be more aspirational than future growth predicted via population growth and evidenced participation trends; however, the table below explores the impact if such demand is realised.

Table 4.9: Future supply and demand if club aspirations are realised

Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Adult	2	5
Youth 11v11	4.5	11
Youth 9v9	1	5.5
Mini 7v7	0	0
Mini 5v5	1	6.5

- 4.24 As seen above, across Lichfield District, spare capacity would no longer exist on any pitch type. However, carrying out the scenarios previously referenced would be sufficient to accommodate most of the growth, other than in relation to adult activity.

Table 4.10: Impact of club growth aspirations in addition to actioning all other scenarios

Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Adult	5	1
Youth 11v11	11	2
Youth 9v9	5.5	3
Mini 7v7	0	6
Mini 5v5	6.5	0.5

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### Continuation of future demand trends

- 4.25 The Assessment Report identifies that growth from the previous PPOSS delivered in 2020 amounted to 27 teams with this representing a 13% increase in the number of teams. The table below therefore identifies the impact on the current stock of pitches within the District should this trend continue over the next five year period, covering up to when the next iteration of the PPOSS is likely to be due (or delivered). This is based on ten additional youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and nine mini 5v5 teams (adult demand is unchanged due to an identified recent decline).

Table 4.11: Future supply and demand balance if growth trends continue

Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Adult	2	2
Youth 11v11	4.5	9.5
Youth 9v9	1	2
Mini 7v7	0	1.5
Mini 5v5	1	5.5

- 4.26 As seen, resultant shortfalls would be significant for youth 11v11 football, although this growth could be accommodated across all pitch type if all other scenarios were actioned.

Table 4.12: Impact of growth trends continuing in addition to actioning all other scenarios

Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Adult	2	2
Youth 11v11	9.5	3.5
Youth 9v9	2	6.5
Mini 7v7	1.5	4.5
Mini 5v5	5.5	1.5

- 4.27 The growth of demand should be closely monitored, as a priority, throughout the Stage E process.

### Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of pitches in line with national and local planning policy
- Improve pitch quality with a focus on overplayed pitches and pitches assessed as poor quality
- Utilise the Football Foundation's (FF) PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision
- Provide security of tenure at sites, with a focus on those currently in use by clubs and especially at The Friary School given the level of demand received
- Seek to gain access to sites currently unavailable for community use, with a focus on those providing the most pitches
- Consider bringing disused pitches back into use and ensure appropriate mitigation (in line with planning policy requirements/exceptions) of such sites that are earmarked for development
- Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer
- ◀ Monitor future growth levels via the Stage E process to determine when and where new grass pitches may be required
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the requirements for new pitch provision to meet existing and future football needs through master planning on an individual basis
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls

### 4.2: Third generation turf (3G) pitches

#### **Assessment Report summary**

##### **3G – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 3G pitch provision within Lichfield District to meet football requirements, meaning a clear need to develop additional pitches.
- ◀ 3G provision for rugby union may be warranted to provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass pitches.
- ◀ With no other activity identified that could feasibly utilise the 3G pitch stock, no other sporting requirements for access are identified or need to be considered at this time.

##### **3G - supply summary**

- ◀ There are currently three 11v11 3G pitches within Lichfield District, with each pitch serviced by sports lighting and available for community use.
- ◀ The 11v11 pitch at Rawlett Leisure Centre, whilst located within Lichfield District, primarily services Tamworth-based demand.
- ◀ There are also two smaller size 3G pitches; the pitch at Burntwood Leisure Centre is available for community use whilst the pitch at HMP Swinfen Hall is not.
- ◀ A youth sized 3G pitch is to be provided as part of a wider development at Stychbrook Park.
- ◀ Consideration is being given to extended the footprint of the pitch at Burntwood Leisure Centre to 11v11 size when resurfacing is due.
- ◀ Three pitches are on the FA's 3G pitch register to host competitive matches, with this relating to the 11v11 provision at Trade Tyre Community Stadium and The Scholars Ground as well as the smaller sized pitch at Burntwood Leisure Centre.
- ◀ No pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ All pitches are within their recommended lifespan and are assessed as good or standard quality, although resurfacing will be required within the lifespan of the PPOSS at Burntwood Leisure Centre, Rawlett Leisure Centre (planned for 2025) and Lichfield City Football Club.
- ◀ The changing rooms at Lichfield City Football Club (Trade Tyre Community Stadium) are deemed to be of poor quality and insufficient.

##### **3G - demand summary**

- ◀ The 3G pitch stock currently servicing Lichfield District is operating at or close to capacity at peak times during midweek, especially in winter months for training demand.
- ◀ All demand is currently football-related, with it being particularly intensive at Lichfield City Football Club (Trade Tyre Community Stadium) and The Scholars Ground due to both sites being operated by large clubs.
- ◀ No Lichfield District-based activity is identified on the pitch at Rawlett Leisure Centre, with all activity considered to be Tamworth-based due to its location.
- ◀ A total of five football clubs report that they require additional access to 3G provision, with these representing 53 teams (no unmet demand is identified from other sports).
- ◀ Lichfield RUFC occasionally exports demand to a 3G pitch at Walsall Rugby Club.
- ◀ Using population forecasts to 2043, an additional 14 football teams are expected to be generated that could require access to 3G provision.



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- ◀ In addition, although no rugby union demand currently accesses 3G pitches, it is clear that future access could provide a solution to the grass pitch deficits identified.

### Scenarios

#### *Accommodating football training demand*

- 4.28 As shown in the proceeding Assessment Report, if all teams were to utilise 3G pitches to accommodate their training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for 5.5 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents in Lichfield District. This means a current shortfall of 2.75 pitches based on the current available supply.

Table 4.13: Current demand for 3G pitches in Lichfield District (38 teams per pitch)

Current demand (number of teams)	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitches	Current shortfall (number of pitches)
214	5.5	2.75	2.75

- 4.29 When factoring in future demand from population growth, the overall requirement could increase by 0.5. This means a potential shortfall of 3.25 11v11 pitches.

Table 4.14: Future shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Future demand (number of teams)	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitches	Future shortfall (number of pitches)
228	6	2.75	3.25

- 4.30 To further this analysis, the table below explores where the theoretical 3G pitch shortfalls exist by analysis area on the assumption that all demand will want to train within the area that they play matches in. This approach is beneficial for determining where new pitches should be located to overcome the identified shortfall.

Table 4.15: Current demand for 3G pitches in Lichfield District by analysis area

Analysis area	Current demand (number of teams)	Current 11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitches	Current shortfall (number of pitches)
Burntwood	88	2.25	1.75	0.5
Lichfield City	87	2.25	1	1.25
Lichfield District North	-	0	-	0
Lichfield District South & East	39	1	-	1
Tamworth	-	0	-	0
<b>Lichfield District</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>2.75</b>

- 4.31 Using this, there is a clear deficit in both the Lichfield City and Lichfield District South & East analysis areas, with both in need of at least one additional 11v11 size pitch. There is also a small shortfall in the Burntwood Analysis Area, although based on current demand this may only require a smaller sized pitch.

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### *Club aspirational future demand*

- 4.32 Factoring in the aspirational future demand that has expressed by clubs alters the calculated 3G pitch requirement, with overall need equating to 6.75 (up from 5.5). This growth, if achieved, equates to the need for an additional four 11v11 3G pitches within the District.

Table 4.16: Potential future shortfall of 3G pitches based on club aspirations

Potential future demand (number of teams)	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of available 11v11 3G pitches	Potential shortfall (number of pitches)
257	6.75	2.75	4

- 4.33 When analysing the club aspirations by analysis area, it is shown that the increased need is most likely to arise in the Lichfield City Analysis Area. It ups the overall local need to 3.25 11v11 3G pitches.

Table 4.17: Potential future demand for 3G pitches in Lichfield District by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (number of teams)	Current 11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitches	Future shortfall (number of pitches)
Burntwood	88	2.25	1.75	0.5
Lichfield City	123	2.25	1	3.25
Lichfield District North	-	0	-	-
Lichfield District South & East	46	1	-	1.25
Tamworth	-	0	-	-
<b>Lichfield District</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>4</b>

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

- 4.34 In Lichfield District, there are currently 30 affiliated teams registered as using 3G pitches for regular match play. To increase such demand, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches be transferred. At peak time for each format of play, this applies to 50 teams in Lichfield District which represents 23% of teams within the District.

Table 4.18: Number of teams currently using council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	8
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	23
Youth	9v9	Saturday AM	10
Mini	7v7	Saturday AM	5
Mini	5v5	Saturday AM	4
-	-	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

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

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Table 4.19: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y) = x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
Adult	8	4	32	128	2
Youth 11v11	23	11.5	32	368	5.75
Youth 9v9	10	5	10	50	0.78
Mini 7v7	5	2.5	8	20	0.31
Mini 5v5	4	2	4	8	0.13

- 4.36 Given that peak time for the adult and youth 11v11 pitch types (Sunday AM) is different to peak time for youth 9v9 and mini football (Saturday AM), transferring all matches currently on council pitches would equate to the need for 7.75 11v11 3G pitches. This is calculated through adding the demand for adult and youth 11v11 pitches together (as peak time is the same) but not for the remaining pitch types (as peak time is different and the need is less). However, as the need is greater than the level of requirement identified for training demand, this is not considered to be a wholly feasible approach (as without sufficient training activity, the additional pitches would be unlikely to be financially viable).
- 4.37 An alternative approach to consider is the transfer of all mini football from grass to 3G pitches, with this considered to be particularly beneficial due to the number of matches that can be played at one time compared to adult and youth football. As such, the table below tests a scenario that would enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football in Lichfield District to transfer based on a programme of play at current peak time (Saturday AM).

Table 4.20: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

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

- 4.38 Based on the above programming and separate start times for the formats, the overall need is for 2.75 11v11 size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 22 teams playing mini 5v5 football and 22 teams playing mini 7v7 football. This could therefore be accommodated on the current supply of pitches, although no spare capacity would exist to cater for other forms of demand during the same peak period in addition to any growth that occurs.

### ***Increasing the supply of 3G pitches***

- 4.39 Based on the previous scenarios, there is a requirement for at least 2.75 additional 11v11 size 3G pitches within Lichfield District to meet future training demand and to better accommodate match play activity. The table below further summarises this and considers site options to meet the shortfalls.

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Table 4.21: Summary of new 3G pitch options

Analysis area	Current supply/ demand balance	Comments
Burntwood	Shortfall of 0.5 pitch	Potential for this to be alleviated through the extension of the smaller sized 3G pitch at Burntwood Leisure Centre. This has been highlighted within the updated LFFP as a priority project.
Lichfield City	Shortfall of 1.25 pitches	A smaller sized 3G pitch will be provided as part of a wider development at Stychbrook Park that will be suitable for youth football (equating to 0.5 3G pitch equivalents). The development of a 3G pitch at The Friary School could be given consideration to overcome the shortfall that will remain (0.75 equivalents), especially as this could provide a means of securing tenure at the site.
Lichfield District North	0	No teams are currently recorded as playing within this analysis area, therefore there is currently no demand for a 3G pitch.
Lichfield District South & East	Shortfall of 1 pitch	Planning permission has been granted for the creation of a 11v11 3G pitch at DMS Whittington, with sports lighting. However, it is believed that this will be primarily for internal usage and will therefore not meet any community demand (no community use agreement is included). Another option is therefore likely to be required.
Tamworth	0	No teams are currently recorded as playing within this analysis area, therefore there is currently no demand for an 11v11 3G pitch.

#### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

- 4.40 There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Lichfield District. However, there is evidence to warrant the creation of provision based on the grass pitch rugby union shortfalls identified, particularly at Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association and Lichfield Rugby Club. These sites are presently overplayed by 16 match equivalent sessions combined.
- 4.41 In total, 16 match equivalent sessions of demand (made up of both match play and training) equates to around 21 hours of activity (based on matches lasting 80 minutes). This is therefore the level of access that could be required on a 3G pitch to eliminate the shortfalls, although it could also be partly reduced through other solutions such as pitch quality improvements and additional sports lighting installation.
- 4.42 To establish a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, an existing rugby union site could be utilised (e.g., Lichfield Rugby Club), or a partnership approach could be sought with football partners in order to collectively meet the needs of both sports. However, it is recognised that this could increase the overall requirements for football.
- 4.43 The pressing areas for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch are the Burntwood Analysis Area and the Lichfield District South and East Analysis Area. Table 4.19 above outlines potential options for overcoming the existing football shortfalls, if a partnership approach was to be pursued.

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### *Loss of access of 3G rubber crumb provision*

- 4.44 The utilisation of 3G provision across Lichfield District and nationally is strategically important to accommodate both training and competitive demand, particularly for football. As evidenced in the Assessment Report, where known through booking data, community available 11v11 3G pitches are extensively used midweek for football training with little spare capacity remaining. At the weekend, there are also 15 match equivalent sessions of competitive football demand taking place on the existing stock. This will only increase as new pitches are provided.
- 4.45 However, in September 2023 the European Commission completed the adoption of the EU REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) restriction on the sale of intentionally added microplastics onto the European market, which includes rubber infill for 3G AGPs. The Commission has confirmed an eight-year transition period before the new restriction becomes effective and from October 2031, by which point rubber crumb will no longer be purchasable within the EU. This results in a major threat to existing and new 3G pitch provision.
- 4.46 Following the UK's exit from the EU, the regulatory framework for such matters now sits at a UK level (except for Northern Ireland, which continues to follow EU REACH requirements) and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recently commissioned an evidence project to review emissions of intentionally added microplastics in the UK, including rubber infill. The project is expected to report in 2025 and will inform any future regulatory actions in Great Britain. Sports England has provided more information on the matter with its position statement on 3G pitches<sup>1</sup>.
- 4.47 Subject to the above, should 3G pitches no longer be accessible for training demand, the below table identifies how many good quality sports-lit grass pitches would be required in replacement to accommodate all football training demand currently taking place in Lichfield District for each relevant age format. This assumes that every team will train for one match equivalent session a week on their preferred pitch type.

Table 4.22: Summary of grass pitch requirements without access to 3G provision

Format	Total number of teams	Good quality pitch capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Total number of good quality pitches required
Adult	31	3	10
Youth 11v11	87	4	22
Youth 9v9	39	4	10
Mini 7v7	31	6	5
Mini 5v5	26	6	4

- 4.48 As seen, there would be a requirement for 51 additional grass football pitches (given that shortfalls exist on the current stock). This is wholly unfeasible and showcases just how crucial the provision of 3G is. As such, in the event that the existing rubber crumb infills become outlawed, there will be a need to resurface them with an alternative suitable and appropriate infill based on the findings of the DEFRA report. Several solutions are currently being tested.

<sup>1</sup> [Position statement on 3G pitches | Sport England](#)

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### **Recommendations**

- ◆ Protect current stock of 3G pitches
- ◆ Seek to develop additional 3G pitch provision for football to alleviate identified shortfalls
- ◆ Explore opportunities to also create a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, either in conjunction with meeting football requirements, or separately if enough rugby union demand is identified to sustain the provision
- ◆ Ensure all existing and new 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and seek resurfacing when pitches reach the end of their recommended lifespan
- ◆ Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant
- ◆ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions (and RFU recommended dimensions, if required)
- ◆ Seek FIFA/FA testing of all existing and new 3G pitches so that they can be used for competitive football matches and ensure re-testing when it is required
- ◆ For any pitches built to RFU specifications, seek World Rugby compliancy so that they can be used for full contact rugby union activity and ensure re-testing when it is required (every two years)
- ◆ Ensure ancillary facilities are appropriate to support 3G pitch provision
- ◆ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are serviced by sports lighting (LED with controllable switch gear) to maximise usage potential
- ◆ For pitches with existing sports lighting, encourage a switch to more energy efficient provision, where required
- ◆ Ensure suitable infill containment is retro-fitted and that all pitches have containment and recycling strategies in place, with alternatives to rubber crumb to be explored (subject to the findings of the DEFRA report)

### **4.3: Rugby union (grass pitches)**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

##### **Rugby union – supply and demand summary**

- ◆ No rugby union pitches in Lichfield District have actual spare capacity, whilst nine are overplayed by a total of 16 match equivalent sessions.
- ◆ Overplay equates to 6.5 match equivalent sessions for Burntwood RUFC and 9.5 match equivalent sessions for Lichfield RUFC, resulting in an overall shortfall equating to 16 match equivalent sessions.
- ◆ In addition, whilst demand is only minimal and the provision is not overplayed, Whittington RUFC is using a poor quality pitch at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club

##### **Rugby union – supply summary**

- ◆ Within Lichfield District there are 19 rugby union pitches, with this equating 13 senior pitches and six age grade pitches – only one pitch at The Friary School is unavailable for community use.
- ◆ Two age grade pitches were previously marked by the Council at Darnford Park; however, due to a lack of demand these are no longer provided.
- ◆ Burntwood RUFC and Lichfield RUFC are both considered to have security of tenure at their home sites, with the former having a long term lease from Staffordshire County Council and the latter having freehold.
- ◆ There are currently two good quality pitches, five standard quality pitches and 12 poor quality pitches (Burntwood RUFC has two poor quality and one standard quality pitch, Lichfield RUFC has two good quality and four standard quality pitches and Whittington RUFC has one poor quality pitch).



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- Two senior pitches are sports-lit at both Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association and Lichfield Rugby Club.
- The quality of the ancillary provision at Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association is considered to be good quality, whereas at Lichfield Rugby Club it is considered to be standard.
- At Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, planning permission has been granted for the extension and improvement of its clubhouse.
- Lichfield RUFC indicates development plans including the refurbishment and upgrading of its disabled, men's and women's toilets, upgrading of sports lighting to LED and extension of its patio area.

### Rugby union – demand summary

- There are three community rugby union clubs based in Lichfield District.
- Lichfield RUFC provides six senior and 25 age grade teams, whilst Burntwood RUFC fields four senior and 12 age grade teams.
- Whittington RUFC has just one senior men's team that now plays only friendly matches (it has withdrawn from the league structure).
- Lichfield RUFC has two senior women's and four age grade girls' teams within its numbers.
- Since the 2020 PPOSS, there has been a significant growth across all formats of play, with both Lichfield RUFC and Burntwood RUFC experiencing substantial growth.
- Both Burntwood and Lichfield RUFC use their sports-lit grass pitches to accommodate all training demand, although the latter also occasionally uses a 3G pitch at Walsall Rugby Club (exported demand).
- Future demand from population projections forecast a growth of two age grade teams to 2043, whereas both Lichfield RUFC and Burntwood RUFC have aspirations to increase their number of teams.

## Scenarios

### Improving pitch quality

- 4.49 Both rugby union clubs in Lichfield District have pitches that are overplayed, with none having spare capacity. Improving pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and the installation of drainage systems would reduce this issue, although some level of shortfall would remain at both Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association and Lichfield Rugby Club. To evidence this, the impact of maximising quality is shown in the following table.

Table 4.23: Capacity of pitches if quality was maximised (M2/D3)

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Current quality	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Good quality rating (match equivalent sessions)
11	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	2	Senior	Poor	5	1
11	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	1	Senior	Standard	1.5	0
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	1	Senior	Good	2	1.5
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	1	Senior	Good	1.5	1
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	1	Senior	Standard	5.5	4
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	3	Age grade	Standard	0.5	2.5

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- 4.50 Overall, the current overplay levels across the sites would reduce from 16 match equivalent sessions to 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is made up of a shortfall of one match equivalent sessions for Burntwood RUFC and a shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions for Lichfield RUFC.
- 4.51 Notwithstanding the above, despite the overall reduction in shortfalls, there would still be a demonstrable deficit in midweek capacity for training demand, with little changing in this regard. This is because all sports-lit pitches would remain overplayed despite pitch quality improvements.

### *Installing additional sports lighting*

- 4.52 Much of the existing overuse at Burntwood Ruby Club Sports Association and Lichfield Rugby Club is due to training demand taking place on the sports-lit provision at both sites (the former site has two pitches with sports lighting and the later has three). As this demand can only take place with sports lighting, it cannot currently be transferred away from what is presently used as no suitable alternative exists for either club.
- 4.53 Establishing sports lighting at both sites on additional pitches will reduce overplay, subject to quality improvements also taking place, as this will enable some training demand to be dispersed. The table below summarises the above context further, although some level of shortfall would remain for both clubs.

Table 4.24: Capacity of pitches if quality was maximised with additional sports-lit provision

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Good quality rating (match equivalent sessions)	Current training demand (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity rating with additional sports lighting (match equivalent sessions)
11	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	2	1	5	0.5
11	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	1	0	-	0.5
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	1	1.5	2	2.5
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	1	1	-	2.5
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	1	4	4	2.5
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	3	2.5	4	2.5

### *Accessing World Rugby compliant 3G provision*

- 4.54 As an alternative means to alleviating overplay, securing access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch could be sought, with no existing provision within Lichfield District. This is especially the case given that maximising quality and sports lighting across the grass pitch stock would not be sufficient to eliminate all deficits. It could also be considered unrealistic from an investment and maintenance perspective.
- 4.55 Further context in relation to this is set out in Section 4.2.



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### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches in line with national and local planning policy
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems
- ◀ Explore installation of additional sports lighting across the sites used by clubs
- ◀ Consider the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch to fully alleviate grass pitch shortfalls via the transfer of demand
- ◀ Ensure future demand can be adequately accommodated, particularly in regard to women's and girls' demand
- ◀ Improve the ancillary facilities servicing the clubs and ensure facilities are inclusive and suitable for mixed-gender usage
- ◀ Retain the stock of pitches at education sites for continued curricular and extracurricular usage and encourage improved club links where possible
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for, with preference placed on using contributions to improve existing rugby union sites within the locality (as provision away from existing club venues is unlikely to be adequately utilised).

### **4.4: Hockey**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

##### **Hockey – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Based on current levels of demand, there is a need for two full-size hockey suitable AGPs in Lichfield District, meaning the current supply of four is theoretically sufficient.
- ◀ With security of tenure only provided at one venue (Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club), a solution is required to ensure the needs of Lichfield HC continue to be met.

##### **Hockey – supply summary**

- ◀ There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs in Lichfield District, all of which are sports-lit and available for community use (the pitches are at DMS Whittington, Erasmus Darwin Academy, King Edward VI Sports Centre and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club).
- ◀ In addition, there are two smaller sized sand-based AGPs, located at Rawlett Leisure Centre and the Friary School.
- ◀ Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions of installing a second hockey suitable AGP on site at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, with Lichfield HC stating that it has planning permission.
- ◀ Tenure at Erasmus Darwin Academy, King Edward VI Sports Centre and DMS Whittington is considered to be insecure as no known long-term usage agreements are in place.
- ◀ Despite being available for community use, neither King Edward VI Sports Centre nor Erasmus Darwin Academy are currently used for club hockey.
- ◀ All four of the full size pitches are standard quality, although the recommended lifespan has been exceeded at DMS Whittington, Erasmus Darwin Academy and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- ◀ Lichfield Sports Club has planning permission to extend and improve the pavilion and changing facilities at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- ◀ Ancillary provision at DMS Whittington is problematic as the facilities on site are basic and dated.

##### **Hockey – demand summary**

- ◀ There is currently one club identified as playing hockey within Lichfield District.
- ◀ Lichfield HC fields six senior men's, seven senior women's, six junior boys and six junior girls as well as one men's and one women's masters teams.
- ◀ Most match and training activity takes place at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club, although the pitch at DMS Whittington is used as an overspill venue due to capacity issues at weekends.
- ◀ Membership at Lichfield HC has reduced from 531 in 2020 to 381 currently.

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- ◀ Phoenix Blues Ladies HC and Cannock Chase HC were also identified as previously playing hockey within Lichfield District; however, the former has folded and the latter has returned its previously imported demand.
- ◀ In regards to future demand, Lichfield HC reports plans to increase the number of its senior men's and women's teams by one team each.
- ◀ Lichfield HC offers Back to Hockey sessions on Thursday evenings from 19:00-20:00, although no other initiatives are currently known to be in operation.
- ◀ All four AGPs are known to be used for football activity in addition to any hockey demand, with this most pronounced at DMS Whittington and Erasmus Darwin Academy.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Accommodating current demand*

- 4.56 For senior hockey, on the basis that there are four full size AGPs which can accommodate hockey matches in Lichfield District, there is a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 32 senior hockey teams across the District (one pitch can host eight teams on one day). As such, with 13 teams currently existing via Lichfield HC, supply is seemingly sufficient to meet demand in this regard, with access to only two pitches required.
- 4.57 The above also applies to junior matches. This is because demand is less than it is for senior hockey (12 teams are fielded by Lichfield HC) and because younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time).
- 4.58 Notwithstanding the above, it must be recognised that security of tenure is only provided at one venue (Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club). This means that a solution is required to ensure that the needs of Lichfield HC can continue to be met. Ideally, this would be via securing long-term access to the pitch at DMS Whittington given that it is currently in use by the Club, although the feasibility of this is questionable given the nature of the site.
- 4.59 An alternative is to try and secure access to the pitches at either Erasmus Darwin Academy and King Edward VI Sports Centre. If this is also not possible, it adds weight to Lichfield HC's aspiration to develop a second pitch at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.

##### *Accommodating future demand*

- 4.60 Minimal growth is indicated by Lichfield HC, with this equating to one senior men's and women's team. This means that it will still only require access to two full size pitches, meaning the situation for the Club will be unaltered.
- 4.61 To further ensure that the Club's situation does not worsen, resurfacing of pitches will be required within the lifespan of the PPOSS to ensure that quality does not deteriorate. The pitches at DMS Whittington, Erasmus Darwin Academy and Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club all require imminent resurfacing.

#### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect the pitches at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club and DMS Whittington for continued hockey demand (i.e., neither should be converted to 3G due to hockey requirements)
- ◀ Ensure Lichfield HC has secure access to a second pitch (in addition to the provision at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club), either via the existing supply or through supporting plans for new development

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- ◆ Sustain quality across the stock of pitches and ensure sinking funds are in place for any future refurbishment
- ◆ Seek to improve ancillary facility access for Lichfield HC at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club
- ◆ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the requirements for new pitch provision to meet existing and future hockey needs through master planning on an individual basis
- ◆ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand
- ◆ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality

#### 4.5: Cricket

##### ***Assessment Report summary***

###### **Cricket – supply and demand summary**

- ◆ Three sites have actual spare capacity for an increase in Saturday demand, whilst seven have capacity for Sunday and midweek cricket.
- ◆ Four squares are overplayed by a total of 34 match equivalent sessions.
- ◆ There is an overall shortfall for Saturday cricket, with this worsening when accounting for future demand, whilst spare capacity is evident for Sunday and midweek activity.

###### **Cricket – supply summary**

- ◆ There are 15 grass wicket squares located across 13 sites, with all squares available for community use.
- ◆ There are seven NTPs that accompany grass wicket squares in addition to seven standalone NTPs.
- ◆ A grass wicket square that was previously identified at Longdon Cricket Club in the Lichfield District North Analysis Area is now disused and has been reclaimed as farmland.
- ◆ Alrewas CC is looking for a venue to lay a second square in close vicinity to Walk Field due to it currently exporting some demand outside of Lichfield District.
- ◆ The broad position is that all clubs have secure tenure at their respective grounds and will therefore be able to service cricket for the foreseeable future.
- ◆ The assessment of grass wicket squares found 11 to be good quality and three to be standard quality - no poor quality grass squares are identified.
- ◆ Poor quality ancillary provision is identified at Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club, whilst planning permission has been granted for improvements and extension at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- ◆ Only one site used for affiliated activity is not serviced by practice nets, with this being Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club, although some others only have mobile nets which is not ideal.
- ◆ Lichfield CC has planning permission at Lichfield Cricket & Hockey Club relating to the relocation of its fixed lane practice nets.

###### **Cricket – demand summary**

- ◆ There are 11 clubs competing in Lichfield District generating 85 teams, equating to 34 senior men's, nine senior women's, 38 junior boys' and four junior girls teams.
- ◆ Since the 2020 study, there has been an overall growth of 11 teams, including the development of nine senior women's teams.
- ◆ Alrewas CC exports two teams outside of Lichfield District due to a lack of capacity, whilst Streetly CC imports some demand from the neighbouring authority of Walsall.
- ◆ Both Alrewas CC and Hammerwich CC state that they cannot increase their existing number of teams as a result of pitch availability (unmet demand).
- ◆ Four clubs take part in All Stars, Dyanmo's and women's softball cricket, which adds activity to their sites.

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- Population forecasts (to 2043) predict an increase of two senior men's, one senior women's and three junior boys' teams.
- Three clubs indicate growth plans amounting to four senior men's, two senior women's and three junior teams.

### Scenarios

#### Addressing overplay and improving quality

- 4.62 Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay, a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. Attempts should therefore be made to reduce identified shortfalls, although it is recognised that many clubs do not necessarily believe that there is an issue and are able to accommodate such demand.
- 4.63 In Lichfield District, overplay is currently identified on four squares across three sites. Normally, it is to improve quality across such provision in order to increase capacity; however, all four squares are already rated as good quality. The picture would therefore be unaltered.

Table 4.25: Impact on overplay following quality improvements (no change)

Site ID	Site name	Club	Quality	No. of wickets	Capacity balance	Potential balance
7	Bit End Field	Whittington CC	Good	7	5	5
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Hammerwich CC	Good	12	8	8
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Hammerwich CC	Good	5	19	19
69	Walk Field	Alrewas CC	Good	14	2	2

- 4.64 Across the overplayed squares, only the five wicket grass square at Hammerwich Cricket Club is without an NTP. As such, installing an additional NTP on this square could contribute towards alleviating capacity issues as some demand, particularly at junior level, could be transferred (although it is recognised that most cricket will remain on grass and that some leagues do not allow NTP usage).
- 4.65 Similarly, although all remaining overplayed squares are serviced by NTPs, greater utilisation could help resolve capacity issues. Spare capacity currently exists on the NTPs based on existing demand levels.
- 4.66 Using the above context, the table below explores the impact of all junior demand (below U14 level) utilising NTPs rather than grass wickets at the overplayed sites. As seen, most overplay could be eradicated, other than on the two squares that are provided at Hammerwich Cricket Club

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Table 4.26: Impact on overplay if squares were accompanied by an NTP

Site ID	Site name	Club	Capacity balance	Junior demand	Potential balance
7	Bit End Field	Whittington CC	5	24	19
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Hammerwich CC	8	-	8
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	Hammerwich CC	19	8	11
69	Walk Field	Alrewas CC	2	16	14

- 4.67 As an alternative to NTPs (or addition), although not readily available within grassroots cricket, there may be potential in the future to address overplay through the installation of hybrid wicket/s on competitive senior pitches. The ECB has been working with SIS Pitches on the installation of hybrid cricket wickets at county cricket clubs (2019) and more recently recreational squares such as Perry Hall Park in Birmingham (2021).
- 4.68 A hybrid wicket combines natural turf grass with less than 5% of uniquely engineered, soft polyethylene yarn, which has already been used to improve golf tees, tennis courts and pitch surrounds. These wickets are to offer a greater capacity in addition to reducing time on repair works with a faster recovery time. Reports found that hybrid wickets improve surface stability, reduced wear, reduced bowler foot holes and significantly extended hours of playing time.
- 4.69 Ideally, once these become more readily available for community cricket clubs and have gone through the required testing, they could act as a way to increase levels of playing capacity on overplay squares. This would be particularly beneficial for those sites which are limited on space and cannot create additional wickets due to restrictions on things such as boundary length or ball strike.
- 4.70 Although it is difficult at this stage to understand what impact hybrid wickets could have on each site's capacity, it is suggested that it could potentially alleviate all the overplay on both junior and senior wickets. This is based on the assumption that more senior demand can take place on the hybrid wickets allowing for the outer senior wickets to be used/converted for junior demand. However, it should also be known that hybrid wickets are a new development and remain largely untested at grassroots level, meaning there is no data at present to formally promote them as a solution.
- 4.71 In addition, it should also be noted that hybrid wickets have generally been designed to support high quality provision. It is said that only sites achieving a 'good' standard or above via PitchPower assessments are suitable (meaning 'basic' and 'poor' sites are not).

### *Accommodating exported and future demand*

- 4.72 In Lichfield District, four clubs express and quantify future demand aspirations, with the table below exploring what impact this would have on capacity for the clubs. This has previously been discounted from calculations as it is considered to be more aspirational than future growth predicted via population increases.

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Table 4.27: Accommodating additional future demand (club-by-club)

Club	Future demand				Comments
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boy's	Junior girl's	
Burntwood St Matthews CC	3	-	1	-	Capacity exists for an additional one senior team on Saturday and Sunday. Quality improvements would allow for a junior team to be accommodated or use of NTP provision.
Elford CC	1	1	4	-	Capacity exists to accommodate an additional senior women's team. Better utilisation of the NTP on site would allow capacity to accommodate additional junior teams.
Lichfield CC	1	-	-	-	No capacity available to accommodate an additional Saturday team on either squares.
Tamworth CC	-	2	-	2	No capacity available to accommodate additional teams within the peak period.

4.73 As seen, most clubs cannot achieve their future demand aspirations at sites currently used due to existing capacity issues, although this could be resolved in some cases via NTP investment and quality improvements. The same also applies to Alrewas CC, which currently exports two teams outside of Lichfield District. Its third Saturday team play its home matches at Baron Under Needwood CC in East Staffordshire, whilst its fourth team play at Lullington CC in South Derbyshire District.

4.74 To adequately accommodate the exported and future demand identified, given the current capacity issues evidenced, there is a potential need for access to additional cricket provision. The table below therefore identifies the analysis areas for which exported and future demand is expressed, with this then able to inform where additional squares should be located.

4.75 Table 4.28: Summary of exported and future demand (Saturday cricket)

Analysis area	Demand (number of teams)		No. of squares required
	Exported	Future	
Burntwood	-	3	1.5
Lichfield City	-	1	0.5
Lichfield District North	2	-	1
Lichfield District South & East	-	1	0.5
Tamworth	-	-	0

4.76 As shown, there is demand for a total of seven senior men's teams, with this consisting of three teams in the Burntwood Analysis Area and two in the Lichfield District North Analysis Area as well as one in both the Lichfield City and Lichfield District South & East analysis areas. This equates to 3.5 cricket squares on the basis that one square can accommodate two teams within the Saturday peak period.



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- 4.77 Existing actual spare capacity for Saturday cricket equates to 1.5 squares, meaning an additional three senior teams could be accommodated at peak time on the existing supply of pitches (subject to access arrangements being agreed). The table below explores where this is located against where additional demand could exist.

Table 4.29: Additional pitch requirements against existing spare capacity

Analysis area	No. of squares required	Existing spare capacity (no. of squares)	Outstanding need (no. of squares)
Burntwood	1.5	0.5	1
Lichfield City	0.5	-	0.5
Lichfield District North	1	0.5	0.5
Lichfield District South & East	0.5	0.5	-
Tamworth	0	-	-

- 4.78 As seen, additional provision is warranted in the Burntwood, Lichfield City and Lichfield District North analysis areas.
- 4.79 Where new squares are required, this does not necessarily need to be via new playing field land. Provision could instead be established at existing sites i.e., via park sites or schools and potentially through utilising areas that are already in use for other sports (e.g., a square in between football pitches). The exact location should be determined through a future feasibility study conducted by the Council in collaboration with cricket partners).
- 4.80 New provision could also potentially be tied into any large-scale housing developments.

### **Recommendations**

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares in line with national and local planning policy
- ✦ Improve quality at sites assessed as standard quality to increase capacity
- ✦ Install NTPs (and/or hybrid wickets) where they are not already in place, particularly at overused sites and encourage greater usage where they are already installed
- ✦ Explore creation of additional squares in order to eradicate all shortfalls and to accommodate all expressed exported and future demand
- ✦ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a need to do so, particularly to ensure inclusive and mixed gender usage of sites
- ✦ Improve existing and provide additional outdoor training facilities where there is demand.
- ✦ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is adequately provided for
- ✦ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the requirements for new pitch provision to meet existing and future football needs through master planning on an individual basis
- ✦ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand
- ✦ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality
- ✦ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing or new cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g., through ball-strike issues)

### 4.6: Tennis

#### *Assessment Report summary*

##### **Tennis – supply and demand summary**

- There is a sufficient supply of courts to accommodate club-based demand (where known).
- Other forms of demand are likely not being adequately met, particularly given the lack of park courts and padel courts.

##### **Tennis – supply summary**

- There are 55 tennis courts identified in Lichfield District across 16 sites, with 34 courts available for community use.
- There are currently no padel tennis courts, although planning permission has been granted to provide three at Beacon Park as part of a wider development of the site.
- Most courts are managed by schools, although only 12 of the 29 courts are available for community use.
- There are only six courts managed by the Council or a parish council, which is a low number when compared nationally.
- There are 36 courts with a macadam surface, whereas the remainder are artificial.
- There 26 courts serviced by sports lighting, with 22 of these available for community use.
- In terms of quality, 26 courts are assessed as good, 18 as standard and nine as poor, meaning a relatively high proportion of good quality provision.
- Lichfield Friary LTC has plans to upgrade the clubhouse on its site and reports that it has an HS2 grant to enable this.

##### **Tennis – demand summary**

- There are four tennis clubs in Lichfield District.
- Of the two clubs that have responded to consultation, Lichfield Friary TC is the largest with 200 total members, whilst Little Aston TC is the smallest with 48 total members.
- There is also a large group operating out of Beacon Park, with this leading to significant levels of usage, particularly following investment into the site to improve court quality.
- Both Burntwood Leisure Centre and Rawlett Leisure Centre are also reported as being relatively well used for tennis.
- The Lichfield & Burntwood Tennis League within Lichfield District, with these venues signposted for use as part of this (Beacon Park, Burntwood Leisure Centre and Lichfield Friary Lawn Tennis Club).
- Whilst no padel courts are currently provided, LTA modelling identifies that eight are required to service the District.
- Although no clubs identify latent or unmet demand, research carried out by the LTA indicates that is likely to be high for non-club courts.
- Lichfield Friary LTC quantifies plans to increase membership, with this equating to an additional 30 senior and 20 junior members, whilst the LTA predicts further growth for non-club activity via its insight tools.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Accommodating current and future club demand*

- 4.81 The LTA suggests that a court without sports lighting can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Based on this, all clubs in Lichfield District where membership is known are adequately serviced, with none operating over capacity.



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Table 4.30: Current supply and demand balance for tennis clubs in Lichfield District

Site ID	Site name	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Current membership	Current capacity rating (members)
78	Lichfield Friary Lawn Tennis Club	6	Yes	200	160
83	Little Aston Village Hall	2	Yes	48	72

4.82 The same also applies when accounting for future demand aspirations.

Table 4.31: Future supply and demand balance for tennis clubs in Lichfield District

Site ID	Site name	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Future membership	Future capacity rating (members)
78	Lichfield Friary Lawn Tennis Club	6	Yes	250	110
83	Little Aston Village Hall	2	Yes	48	72

### **Recommendations**

- ◆ Protect existing courts in line with national and local planning policy
- ◆ Support investment into local authority sites to better provide for recreational tennis and seek to maximise usage following funding – focus should be placed on improved existing poor and standard quality courts, as well as implementing sustainable operational models, with priority placed on sites with two courts or more
- ◆ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via further utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark and Gate Access)
- ◆ Explore investment opportunities at school sites, particularly where community demand could be accommodated following improvements
- ◆ Explore the installation of sports lighting where it is not currently provided to increase the capacity of courts, especially at park sites that are or could be well used
- ◆ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability
- ◆ Improve ancillary provision servicing courts where demand is, or could be, high
- ◆ Support opportunities for padel courts to be established given its growing demand and with a need for six identified, providing that no existing traditional courts are lost
- ◆ Where padel courts are to be provided (not to the detriment of tennis), prioritise sites with appropriate existing supporting infrastructure and management e.g., leisure centres

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### 4.7: Netball

#### *Assessment Report summary*

##### **Netball – supply and demand summary**

- There is an insufficient supply of netball courts in Lichfield District, with unmet demand identified and with a lack of provision likely impacting on growth.
- Whilst Beacon Park and Burntwood Leisure Centre offer good quality venues, there is a lack of alternative offerings to ease capacity issues, with this being impacted upon by sites being unavailable for community use, without security of tenure and/or without sports lighting.

##### **Netball – supply summary**

- In total, there are 55 outdoor netball courts located across 29 sites in Lichfield District, with 20 courts available for community use across six sites.
- Only courts at Beacon Park and Burntwood Leisure Centre are currently access for community netball, with the remaining sites not providing security of tenure and/or being unavailable for community use.
- All courts have a macadam surface.
- Only eight courts across three sites are serviced by sports lighting (at Beacon Park, Burntwood Leisure Centre and Rawlett Leisure Centre).
- Many courts are overmarked, particularly by tennis courts, which is a particular issue at Beacon Park given usage levels received from both sports.
- 14 courts are rated as good quality, 39 as standard quality and two as poor quality (all 14 good quality courts are available for community use in addition to six standard quality courts).
- Ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic as most provision is not specific for netball court usage.

##### **Netball – demand summary**

- There are two formal clubs in the District, with these being Chasetown Ladies NC and Lichfield Spires NC.
- Chasetown Ladies NC currently has four teams competing in the Wolverhampton City and Walsall & District netball leagues, with training activity taking place at Beacon Park.
- Lichfield Spires NC has a large junior section as well as two senior women's teams that play in the Burton & District League, with training activity also taking place at Beacon Park.
- Both clubs export match play demand outside of Lichfield District due to the use of central venues.
- Netball Leagues Burntwood is currently in the process of gauging interest from both clubs and players in order to start a league in Burntwood, at Burntwood Leisure Centre.
- There is additional demand for netball through Back to Netball and Walking Netball; with sessions held at Beacon Park.
- Both clubs express latent/unmet demand, with Lichfield Spires NC operating a waiting list for juniors and Chasetown Ladies NC believing it could field additional teams if more training time was available.

#### **Scenarios**

N/A

#### **Recommendations**

- Protect existing quantity of courts in line with national and local planning policy
- Improve and sustain court quality, with priority placed on the provision at Beacon Park and Burntwood Leisure Centre given the demand levels received
- Improve ancillary provision at Beacon Park
- Seek to gain community access to an increased number of school sites to provide more options for club users

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- Consider establishing additional sports lighting at venues to increase the supply of useable supplementary provision

### 4.8: Bowls

#### *Assessment Report summary*

##### **Bowls – supply and demand summary**

- With no clubs reporting any capacity issues, it is considered that there is a sufficient supply of provision of bowls provision in Lichfield District, although monitoring is required at Hammerwich and Lichfield bowls club to ensure that this remains the case given their high membership.
- With all greens in active use, it is also clear that all provision requires protection at this moment in time.

##### **Bowls – supply summary**

- There are 15 bowling greens located across 14 sites (Beacon Park provides two).
- All of the bowling greens are crown greens and are considered to be available for community use.
- The Duke of York public house previously had a bowling green to the rear of the site; however, the landowner took back the bowling green in 2021 and has since turned it into additional carparking.
- The greens located at Windmill Bowling Club, Lichfield Bowling Club and Lichfield Rugby Club are serviced by sports lighting.
- In addition to the outdoor greens, there is also an indoor bowling green located at Tamworth Indoor Bowls Club (however, this does not fall under the scope of this report).
- The Council operates two greens, whilst five are privately owned and the remainder are managed by sports clubs or community groups.
- 11 greens are assessed as good quality, three as standard and one as poor.
- Museum, Lichfield RUFC and Little Aston bowls clubs report issues with ancillary provision.

##### **Bowls – demand summary**

- There are 13 bowls clubs in Lichfield District.
- Where membership is known, the average membership equates to 69 members, which is relatively high.
- The Probus Organisation also plays bowls on a regular basis in Lichfield District, utilising provision at Beacon Park.
- There is also a winter bowls league operating in Lichfield, with this based on the AGP at Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club.
- No clubs report any unmet or latent demand, suggesting that no capacity pressures exist.
- Lichfield BC and Museum BC express future demand aspirations equating to 20 senior and 18 junior members.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Accommodating current and future demand*

- 4.83 The British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, it states that any green operating with a membership of over 80 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting the required level of demand. In Lichfield District, where membership is known, one green is currently operating above the recommended capacity threshold. This is Hammerwich Bowls Club, which has a deficit of 38 members, although the Club do not state any capacity concerns.

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- 4.84 When accounting for future demand (club aspirations), the green at Lichfield Bowling Club has a forecasted deficit equating to 14 members. However, the achievability of this is questionable based on current demand levels and national growth trends.
- 4.85 With neither Hammerwich BC nor Lichfield BC identifying any capacity concerns, no action is currently considered to be required, despite the potential shortfalls. This, however, should continue to be monitored to ensure that the supply of greens remains sufficient.

### *Club sustainability*

- 4.86 The BCGBA suggests that clubs operating with a membership of below 20 could be unsustainable and require additional support. However, this is not presently an issue within Lichfield District as all clubs have sufficient demand levels. No clubs are therefore considered to be at risk from a sustainability perspective, which in turn means that all greens require ongoing protection.

### **Recommendations**

- ◆ Protect all existing greens that are in use, in line with national and local planning policy
- ◆ Improve green quality at sites assessed as poor and standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good
- ◆ Sustain ancillary facility quality and support improvements where necessary
- ◆ Continue to monitor membership levels to ensure that clubs remain adequately provided for, particularly in the case of Hammerwich BC

### PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The strategic recommendations reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed across Lichfield District based on the sport-by-sport and overall findings. As such, they apply across the playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport or one area.

#### OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

#### Recommendations:

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

**Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

- 5.2 The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or appropriate mitigation until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls i.e., following improvements.
- 5.3 When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless appropriate mitigation is provided and agreed upon, in line with national planning policy. NPPF Paragraph 104 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:
- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
  - ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
  - ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use
- 5.4 Should facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g., council and partner budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future. This means that land containing provision should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (subject to being informed by a review of the PPOSS or a separate needs assessment), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

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- 5.5 In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of provision and will use the PPOSS to help assess planning application against its Playing Fields Policy. Its exceptions are detailed below.

*Policy Exception E1:*

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

*Policy Exception E2:*

- 5.7 'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use'.

*Policy Exception E3:*

- 5.8 'The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- ◀ Reduce the size of any playing pitch
- ◀ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas)
- ◀ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality
- ◀ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site
- ◀ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'

*Policy Exception E4:*

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

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

*Policy Exception E5:*

- 5.10 'The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field'.

***Disused provision***

- 5.11 Disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with the NPPF and Sport England's policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. As such, any disused sites are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate permanent loss via a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

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- 5.12 For playing pitch sports, the lawful use of a disused playing field is still that of a playing field until such time as it is developed for a non-pitch sport use or its use is formally changed through the planning system. There is no positive obligation, under planning law, for a playing field to be actively used as such.
- 5.13 It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value sites (i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of provision and that replacement facilities are in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost (e.g., taking into account a “bedding in” period).

### ***Additional provision***

- 5.14 As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the outdoor sports facilities within Lichfield District. However, there may be instances that have led to omissions within the report, such as at school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the PPOSS where provision is known to exist from other data sources), or where no stakeholders were aware of facilities existing (including disused). Where pitches/facilities have not been recorded within the report, they remain categorised as such and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch/facility does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view, with the recommendations of this study still applying to them.

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

- 5.15 Some school and commercial sites are being used in Lichfield District for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of such facilities has been classified as secure; however, it is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have high levels of unsecured community use e.g., at Chase Terrace College, Erasmus Darwin Academy and The Friary School.
- 5.16 For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as SASSOT and FF can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement.
- 5.17 Given current budgetary pressures, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds for the acquisition and development of sites, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.
- 5.18 The Council should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position manage assets and to apply for external funding for site improvements. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be enhanced and sites developed. Examples in Lichfield District could include sites such as The Bypass and Fazeley Mile Oak Recreation Ground.



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- 5.19 Local sports clubs that could be able to manage their own assets should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop business and sports development plans to show how facilities can be sustainable and to maximise income generation.
- 5.20 Relevant clubs could also be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>2</sup>. They should also be signposted to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.
- 5.21 Each club interested in leasing a council site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

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

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

- 5.22 Furthermore, the Council could establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites. As an example, outcomes may include:
- ◀ Increasing participation, particularly in target areas such as women's and girls' activity
  - ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers
  - ◀ Commitment to quality standards
  - ◀ Improvements to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards
- 5.23 In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the sites remain available for other purposes and for other users.
- 5.24 For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain so that extensions can be secured, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site development. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding (unless the agreement has been recently entered into).

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

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

- 5.25 To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. Nationally, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but in Lichfield District, physical access, poor quality and resistance from providers to open up provision is also an issue, especially at academies.
- 5.26 A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and the local clubs. The Council and other key partners must work with schools to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address underlying problems. Consideration could also be given to a centralised booking system for community use of schools to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.
- 5.27 The table below provides a list of schools that have outdoor sports facilities in Lichfield District but that do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches. This is provided together with details as to their facilities and any issues that could be preventing community access.

Table 5.2: Summary of education sites without community access

Site name	Provision	Identified issues
All Saints C of E Primary School	One mini 7v7 football pitch; One netball court	Poor quality grass provision and no sports lighting on netball court
Charnwood Primary Academy	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 football pitch	Poor quality grass provision
Chasetown Community School	One youth 9v9 football pitch	Staffing
Fulfen Primary School	One mini 7v7 football pitch; Three netball courts	Poor quality grass provision and no sports lighting on netball court
Holly Grove Primary School	One mini 7v7 football pitch; Two netball courts	Poor quality grass provision and no sports lighting on netball court
Ridgeway Primary School	Two mini 7v7 football pitches; One NTP; One netball court	Poor quality grass provision and no sports lighting on netball court
Shenstone Lodge School	One mini 5v5 football pitch; One netball court	Staffing and no sports lighting on netball court
St Joseph & St Theresa Catholic Primary	Two mini 7v7 football pitches; Two netball courts	Poor quality grass provision and no sports lighting on netball court
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Two mini 5v5 football pitches; One netball court	Poor quality grass provision and no sports lighting on netball court

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

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- 5.29 As a priority, long term tenure options should be explored at large education sites offering several pitches, such as Chase Terrace College and The Friary School, with focus therefore placed predominately on secondary schools rather than primary schools. Securing long term access to such sites will significantly reduce shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within.
- 5.30 Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the providers where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.
- 5.31 As detailed earlier, NGBs, Sport England and other funding bodies can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant organisations or are going to receive investment in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.
- 5.32 Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, these should be designed to facilitate community access via a community use agreement, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential. An example of this is ensuring the provision is the suitable playing format for students, such as multi-use provision including artificial pitches (e.g., 3G) or courts that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity.

### OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

#### Recommendations:

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

#### ***Recommendation (d) – Improve quality***

- 5.33 There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face reducing budgets, it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g., the largest, well used sites that are overplayed and/or poor quality). The Action Plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed which should be prioritised for improvement.

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- 5.34 Notwithstanding the above, with pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should therefore also be considered. This could be via clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include the use of equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

#### ***Addressing quality issues***

- 5.35 Quality in Lichfield District is variable but generally facilities are assessed as standard quality, although poor quality provision is more prevalent than good quality provision. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality pitches is also essential.
- 5.36 Based upon an achievable target, using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).
- 5.37 It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the facilities tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that quality can vary year on year dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall, although maintenance regimes could be altered to reduce this impact.
- 5.38 If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites (thus reducing capacity issues). Where this occurs, it is vital that the improvements are advertised and marketed towards potential users as their perception of the provision may need altering.
- 5.39 In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer (although other provision can be key for income generation) and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies to women's and girls' demand.
- 5.40 For football, The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

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- 5.41 The tool is available across mobile apps and desktop and is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund.
- 5.42 For rugby union and cricket, the respective NGBs are now also utilising PitchPower, with reports being produced similar to those for football.
- 5.43 For the improvement/replacement of 3G pitches and hockey AGPs, this is most commonly linked to age, with any surfaces older than 10 years generally requiring replacement. Where pitches are provided, sinking funds should be put into place to ensure that refurbishment can take place when it is required.
- 5.44 As improving all sites is unlikely to be feasible from a budgetary and logistical perspective, key sites with a larger number of pitches/facilities should be prioritised, particularly where they are well used or could be well used following improvements. The table below identifies sites that could be focused on for each relevant sport, based on their current status.

Table 5.3: Key sites requiring quality improvements (by sport)

Sport	Sites for improvement	Identified issues
Football	AFC Fradley, The Friary School	AFC Fradley – grass pitch quality The Friary School – grass pitch and ancillary facility quality
Rugby union	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	Grass pitch quality
Hockey	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	AGP surface quality
Cricket	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	Grass pitch and ancillary facility quality
Tennis	Armitage Village Hall	Surface quality
Netball	The Friary School	Surface quality and sports lighting
Bowls	Chasetown Memorial Park Bowling Club	Green quality

### **Addressing overplay**

- 5.45 In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock, it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (e.g., via a non-technical site assessment and/or technical PitchPower assessments) and allocating a match/usage limit to each.
- 5.46 The FA, RFU, ECB and EH all recommend a maximum number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

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Table 5.4: Recommended carrying capacity of grass pitches in number of matches

Sport	Pitch type	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
Rugby union	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
Rugby union	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
Rugby union	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One non-turf wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	4 per day	4 per day	N/A

- 5.47 For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members if it is serviced by sports lighting, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is considered at capacity if it has over 80 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.
- 5.48 It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity, or quality should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.
- 5.49 For rugby union, additional sports lighting, in conjunction with quality improvements, can further reduce levels of overplay at club sites as it allows clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent sports lighting is not possible, portable sports lighting can be provided as an alternative.
- 5.50 Similarly, additional sports lighting can help resolve capacity issues for tennis, netball and bowls as it can allow for greater court/green usage, especially during winter months.
- 5.51 For cricket, an increase in NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ with existing squares. The emergence of hybrid wickets could also provide an additional solution.
- 5.52 The table below identifies sites in Lichfield District that are currently overplayed for each sport.



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Table 5.5: Overplayed sites (by sport)

Sport	Sites for improvement
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Erasmus Darwin Academy</li> <li>◀ Hospital Road</li> <li>◀ New Mill Lane</li> <li>◀ Shenstone Country Club</li> <li>◀ Shortbutts Lane</li> <li>◀ Stonnall Playing Fields</li> <li>◀ The Friary School</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association</li> <li>◀ Lichfield Rugby Club</li> </ul>
Hockey	◀ Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Bit End Field</li> <li>◀ Hammerwich Cricket Club</li> <li>◀ Walk Field</li> </ul>
Tennis	N/A
Netball	N/A
Bowls	◀ Hammerwich Bowling Club

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

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

- 5.54 To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. This should be based on their strategic importance in a District-wide and sporting context, taking into account the level of demand accommodated and the potential impact the recommended actions will have on addressing the identified shortfalls/issues. The proposed site-hierarchy for Lichfield District is summarised below.

Table 5.6: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the District. Priority sites.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches / facility types, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches / facility types.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for more at a basic level.



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Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school/college/university with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

- 5.55 **Hub sites** are of District-wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. Actions at these sites are likely to have a greater impact on addressing the issues identified in the PPOSS.
- 5.56 **Key centres** are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. However, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.
- 5.57 It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.
- 5.58 **Local sites** refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports.
- 5.59 For council sites in this tier, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.
- 5.60 Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

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

- 5.61 Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding is secured for improved sports provision and directed to areas of need. This should be underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities, with the PPOSS able to be used as an evidence base for attracting investment.

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- 5.62 Furthermore, to address community need, target priority areas and reduce provision duplication, a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPOSS Steering Group as well as with neighbouring local authorities. Cross-border developments can accommodate demand from within Lichfield District (and vice versa) and lessen requirements within the District.
- 5.63 To attract investment, the Council should stay informed in relation to relevant and appropriate funding pots, both in regard to what it can directly attract as well as to what clubs could attract independently (with the Council able to assist with this process). This can also be helped through the PPOSS Steering Group signposting partners to what could be available.
- 5.64 Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development. This includes delivery from education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector.

#### **Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions**

- 5.65 It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing developments.
- 5.66 For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council uses Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required. This should form the basis of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions and should aid the negotiation process with developers.
- 5.67 The calculator uses the current number of teams by sport and by pitch type and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport and on that provision. That percentage is then applied to the population growth and the additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions. This then provides the associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) provided. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.
- 5.68 For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator. This works by turning an estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent number of courts which will be needed to meet this. It helps quantify additional demand for new growth populations, development, and regeneration areas, and is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations.
- 5.69 Once the calculators have been utilised, the PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development (or group of developments) on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for contributions to be put towards improvements to increase the capacity of existing provision, or if new provision is required (or a combination of both). Where development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

- 5.70 Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that also contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused.
- 5.71 The preference for Sport England and the NGBs is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for further development in the future. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.
- 5.72 Where new provision is not required but where contributions to existing sites is instead to be sought, the PPOSS Action Plan should be used to identify suitable sites within the locality that should receive the funding. This may involve directing investment into provision most likely to receive demand from the housing development, or into provision that is most in need (e.g., due to quality issues).
- 5.73 Sport England also recommends that a number of objectives which should be implemented to enable best use of the calculators:
- ▶ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made
  - ▶ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs
  - ▶ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance
  - ▶ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site
  - ▶ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements
- 5.74 For further information, please see Part 7 of this report.
- 5.75 Whilst neither the Playing Pitch Calculator nor the Sports Facilities Calculator identify demand for other types of pitches (outside of football, rugby, cricket and hockey) or non-pitch provision (outside of tennis), a similar assessment of need process can still be undertaken. As with the sports that are covered, this should entail utilisation of the PPOSS and engagement with the NGBs.

#### ***Developer contributions - step by step guide***

- 5.76 For any application warranting a developer contribution the following processes should be followed in order to help inform the potential needs a new housing development may require and/or should look to consider. In accordance with National Planning Policy Guidance, contributions should not be sought from developments of 10 units or less, and which have a maximum combined gross floor space of no more than 1,000 square metres (gross internal area).

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- 5.77 Any obligations sought should be based on a tailored approach to each development, considering the population derived from the development, determining if the demand can be met by existing facilities and identifying the project/s that any required contribution will be used towards. All of this should be carried out using the robust evidence base provided as part of the PPOSS to help with clearly justifying the needs arising and how they are to be met.

<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from the development</b>
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- 5.78 The main tool for determining this is Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, which is a Sport England tool provided on completion of the Strategy. The calculator will be pre-populated with the current population of the local authority and the current demand data from the PPOSS. Until this requires updating, to determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from a development, all that is required is the input of the new population that will derive from a proposal.
- 5.79 The calculator provides an estimation of the number of new pitches that would be required to meet the match equivalent sessions that will derive from the development. The associated costs for providing these new pitches are also identified (although please note that these are indicative costs only and appropriate local work should be undertaken to determine the true costs involved).

<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Determine whether new provision is required and whether this should be on or off site</b>
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- 5.80 For large-scale developments that generate high levels of demand, new pitch provision may be required to meet the population growth. This is particularly the case when the calculator identifies a need for multiple pitches and across multiple sports.
- 5.81 When on site provision is required, priority should be placed on the creation of multi-pitch and multi-sport sites with appropriate ancillary facilities such as a clubhouse and adequate car parking, as well as ensuring the provision contributes towards reducing current shortfalls. This will ensure that the provision is sustainable and attractive to potential users. Emphasis should also be on ensuring the site can accommodate an AGP given current sporting trends.
- 5.82 Other useful questions when deciding on new provision include:
- ✦ Are there any teams/clubs playing outside of the local area (displaced demand) which could utilise provision at the site?
  - ✦ Do any local clubs identify existing plans/demand for access to new provision?
  - ✦ Are there any overplayed sites in the local area where existing demand could be transferred to a new site?
  - ✦ Do any local clubs identify any latent demand (i.e. if they had access to more pitches they could they field more teams)?
- 5.83 To further help determine the sustainability of establishing new provision, consideration should be given to the potential management opportunities which may be available onsite:
- ✦ Is the local authority (or town/parish council) in a position to take on further outdoor sports facilities from a financial point of view?
  - ✦ Is an education establishment to be provided as part of the development which offers a potential management option of outdoor sports facilities?

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- ◀ Is there a leisure trust in place which has the capacity to take on the management of outdoor sports facilities?
- ◀ Is there an opportunity for a trust based model of management, for example, by formation of a Community Interest Company (CIC) or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)?
- ◀ Is there an existing sports club that has the capacity to take on the management of another site?

- 5.84 Where the calculator does not create demand for a whole pitch, which is often the case for smaller sized developments, it is recommended to make a contribution to increasing the capacity of an existing site to meet demand generated from the development. When identifying a site for off-site contributions, the proximity and location of existing playing pitch sites should be considered and whether they could help serve the new development – this could be informed by identifying the analysis area in which the development sits and if there are any hub sites or key centres within the locality. Initially, a one-mile radius could be drawn around the site in order to help identify the nearest priority sites, which may require consultation with neighbouring authorities when the development sites to close to the boundary.
- 5.85 The off-site decision should be based on the potential to improve existing facilities within an appropriate catchment of a development to create additional capacity, and how realistic it is given the nature of the local area to provide new provision. For example, there may be some poor quality playing fields that could potentially be improved with additional drainage and long-term maintenance works, along with enhanced changing provision, to enable use to be increased, thereby creating additional capacity to meet the increased demand generated from the development.
- 5.86 Discussions should be held with relevant parties (e.g. NGBs, landowners, facility operators and user groups), and any further necessary evidence gathered (e.g. a feasibility study) to help identify the specific works that are required, and to ensure they will provide the necessary additional capacity to meet the needs. It will also be important to demonstrate that the specific works can be delivered within an appropriate timescale in relation to the occupation of the development site.

<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Determine the other pitch and non-pitch requirements resulting from the development</b>
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- 5.87 The Sports Facility Calculator now calculates tennis demand so this can therefore be used to inform tennis requirements; however, neither this nor the Playing Pitch Calculator determine needs for any other sports. That being said, the PPOSS identifies (where relevant) current and future demand requirements and can therefore still be used to determine if contributions are required towards these sports or if new provision is required, in conjunction with NGB discussions.
- 5.88 Where there is no identified shortfall in provision or future demand for new provision within an area relevant to the development (e.g. an analysis area or settlement), consideration should be given to the nearest site to the development containing that type of provision. If this could accommodate the increased demand from the development, no action is required; if it could not accommodate the demand, consider if the site could benefit from a contribution towards increasing capacity to meet likely need. For example, this could include increasing quality and/or addition of ancillary facilities such as floodlighting, changing rooms or car parking. The PPOSS Action Plan should be used as a starting point to identify site by site recommendations.



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- 5.89 Where there is an identified shortfall that could not be overcome through contributions, new provision may be required within or nearby to the development as part of a multi-sport development.

<b>Step 4</b>	<b>Consider design principles for new provision</b>
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- 5.90 The exact nature and location of provision associated with onsite developments should be fully determined in partnership with each relevant NGB. Further to this, each pitch sport NGB provides national guidance in relation to provision of new pitches.

- 5.91 There is also a need to ensure that the location of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities are appropriately located in the context of indoor sports provision (if also being provided onsite) to ensure a cohesive approach to the whole sporting offer.

<b>Step 5</b>	<b>Calculate the financial contribution required</b>
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- 5.92 After using the PPOSS Playing Pitch Calculator and the PPOSS as a starting point, the local cost of provision should be fully determined in order to calculate the financial contributions required.
- 5.93 A clear and transparent methodology for calculating up to date costs for the specific works, including appropriate ancillary provision, should be presented. Where appropriate, depending on how the needs are to be met, the cost of any required land purchase should be included in the financial contribution. If an obligation will be directed to an off-site project it should be ensured the costs are limited to meet the needs of the individual development.
- 5.94 Along with any capital costs for the works, an obligation should ensure an appropriate level of lifecycle costs towards the new or enhanced provision. This is required to cover the day to day maintenance for an agreed long-term period and to help ensure a sinking fund exists for any major replacement work, e.g. the future resurfacing of an artificial grass pitch.
- 5.95 Wherever possible, specific local costs should be used, especially if the works are to improve the existing quality of a site to increase capacity as there may be a number of site specifics to consider. Sport England does provide indicative costs for new provision: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>
- 5.96 For all developments community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term.

### OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

#### Recommendations:

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

#### **Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock**

- 5.97 The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6). In addition, first and foremost, it is imperative that the current levels of provision are protected and maintained to ensure that the overall picture does not worsen in the future.
- 5.98 To reduce the identified shortfalls, there is not necessarily a need for a significant level of new provision, with the current provision instead able to be better utilised to overcome most deficits. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:
- ▶ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand
  - ▶ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity and/or to artificial surfaces
  - ▶ The re-designation of facilities e.g., converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type)
  - ▶ Securing long-term tenure at sites that are currently unsecured
  - ▶ Exploring lease/management arrangements with appropriate clubs/organisations
  - ▶ Securing community use at education sites including those currently unavailable
  - ▶ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage and secure tenure
  - ▶ Establishing additional sports lighting
  - ▶ Installing artificial surfaces (e.g., 3G pitches and NTPs)
- 5.99 The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality as well as unused and unsecure sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome. This is done on a site-by-site basis in the proceeding Action Plan.

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

- 5.100 Better utilising the stock of provision across Lichfield District will lessen the need for new provision. Although there are identified shortfalls, most existing shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock is therefore not recommended as a priority solution, although for certain sports and in specific areas it is likely to be required. This is especially the case for cricket pitches, 3G pitches and padel courts.
- 5.101 Where new pitches/facilities are likely to be needed, consideration should be given to allocating land for new provision to meet existing need as part of the Local Plan process. This should be done in addition to residential allocations and their requirements (see Part 7), although it could be via providing additional land for playing fields as an extension to the playing fields required to service large-scale developments.
- 5.102 As intimated above, large scale housing developments may also necessitate the need for new provision, as will the establishment of any new schools. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the School to the development of a new multi-sport site that can be of a benefit to the School as well as the wider community, subject to any design issues and providing that long-term security of tenure can be provided.



### PART 6: ACTION PLAN

- 6.1 The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report as well as linking to the sport-by-sport scenarios and recommendations section of this document. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is separated by analysis area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.
- 6.2 Please note that if a site is not identified/included in the Action Plan, it does not mean that it is not needed or that it is not playing field or sports facility. Where provision is not recorded within the PPOSS, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.
- 6.3 Also note that where national planning policy requirements are referenced within any recommendation actions, this refers to meeting the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

#### ***Site hierarchy***

- 6.4 The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on identified key issues, local priorities and available funding. To help enable this, as stated in Recommendation (e), the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of sites and associated facilities. This is done via classifying sites as hub sites, key centres or local sites.

#### ***Partners***

- 6.5 The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council should look to work with to support delivery of the actions. It generally relates to the NGB that governs the sport/s played at the site as well as the operators and any other relevant stakeholders. Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.
- 6.6 As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not directly referenced. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council-operated venues).

#### ***Priority***

- 6.7 Although hub sites are most likely to have **high** priority actions, as they have wider importance, these have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the PPOSS. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are on occasion also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).
- 6.8 In addition to being included within the main action plan, the high priority actions have also been separated out (see Appendix 1). This is to assist with the start of the Stage E process following adoption of the PPOSS.

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- 6.9 **Medium** priority actions have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.
- 6.10 The **low** priority actions tend to be where little work is required, or where the status quo can be maintained, or they are for single pitch or single sport sites with only local specific importance. However, the actions may still contribute to addressing issues for specific users and there may also be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

#### **Costs**

- 6.11 The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on cost. The brackets are:
- ◀ (L) - Low - less than £150k
  - ◀ (M) - Medium - £150k-£750k
  - ◀ (H) - High £750k and above
- 6.12 These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:  
<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

#### **Timescales**

- 6.13 The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:
- ◀ (S) -Short (1-2 years)
  - ◀ (M) - Medium (3-5 years)
  - ◀ (L) - Long (6+ years)

#### **Aim**

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

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### BURNTWOOD ANALYSIS AREA

#### Summary

Sport	Pitch/ facility type	Current capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Football	Adult	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions
Football	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent sessions
Football	Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
Football	Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
Football	11v11 3G	Shortfall of 0.5 pitches	Shortfall of 0.75 pitches
Cricket	Saturday	Shortfall of 15 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 27 match equivalent sessions
Cricket	Sunday	Shortfall of 15 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 27 match equivalent sessions
Cricket	Midweek	Spare capacity of 3 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 3 match equivalent sessions
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions
Hockey	Full size AGP	Spare capacity of 8 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 8 match equivalent sessions
Tennis	Courts	Club demand is being met, recreational demand is not	Club demand is being met, recreational demand is not
Netball	Courts	An insufficient supply of courts	An insufficient supply of courts
Bowls	Greens	Demand is being met	Demand is being met

#### Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites, e.g. Chase Terrace College.</li> <li>Adequately mitigate against the loss of Open House should development plans proceed, in line with national planning policy.</li> <li>Enable use of currently unavailable sites.</li> </ul>
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register for competitive matches.</li> <li>Establish additional 3G provision.</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Alleviate overplay at Hammerwich Cricket Club.</li> <li>Improve pitch quality at Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club.</li> <li>Improve ancillary facility quality at Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club</li> </ul>

## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Priority recommendations
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve quality at Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association to reduce overplay.</li> <li>Explore further opportunities to alleviate overplay i.e., through additional sports lighting and/or a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.</li> </ul>
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Seek imminent resurfacing at Erasmus Darwin Academy.</li> <li>Seek to establish a community use agreement to improve security of tenure.</li> </ul>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Explore opportunities to establish increased park-based provision.</li> <li>Explore sports lighting potential at Erasmus Darwin Academy and Chase Terrace College to better cater for community demand.</li> </ul>
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Explore sports lighting potential at Erasmus Darwin Academy and Chase Terrace College to better cater for community demand.</li> <li>Explore additional/increased access to school-based provision.</li> </ul>
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve quality at Chasetown Memorial Park Bowling Club.</li> <li>Ensure Hammerwich BC remains sustainable on its provision given its high membership.</li> </ul>

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
8	Boney Hay Primary Academy	WS7 2PF	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality and retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	WS7 3XH	Football	Council	Three good quality adult pitches that are played to capacity. One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise spare capacity via transfer of demand from a site with overplay or through future demand.	FA	Hub site	L	L	L	Protect
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	WS7 3XH	3G	Council	One smaller sized good quality 3G pitch that is currently FA accredited until 31/05/2027.	Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary. Ensure the pitch is retested every three years so that it can continue to accommodate competitive match demand. Support the extension of the pitch given local shortfalls of 11v11 3G pitches.	FA FF	Hub site	H	M	M	Enhance Protect Provide
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	WS7 3XH	Tennis	Council	Two good quality macadam courts that are serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality.	LTA	Hub site	L	L	L	Protect
9	Burntwood Leisure Centre	WS7 3XH	Netball	Council	Two good quality macadam courts that are serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality.	EN	Hub site	L	L	L	Protect
10	Burntwood Memorial Park	WS7 9BE	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to establish actual spare capacity.	Sports Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
11	Burntwood Rugby Club Sports Association	WS7 3PH	Rugby	Sports Club	Two poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitches that are overplayed. One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that is overplayed. The site is serviced with good quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay. Explore further opportunities to alleviate overplay i.e., through additional sports lighting and/or a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.	Sports Club RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	WS7 9QH	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has actual spare capacity. The site is serviced with poor quality ancillary provision.	Utilise actual spare capacity via transfer of demand from sites with overplay or through future demand. Explore options to improve ancillary provision to better cater for demand at the site.	Sports Club FA	Local	L	L	M	Protect Enhance
12	Burntwood St Matthews Cricket Club	WS7 9QH	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality 10-wicket grass square that is accompanied by an NTP. The square has capacity for an additional senior team. The site is serviced with poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve square quality to better accommodate demand. Explore options to improve ancillary provision.	Sports Club SCC ECB	Local	H	L	M	Protect Enhance

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Football	Education	One adult pitch, two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 pitch and two mini 5v5 pitches all rated as standard quality. Two mini 5v5 poor quality pitches. Spare capacity at this site has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve poor quality pitches. Consider as a potential site for a 3G pitch to reduce local shortfalls and increase overall site capacity.	School FA FF	Key centre	M	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Rugby	Education	One poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand.	School RFU	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School SCC ECB	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Tennis	Education	Four good quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are without sports lighting.	Sustain quality. Explore sports lighting potential to attract community demand.	School LTA	Key centre	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
16	Chase Terrace College	WS7 2DB	Netball	Education	Three good quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are without sports lighting.	Sustain quality. Explore sports lighting potential to attract community demand.	School EN	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
17	Chasetown Community School	WS7 3QL	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Football	Education	One adult, one youth 11v11 and three youth 9v9 pitches that are all rated as standard quality. The adult pitch and youth 9v9 pitches have actual spare capacity. The site is serviced with good quality ancillary provision.	Utilise spare capacity via transfer of demand from sites with overplay or through future demand.	School FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Rugby Union	Education	One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch that is unused by the community. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality. The site is serviced with good quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand as well as any potential community demand.	School RFU	Key centre	M	S	L	Enhance Provide
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Hockey	Education	One standard quality hockey suitable AGP that was last resurfaced in 2010. The site is serviced with good quality ancillary provision.	Seek imminent resurfacing to improve quality and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term security of tenure. Seek to establish a community use agreement to improve security of tenure.	School EH	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is unused by the community.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School SCC ECB	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Provide
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Tennis	Education	Eight good quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality. Explore sports lighting potential to better cater for and to attract community demand.	School LTA	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
22	Erasmus Darwin Academy	WS7 3QW	Netball	Education	Six good quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality. Explore sports lighting potential to better cater for and to attract community demand.	School EN	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
25	Fulfen Primary School	WS7 9BJ	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
25	Fulfen Primary School	WS7 9BJ	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
26	Hammerwich Cricket Club	WS7 0JQ	Cricket	Sports Club	One 12-wicket good quality grass square and one good quality 5-wicket square accompanied by an NTP. Both of the squares are currently overplayed. The site is serviced with good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain square quality. Seek greater utilisation of NTPs to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club SCC ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect
29	Holly Grove Primary School	WS7 1LU	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
29	Holly Grove Primary School	WS7 1LU	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
30	Hospital Road	WS7 0EQ	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed. One good quality youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches that are played to capacity within the peak period. One standard quality youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches that are played to capacity within the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Consider as a potential site for a 3G pitch to reduce local shortfalls and increase overall site capacity.	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M-H	Protect Provide
41	Maple Hayes Hall School for Dyslexics	WS13 8BL	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School SCC ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
41	Maple Hayes Hall School for Dyslexics	WS13 8BL	Tennis	Education	Four poor quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use.	Improve court quality.	School LTA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance



**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
46	Open House	WS7 4RJ	Football (Disused)	Council	One adult, one youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 pitches that are now disused as the site is subject to development proposals.	Ensure any development plans comply with national and local planning policy requirements (this study has found that the site cannot be said to be surplus to requirements).	FA	Local	H	M	L	Protect
50	Redwood Park	WS7 2BH	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has actual spare capacity. The site is without ancillary provision.	Utilise spare capacity via transfer of demand from sites with overplay or via future demand. Explore opportunities to provide appropriate ancillary facilities on site.	FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
51	Ridgeway Primary School	WS7 4TU	Football	Education	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
51	Ridgeway Primary School	WS7 4TU	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School SCC ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
51	Ridgeway Primary School	WS7 4TU	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
55	Springhill Academy	WS7 4UN	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
55	Springhill Academy	WS7 4UN	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
57	St Joseph & St Theresa Catholic Primary	WS7 3XL	Football	Education	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
57	St Joseph & St Theresa Catholic Primary	WS7 3XL	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality macadam court that are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
68	The Scholars Ground	WS7 3QL	Football (3G)	Sports Club	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch that was installed in 2024. The pitch is currently FA accredited until 31/05/2027.	Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary. Ensure the pitch is retested every three years so that it can continue to accommodate competitive match demand.	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	H	M	L	Protect
75	Hammerwich Bowls Club	WS7 0JQ	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown green that is utilised by Hammerwich BC. The green is currently operating above the recommended capacity threshold by 58 members.	Sustain green quality. Ensure that the Club remains sustainable on the provision.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
76	Chase Terrace Park	WS7 1JJ	Bowls	Council	One standard quality crown green that is unused by the community.	Retain as strategic reserve or explore suitability to accommodate alternative sporting / open space requirements.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
77	Chasetown Memorial Park Bowling Club	WS7 3XE	Bowls	Council	One poor quality crown green that is utilised by Uxbridge Arms BC. The green shows signs of wear and rear as well as the surrounding hard boards deteriorating.	Improve green quality.	BCGBA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
89	Highfields Primary Academy	WS7 9BT	Football	Education	One standard quality min 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch that have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
90	Ashmole Social Club	WS7 0LF	Bowls	Community	One good quality crown green utilised by Ashmole BC.	Sustain green quality.	Community BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### LICHFIELD CITY ANALYSIS AREA

#### Summary

Sport	Pitch/ facility type	Current capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
Football	Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
Football	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions
Football	Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
Football	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
Football	11v11 3G	Shortfall of 1.25 pitches	Shortfall of 1.5 pitches
Cricket	Saturday	At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Sunday	Spare capacity of 24 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 24 match equivalent sessions
Cricket	Midweek	Spare capacity of 24 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 16 match equivalent sessions
Rugby union	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
Hockey	Full size AGP	Spare capacity of 8 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 8 match equivalent sessions
Tennis	Courts	Club demand is being met, recreational demand is not	Club demand is being met, recreational demand is not
Netball	Courts	An insufficient supply of courts	An insufficient supply of courts
Bowls	Greens	Demand is being met	Demand is being met

#### Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites, e.g. Shortbutts Lane and The Friary School.</li> <li>Enable use of currently unavailable school sites and/or seek to improve tenure such as at Lichfield Cathedral School and Nether Stowe High School.</li> </ul>
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Ensure pitch at Lichfield City Football Club has a sinking fund in place and ensure it remains on the FA register for competitive matches.</li> <li>Support the development of 3G provision at Sychbrook Park and then seek to establish additional 3G provision to overcome the remaining deficit (0.75 pitches).</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve ancillary facility quality at Lichfield Hockey &amp; Cricket Club.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve pitch and ancillary facility quality at Lichfield Hockey &amp; Cricket Club.</li> </ul>

## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Sport	Priority recommendations
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Seek imminent resurfacing at Lichfield Hockey &amp; Cricket Club (due now) and King Edward VI Sports Centre (due 2027).</li> <li>Seek to establish a community use agreement at King Edward VI Sports Centre to improve security of tenure and/or consider aspirations for a second pitch at Lichfield Hockey &amp; Cricket Club.</li> <li>Improve ancillary facilities at Lichfield Hockey &amp; Cricket Club.</li> </ul>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Explore court improvements and sports lighting potential at Nether Stowe High School to better cater for community demand.</li> <li>Support development of padel provision.</li> </ul>
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Explore court improvements and sports lighting potential at Nether Stowe High School to better cater for community demand.</li> <li>Explore additional/increased access to school-based provision.</li> </ul>
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Sustain green quality.</li> </ul>

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
6	Beacon Park	WS13 7AG	Football	Council	Four standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity within the peak period. Four standard quality youth 11v11 pitches that are played to capacity within the peak period.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from sites with overplay or through future demand.	FA	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect
6	Beacon Park	WS13 7AG	Cricket	Council	One standalone NTP.	Retain for recreational and informal demand.	SCC ECB	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
6	Beacon Park	WS13 7AG	Tennis	Council	Four good quality macadam courts that are serviced with sports lighting. Planning permission for three padel courts has been granted as part of a wider development of the site.	Sustain court quality. Support the development of the padel courts given that demand within the District exists.	LTA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Provide
6	Beacon Park	WS13 7AG	Netball	Council	Three good quality macadam courts that are serviced with sports lighting. Chase Town Ladies NC and Lichfield Spires NC utilise the courts.	Sustain court quality.	EN	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
6	Beacon Park	WS13 7AG	Bowls	Council	Two good quality crown greens utilised by Lichfield Crown Green BC and Museum BC. The greens have capacity for an additional 64 members between them.	Sustain green quality.	BCGBA	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
13	Chadsmead Primary Academy	WS13 7HJ	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
14	Charnwood Primary Academy	WS13 7PH	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch that are rated as poor quality and are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
18	Curborough Community Centre	WS13 7NY	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
31	King Edward VI School	WS14 9EE	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Explore the feasibility of establishing a community use agreement to provide users with security of tenure.	School FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect
31	King Edward VI School	WS14 9EE	Rugby Union	Education	Two poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitches with spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School RFU	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
31	King Edward VI School	WS14 9EE	Tennis	Education	Four standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are without sports lighting.	Explore installation of sports lighting to attract community demand.	School LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
31	King Edward VI School	WS14 9EE	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Explore installation of sports lighting to attract community demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
32	King Edward VI Sports Centre	WS14 9DE	Hockey	Education	One standard quality hockey suitable AGP that is available for community use and is serviced with sports lighting. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2017. The pitch is unused for club hockey activity.	Seek resurfacing within the lifespan of the PPOSS (due 2027) and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term security of tenure. Seek to establish a community use agreement to improve security of tenure.	School EH	Local	M	M	M	Protect
35	Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Field	WS13 7LR	Football	Education	Two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches that have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Explore the feasibility of establishing a community use agreement to provide users with security of tenure.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
35	Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Field	WS13 7LR	Rugby Union	Education	One poor quality (M0/D0) age grade pitch that is played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School RFU	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
35	Lichfield Cathedral School Playing Field	WS13 7LR	Netball	Education	One poor quality court that is unavailable for community use.	Improve court quality to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
36	Lichfield City Football Club (Trade Tyre Community Stadium)	WS13 6AY	3G	Sports Club	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2017. The pitch is currently FA accredited until 31/05/25.	Sustain pitch quality and ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when necessary. Ensure the pitch is regularly retested so that it can continue to accommodate competitive match demand.	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	H	M	L	Protect
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	WS13 7SQ	Football	Sports Club	Two standard quality adult pitches that are played to capacity within the peak period. Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club states that it has access to an additional field behind its current site which it wishes to convert into additional playing fields.	Support Lichfield Sports Club's aspirations to provide additional playing field land. Improve ancillary provision on site.	Sports Club FA	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	WS13 7SQ	Rugby	Sports Club	One poor quality (M0/D1) pitch that is used by Whittington RUFC. Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions to extend and improve the clubhouse.	Improve pitch quality. Improve ancillary provision on site.	Sports Club RFU	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	WS13 7SQ	Hockey	Sports Club	One standard quality hockey suitable AGP that is sports lit. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2008. Lichfield HC utilises the site for its training and match demand. Aspirations exist for a second pitch to be provided. Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions to extend and improve the clubhouse. Lichfield HC has ambitions of installing a second hockey suitable AGP on site stating that it has planning permission for this.	Improve pitch quality via imminent resurfacing and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Consider aspirations for a second pitch to be provided against securing tenure at alternative sites with a hockey pitch. Improve ancillary provision on site.	Sports Club EH	Key centre	H	M	H	Enhance Protect Provide
38	Lichfield Hockey & Cricket Club	WS13 7SQ	Cricket	Sports Club	One 16-wicket and one 9-wicket square, both rated as good quality. Lichfield Sports Club has ambitions to extend and improve the clubhouse.	Sustain square quality. Improve ancillary provision on site.	Sports Club SCC ECB	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
44	Nether Stowe High School	WS13 7NB	Football	Education	Three standard quality youth 11v11 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Explore the feasibility of establishing a community use agreement to provide users with security of tenure.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
44	Nether Stowe High School	WS13 7NB	Tennis	Education	Four poor quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Improve court quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand and then re-examine community requirements.	School LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
44	Nether Stowe High School	WS13 7NB	Netball	Education	Two poor quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Improve court quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand and then re-examine community requirements.	School EN	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
54	Shortbutts Lane	WS14 9BT	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed. One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
56	St Chads CE Primary School	WS13 6SN	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
56	St Chads CE Primary School	WS13 6SN	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
58	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	WS14 9AN	Football	Education	Two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
58	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	WS14 9AN	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam courts that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
59	St Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School	WS13 7NH	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect



**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
63	Stychbrook Park	WS13 7RB	Football	Council	Two adult pitches previously provided as the site is currently undergoing a redevelopment. A new 3G pitch is to be provided as part of a wider development that will also see the creation of a new leisure centre. The pitch will be suitable for youth football.	Support the development of the 3G pitch and ensure a sinking fund is in place for its refurbishment.	FA FF	Key centre	M	M	H	Protect Provide
65	The Bypass	WS13 7BW	Football	Council	Two standard quality pitches that are played to capacity. The site is currently without ancillary facilities.	Support the development of ancillary provision at the site to better accommodate demand.	FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is currently overplayed. Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are currently overplayed. One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is currently overplayed. One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is played to capacity. One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay. Seek to establish a community use agreement in order to provide security of tenure to users. Support the development of the new build pavilion to cater for all sporting demand at the site. Explore the option of providing an 11v11 3G pitch to alleviate local shortfalls.	FA FF	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Rugby Union	Education	One senior rugby union pitch of poor quality (M0/D1). The pitch is unused and has actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School RFU	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Hockey	Education	One small sided hockey suitable AGP of poor quality.	Look to resurface the pitch to better facilitate curricular and community use and examine surface requirements as part of this.	School EH	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Cricket	Education	One grass cricket square and a standalone NTP, both of standard quality. The grass square on site is reported to be undersized and suffers from poor drainage.	Improve square quality. Explore community aspects given local pitch shortfalls, providing security of tenure can be provided.	School SCC ECB	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
67	The Friary School	WS13 7EW	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are without sports lighting.	Explore sports lighting potential to better accommodate and attract community demand.	School	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
82	Lichfield Bowling Club	WS13 6QJ	Bowls	Private	One good quality crown green that is utilised by Lichfield BC with spare capacity for four members. The green is sports lit.	Sustain quality. Monitor membership of the Club to ensure sustainability.	BCGBA	Local	M	M	L	Protect

# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### LICHFIELD DISTRICT NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

#### Summary

Sport	Pitch/ facility type	Current capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Football	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Football	11v11 3G	At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Saturday	Shortfall of 14 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 26 match equivalent sessions
Cricket	Sunday	Spare capacity of 22 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 22 match equivalent sessions
Cricket	Midweek	Spare capacity of 22 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 14 match equivalent sessions
Rugby union	Senior	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Hockey	Full size AGP	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Tennis	Courts	Club demand is being met, recreational demand is not	Club demand is being met, recreational demand is not
Netball	Courts	An insufficient supply of courts	An insufficient supply of courts
Bowls	Greens	Demand is being met	Demand is being met

#### Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites, e.g. AFC Fradley and Walk Field.</li> </ul>
3G pitches	N/A
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Alleviate overplay at Walk Field, potentially via the establishment of a second pitch.</li> <li>Improve pitch quality at Longdon Cricket Club.</li> <li>Improve ancillary facility quality at Armitage Cricket Club.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	N/A
Hockey	N/A
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Explore opportunities to establish increased park-based provision.</li> <li>Improve quality at Armitage Village Hall.</li> </ul>
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Explore additional/increased access to school-based provision.</li> </ul>
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve quality at Alrewas All Saints Bowling Club.</li> </ul>

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	AFC Fradley	WS13 8ZD	Football	Sports Club	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality to establish actual spare capacity.	Sports Club FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
2	All Saints C Of E (C) Primary School	DE13 7EF	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
2	All Saints C Of E (C) Primary School	DE13 7EF	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
4	Armitage Cricket Club	WS15 4AH	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality 10-wicket grass square. The square is accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision which is not suitable for women and girls.	Sustain square quality. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary facilities on site to improve inclusivity.	Sports Club SCC ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
24	Fradley Park Primary School	WS13 8TW	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
33	Kings Bromley Cricket Club	DE13 7JF	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality 10-wicket grass square that is accompanied by an NTP. The square is accompanied by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain square quality.	Sports Club Cricket	Local	M	L	L	Protect
34	King's Bromley Showground	DE13 7JF	Football (Disused)	Community	One youth 11v11 pitch which is no longer marked out.	Explore the option of bringing the pitch back into use given local shortfalls.	FA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide
60	St Stephens's Primary School	WS13 8NN	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
66	The Croft Primary School	WS15 4AZ	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
69	Walk Field	DE13 7EW	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is played to capacity within the peak period.	Improve quality to increase capacity.	Sports Club FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
69	Walk Field	DE13 7EW	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality 14-wicket grass square which is currently overplayed. An NTP is also located on the site. The square is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. Alrewas CC is exploring the option to provide a second square given its exported demand.	Sustain pitch quality. Seek to maximise NTP usage to reduce overplay. Support plans for the establishment of a second pitch as a resolution to bringing back exported demand.	Sports Club SCC ECB	Local	H	S	H	Protect Provide
69	Walk Field	DE13 7EW	Tennis	Sports Club	Two good quality macadam courts that are sports lit.	Sustain court quality.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
73	Ridware Bowls Club	WS15 3QX	Bowls	Private	One good quality crown green utilised by Ridware BC.	Sustain green quality.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
74	Armitage & Handsacre Bowls Pavilion	WS15 4BL	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown green utilised by Armitage and Handsacre BC.	Sustain green quality.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
78	Alrewas All Saints Bowling Club	DE13 7BT	Bowls	Private	One standard quality crown green utilised by Alrewas All Saints BC.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
80	Kings Bromley Bowling Club	DE13 7JA	Bowls	Community	One good quality crown green utilised by Kings Bromley BC.	Sustain green quality.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
85	Armitage Village Hall	WS15 4UZ	Tennis	Community	One poor quality macadam court that is without sports lighting.	Improve court quality to better accommodate demand.	LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
86	Longdon Cricket Club	WS15 4LE	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality 8-wicket grass square that has capacity for an additional senior team.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from a site with overplay or via future demand.	Sports Club SCC ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
88	School Lane	WS7 1LD	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity within the peak period.	Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from a site with overplay or via future demand.	FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect
91	Windmill Bowling Club	WS15 4NF	Bowls	Private	One good quality crown green utilised by Windmill BC	Sustain green quality.	BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### LICHFIELD DISTRICT SOUTH & EAST ANALYSIS AREA

#### Summary

Sport	Pitch/ facility type	Current capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Football	Adult	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions
Football	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
Football	Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Football	11v11 3G	Shortfall of 1.25 pitches	Shortfall of 1.25 pitches
Cricket	Saturday	Spare capacity of 7 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 7 match equivalent sessions
Cricket	Sunday	Spare capacity of 31 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 31 match equivalent sessions
Cricket	Midweek	Spare capacity of 27 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 19 match equivalent sessions
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions
Hockey	Full size AGP	Spare capacity of 3 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 3 match equivalent sessions
Tennis	Courts	Club demand is being met, recreational demand is not	Club demand is being met, recreational demand is not
Netball	Courts	An insufficient supply of courts	An insufficient supply of courts
Bowls	Greens	Demand is being met	Demand is being met

#### Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites, e.g. Bit End Field, Shenstone Country Club, Stonnall Playing Fields and New Mill Lane.</li> <li>Look to bring back disused provision at Baxters Field.</li> <li>Improve ancillary facilities at Elford Playing Field and Harlaston Bridge.</li> </ul>
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision at Rawlett Leisure Centre.</li> <li>Examine impact on provision at DMS Whittington should a pitch be development.</li> <li>Establish additional 3G provision.</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Alleviate overplay at Bit End Field.</li> <li>Improve pitch quality at Mill Green Sports Ground.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve quality at Lichfield Rugby Club to reduce overplay.</li> <li>Explore further opportunities to alleviate overplay i.e., through additional sports lighting and/or a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.</li> <li>Improve ancillary facilities at Lichfield Rugby Club.</li> </ul>

## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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Sport	Priority recommendations
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Protect provision.</li><li>Seek imminent resurfacing at DMS Whittington.</li><li>Explore opportunities to improve security of tenure.</li></ul>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Protect provision.</li><li>Explore opportunities to establish increased park-based provision.</li><li>Explore sports lighting potential at Little Aston Bowling Club.</li></ul>
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Protect provision.</li><li>Explore additional/increased access to school-based provision.</li></ul>
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Protect provision.</li><li>Improve quality at Lichfield Rugby Club.</li></ul>

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
5	Baxters Field	WS14 9TB	Football (Disused)	Sports Club	Three standard quality youth 9v9 previously provided now owned privately with a link to Whittington FC. The Club has plans to bring the site back into use and develop it.	Support the aspirations to bring the site back into use and ensure provision is provided to a good quality. Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are provided.	Sports Club FA	Local	H	S	H	Protect Provide
7	Bit End Field	WS14 9LQ	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is currently played to capacity. One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch.	Improve pitch quality to establish actual spare capacity.	Parish Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
7	Bit End Field	WS14 9LQ	Cricket	Parish Council	One good quality 7-wicket grass square that is accompanied by an NTP. The square is overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per season.	Sustain square quality. Seek to utilise NTP better to help alleviate overplay.	Parish Council SCC ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect
19	David Lloyd	WS14 0QP	Tennis	Commercial	Four good quality artificial turf courts that are sports lit but unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality.	LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
20	DMS Whittington	WS14 9TQ	Football	MOD	One poor quality adult pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality. The site is serviced with poor ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality. Explore options to formalise a long-term community use agreement with Whittington FC. Pursue ancillary facility improvements if the site is going to be accessible in the long-term.	MOD FA FF	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
20	DMS Whittington	WS14 9TQ	3G	MOD	Planning permission has been granted for the creation of an 11v11 3G pitch with sports lighting; however, no community use agreement is included within this.	Explore opportunities to establish a community use agreement in relation to the provision.	MOD FA FF	Key centre	H	S	L	Protect
20	DMS Whittington	WS14 9TQ	Rugby Union	MOD	One senior rugby union pitch of poor (M0/D0) quality.	Improve pitch quality.	MOD RFU	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
20	DMS Whittington	WS14 9TQ	Hockey	MOD	One full-size, hockey suitable AGP of standard quality that is utilised by Lichfield HC as an overspill venue. The pitch has surpassed its recommended 10-year lifespan and was previously considered for potential conversion to a World Rugby compliant 3G.	Protect as hockey suitable surface for as long as Lichfield HC requires access. Seek to resurface as soon as possible and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Explore opportunities to improve security of tenure.	MOD EH	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance



**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
21	Elford Playing Field	B79 9DE	Football	Sports Club	One good quality youth 11v11 pitch that is currently played to capacity. One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches that have actual spare capacity within the peak period. The site is serviced with poor quality ancillary provision although Elford Boys FC has applied for a clubhouse grant for improvements.	Sustain pitch quality. Support the Club with clubhouse improvements to better cater for demand.	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
21	Elford Playing Field	B79 9DE	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality 10-wicket grass square that is accompanied by an NTP. The square has actual spare capacity of 26 match equivalent sessions per season with capacity for Sunday and midweek teams. The square is serviced with good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain square quality. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from a site with overplay or via future demand.	Sports Club SCC ECB	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect
27	Harlaston Bridge	B79 9JX	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality pitch that has actual spare capacity within the peak period. The site is without ancillary provision.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from a site with overplay or via future demand. Explore opportunities to provide appropriate ancillary facilities at the site.	Sports Club FA	Local	L	L	M	Protect Enhance
28	HMP Swinfen Hall	WS14 9QT	3G	Government	One sports-lit, smaller sized 3G pitch of poor quality that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Government FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
37	Lichfield Friary Lawn Tennis Club	WS14 9JE	Tennis	Sports Club	Six good quality artificial tennis courts that are sports-lit and available for community use. The Club has capacity for an additional 110 members.	Sustain court quality.	Sports Club LTA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	WS14 9JE	Rugby	Sports Club	Two good quality (M2/D1) senior pitches, one of which is sports lit. One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that is sports lit. Three standard quality (M1/D1) age grade pitches that are sports lit. All pitches at the site are overplayed. The site is serviced with standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay. Consider as a potential venue for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch or explore alternatives options for the Club to access such provision. Improve ancillary facilities to better accommodate demand and particularly mixed gender usage.	Sports Club RFU	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
39	Lichfield Rugby Club	WS14 9JE	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality sports-lit crown bowling green used by Lichfield RUFC BC. The green has capacity for 34 additional members.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Sports Club BCGBA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
40	Little Aston Primary School	B74 3BE	Netball	Education	One poor quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Improve court quality for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	WS9 0LY	Football	Sports Club	Two youth 11v11 pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch that are rated as good quality but are played to capacity within the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality.	Sports Club FA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
42	Mill Green Sports Ground	WS9 0LY	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality 7-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The square has capacity to accommodate another senior team. The square is supported by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand. Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from a site with overplay or via future demand.	Sports Club SCC ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
45	New Mill Lane	B78 3RX	Football	Sports Club	One adult and youth 11v11 pitch both rated as standard quality and overplayed. One good quality youth 9v9 pitch that is played to capacity within the peak period.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club FA	Local	M	S	M-H	Protect Enhance
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Football	Education	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch that are all rated as standard quality.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate demand.	School FA	Hub site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	3G	Education	One standard quality 11v11 3G pitch that was last resurfaced in 2016. The pitch is not on the FA pitch register and is not able to accommodate competitive matches.	Improve pitch quality via resurfacing within the lifespan of the PPOSS (due in 2026) and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Seek FA testing so that the pitch can be used for match play.	School FA FF	Hub site	H	S-M	M-H	Protect Enhance Provide
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Rugby Union	Education	Two poor quality (M0/D0) age grade pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and potential community demand.	School RFU	Hub site	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Hockey	Education	One smaller sized, hockey-suitable AGP of standard quality which is sports-lit and available for community use.	Look to resurface the pitch to better facilitate curricular and community use and examine surface requirements as part of this.	School EH	Hub site	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School SCC ECB	Hub site	M	L	L	Protect

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Tennis	Education	Four good quality macadam and four good quality artificial turf tennis courts that are available for community use and are sports lit.	Sustain court quality.	School LTA	Hub site	M	L	L	Protect
48	Rawlett Leisure Centre	B79 9AA	Netball	Education	Three good quality netball courts that are available for community use and are sports lit.	Sustain court quality.	School EN	Hub site	M	L	L	Protect
49	Rectory Close Playing Field	B78 3UH	Football (Disused)	Parish Council	One adult pitch which is no longer marked out.	Explore the option of bringing the pitch back into use given local shortfalls.	Parish Council FA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
49	Rectory Close Playing Field	B78 3UH	Tennis	Parish Council	One standard quality macadam court that is without sports lighting.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Parish Council LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
52	Shenstone Country Club	WS14 0JR	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and establish actual spare capacity.	Parish Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
52	Shenstone Country Club	WS14 0JR	Tennis	Parish Council	Two good quality artificial turf courts that are available for community use but are without sports lighting.	Explore sports lighting potential to better cater for and to attract recreational and informal tennis demand.	Parish Council LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
53	Shenstone Lodge School	WS14 0LB	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
53	Shenstone Lodge School	WS14 0LB	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
61	Stonnall Playing Fields	WS9 9DY	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and establish actual spare capacity.	Parish Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
62	Streethay Primary School	WS13 8FT	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
64	Tamworth Cricket Hockey & Squash Club	B78 3AT	Football	Sports Club	Two standard quality adult pitches that are played to capacity within the peak period.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate demand.	Sports Club	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
64	Tamworth Cricket Hockey & Squash Club	B78 3AT	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality 17-wicket grass square. The site is supported by good quality ancillary facilities although there are only two changing rooms on site which is deemed to be insufficient when mixed age/gender teams are playing on site.	Sustain square quality. Support Tamworth CC's aspirations to improve training and changing facilities on site.	Sports Club SCC ECB	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
70	Whittington Cricket Club	WS14 9LQ	Football (Disused)	Sports Club	One youth 9v9 pitch which is no longer marked out.	Explore the option of bringing the pitch back into use given local shortfalls.	Sports Club FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Provide
70	Whittington Cricket Club	WS14 9LQ	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality 10-wicket grass square.	Sustain square quality.	Sports Club SCC ECB	Local	M	L	L	Protect

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
71	Whittington Primary School	WS14 9LG	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extracurricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
79	Whittington Bowling Club	WS14 9LQ	Bowls	Parish Council	One good quality crown green utilised by Whittington BC.	Sustain green quality.	Parish Council BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
84	Little Aston Bowling Club	B74 3UF	Tennis	Parish Council	Three standard quality clay courts that are without sports lighting.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand. Explore sports lighting potential to better cater for and to attract community demand.	Parish Council LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
84	Little Aston Bowling Club	B74 3UF	Bowls	Parish Council	One good quality crown green utilised by Little Aston BC.	Sustain green quality.	Parish Council BCGBA	Local	M	L	L	Protect

# LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### TAMWORTH ANALYSIS AREA

#### Summary

Sport	Pitch/ facility type	Current capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Football	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
Football	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Football	11v11 3G	At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Saturday	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Cricket	Sunday	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Cricket	Midweek	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Rugby union	Senior	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Hockey	Full size AGP	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Tennis	Courts	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Netball	Courts	No supply / demand	No supply / demand
Bowls	Greens	No supply / demand	No supply / demand

#### Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve ancillary facilities at Fazeley Mile Oak Recreation Ground</li> </ul>
3G pitches	N/A
Cricket	N/A
Rugby union	N/A
Hockey	N/A
Tennis	N/A
Netball	N/A
Bowls	N/A

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
23	Fazeley Mile Oak Recreation Ground	B78 3NN	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session in the peak period. The site is serviced with poor quality ancillary facilities.	Improve ancillary facility quality to better cater for demand.	Council FA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

### PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

- 7.1 The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2043 (in line with the emerging Local Plan), with this future demand then translated into teams likely to be generated. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases before converting the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches that may be required to meet the growth. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision and splits the total pitch requirement into natural turf pitches to meet peak period demand, artificial grass pitches to meet training demand, and the additional number of changing rooms required.
- 7.2 The scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in Lichfield District, thus showing how the calculator works and what it can provide. For the playing pitch sports, the demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions - where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will use either a 3G pitch (football demand) or an AGP (hockey demand); where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on sports-lit grass pitches (i.e., for rugby union).
- 7.3 The first scenario explores the potential requirements relating to Lichfield District's housing target, which is 745 dwellings per annum (totalling 13,410 dwellings from 2025 to 2043). The purpose of this is to identify what the overall playing pitch requirements could equate to over the emerging Local Plan period.
- 7.4 The remaining two scenarios are shown to identify what requirements may emanate from single developments (rather than overall housing growth). As such, one explores the potential need from a small-scale development (50 dwellings), whilst the other is for a large-scale development (600 dwellings).
- 7.5 The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will equate to 2.4 people per dwelling (which is a standardised occupancy rate based on a national average).

#### **Scenario One – Annual housing target (13,410 dwellings, 2025-2043)**

- 7.6 The demand generated from housing growth totalling 13,410 dwellings can be seen in the following table. This is based on resultant population increase of 32,184.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 13,410 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 13,410 dwellings	
	Match demand	Training demand
Adult football	4.69 match equivalent sessions	64.69 hours
Youth football	19.04 match equivalent sessions	
Mini soccer	8.61 match equivalent sessions	
Rugby union	5.21 match equivalent sessions	5.9 hours
Rugby league	0 match equivalent sessions	0 hours
Adult hockey	1.97 match equivalent sessions	5.9 hours
Junior hockey	1.81 match equivalent sessions	1.37 hours
Cricket	231.54 match equivalent sessions	N/A



## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- 7.7 The table below translates the estimated demand into new pitch provision, with associated capital and lifestyle costs. In total, it is set out that 44.86 pitches will be required to meet the demand, with the capital cost of providing this estimated at £7,481,118 in addition to lifecycle costs of £1,045,494. In addition, 60.71 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £11,801,442.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (13,410 dwellings)

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>3</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>4</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	4.69	£494,764	£97,468	9.37	£1,821,630
Youth football	19.04	£1,736,805	£350,835	26.3	£5,112,260
Mini soccer	8.61	£248,096	£49,123	0	£0
Rugby union	5.21	£851,055	£157,445	10.43	£2,027,513
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	5.06	£1,725,512	£317,494	10.13	£1,968,542
Hockey	0.54	£504,696	£13,122	£209,643	0.54
3G	1.7	£1,920,190	£60,006	£661,853	1.7

### Scenario Two – 50 dwellings

- 7.8 The demand generated from housing growth totalling 50 dwellings can be seen in the following table. This is based on resultant population increase of 120.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 50 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 50 dwellings	
	Match demand	Training demand
Adult football	0.02 match equivalent sessions	0.24 hours
Youth football	0.07 match equivalent sessions	
Mini soccer	0.03 match equivalent sessions	
Rugby union	0.02 match equivalent sessions	0.02 hours
Rugby league	0 match equivalent sessions	0.01 hours
Adult hockey	0.01 match equivalent sessions	0.24 hours
Junior hockey	0.01 match equivalent sessions	0.02 hours
Cricket	0.86 match equivalent sessions	N/A

- 7.9 The table below translates the estimated demand into new pitch provision, with associated capital and lifestyle costs. In total, it is set out that 0.17 pitches will be required to meet the demand, with the capital cost of providing this estimated at £27,931 in addition to lifecycle costs of £3,903. In addition, 0.23 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £44,067.

<sup>3</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2024 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>4</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (50 dwellings)

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>5</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>6</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.02	£1,845	£363	£6,793	0.02
Youth football	0.07	£6,492	£1,311	£19,109	0.07
Mini soccer	0.03	£925	£183	£0	0.03
Rugby union	0.02	£3,176	£588	£7,567	0.02
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	£0	0
Cricket	0.02	£6,438	£1,185	£7,344	0.02
Hockey	0	£1,883	£49	£782	0
3G	0.01	£7,171	£224	£2,472	0.01

### Scenario Three – 600 dwellings

The demand generated from housing growth totalling 600 dwellings can be seen in the following table. This is based on resultant population increase of 1,680.

Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 600 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 600 dwellings	
	Match demand	Training demand
Adult football	0.24 match equivalent sessions	3.38 hours
Youth football	0.99 match equivalent sessions	
Mini soccer	0.45 match equivalent sessions	
Rugby union	0.27 match equivalent sessions	0.31 hours
Rugby league	0 match equivalent sessions	0 hours
Adult hockey	0.10 match equivalent sessions	0.31 hours
Junior hockey	0.09 match equivalent sessions	0.07 hours
Cricket	12.09 match equivalent sessions	N/A

- 7.10 The table below translates the estimated demand into new pitch provision, with associated capital and lifestyle costs. In total, it is set out that 2.34 will be required to meet the demand, with the capital cost of providing this estimated at £390,511 in addition to lifecycle costs of £54,575. In addition, 3.17 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £616,024.

<sup>5</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2024 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>6</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (600 dwellings)

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>7</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>8</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.24	£25,828	£5,088	£95,095	0.24
Youth football	0.99	£90,663	£18,314	£266,848	0.99
Mini soccer	0.45	£12,949	£2,564	£0	0.45
Rugby union	0.27	£44,423	£8,218	£105,831	0.27
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	£0	0
Cricket	0.26	£90,072	£16,573	£102,758	0.26
Hockey	0.03	£26,344	£685	£10,943	0.03
3G	0.09	£100,232	£3,132	£34,548	0.09

### Conclusion

- 7.11 Up to 2043, it is clear that demand will be generated for each pitch sport in Lichfield District to a lesser or greater extent, although this position is indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to (more will be known as and when the Local Plan process develops). Nevertheless, Scenario One indicates that growth is likely to be significant enough to warrant the creation of additional provision for most sports.
- 7.12 As explained in further detail in Part 5, where new pitches/facilities are required, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing rooms and car parking. Single pitch/facility sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are generally not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports. Separate consideration will also be required in regards to non-pitch sports, using this document as an evidence base for what could be needed.
- 7.13 Notwithstanding the above, it is clear that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand in their own right, with this evident via the 600-dwelling scenario as the demand levels equates to less than a whole pitch for each pitch type. Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required), or whether contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision.
- 7.14 As part of the process for determining off-site contributions, consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements. The Council should also consider pooling S106 contributions from major housing schemes to invest in priority sites.

<sup>7</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2024 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>8</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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

- 8.1 The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date. However, a more tailored approach should also be considered and designed for Lichfield District based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group.

#### ***Delivery***

- 8.2 The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Lichfield District in relation to playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities as well as supporting ancillary facilities. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and by using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the District can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this moving forward.
- 8.3 It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed. The creation of this document should therefore be regarded as only part of the planning process. The success of the Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. To that end, each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.
- 8.4 To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as a key document within the study area, guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision, being used to attract and distribute both internal and external investment, and being used as an evidence base to support or oppose any development proposals. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on how current demand is being met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. The Steering Group also needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.
- 8.5 The process of completing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

#### ***Monitoring and updating***


- 8.6 It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the Steering Group, Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust. This makes it less likely to be able to be used as an evidence base for any funding bids or development proposals.

- 8.7 As part of the monitoring and review process, and to extend the lifespan of the PPOSS for as long as possible, it is advised that regular Steering Group meetings take place to review the study. Ideally, these should take place twice yearly, aligned to the split of summer and winter sport seasons and in line with affiliation periods. This process should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task; however, it should highlight:
- ◀ Actions undertaken since the adoption of the PPOSS or since the last review, as well as any actions that have been attempted but have been unsuccessful (and for what reason)
  - ◀ Any changes required to the priority afforded to each remaining action (as the priority of some may change following the delivery of others or for more general reasons e.g., alterations in participation trends or focus areas)
  - ◀ Any significant changes to supply and demand information and what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
  - ◀ Any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area (e.g., via PitchPower)
  - ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
  - ◀ Any new or emerging issues (e.g., development pressures) and opportunities (e.g., S106 contributions or club aspirations)
  - ◀ Priority actions to be focused on before the next review
  - ◀ How the PPOSS has been applied to date and the lessons learnt
- 8.8 It is also possible that between reviews, the Steering Group could operate as a 'virtual' group that is prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically (when and where relevant).
- 8.9 Please see Sport England's Stage E checklist below to help further inform the process.

## LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Checklist

- 8.10 To help ensure the PPOSS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the Steering Group can refer to Sport England's Stage E Checklist, as shown below.

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