



## APPENDIX A

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN REPORT JANUARY 2026

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

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ABBREVIATIONS .....	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION .....	2
PART 2: VISION AND AIMS .....	6
PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS.....	8
PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	11
4.1: Football – grass pitches .....	11
4.2: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches .....	23
4.3: Rugby union - grass pitches .....	27
4.4: Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs).....	33
4.5: Cricket pitches .....	35
4.6: Tennis courts .....	40
4.7: Netball .....	42
4.8: Athletics.....	43
4.9: Bowls.....	45
4.10: Ashby Sports Hub.....	46
PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS .....	50
PART 6: ACTION PLAN.....	62
ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH ANALYSIS AREA .....	65
CASTLE DONINGTON / KEGWORTH ANALYSIS AREA.....	72
COALVILLE ANALYSIS AREA .....	78
IBSTOCK ANALYSIS AREA .....	86
MEASHAM ANALYSIS AREA.....	90
PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS.....	94
PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP-TO-DATE .....	102
APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT.....	106
APPENDIX TWO: HOUSING SCENARIO MAPS.....	116

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
AP	Active Partnership
ASC	All Stars Cricket
BAFA	British American Football Association
BC	Bowls Club
BE	Bowls England
CC	Cricket Club
CFA	County Football Association
CFS	County Facilities Strategy
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media & Sport
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EN	England Netball
FA	Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
GMA	Grounds Maintenance
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh & Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LMS	Last Man Stands
LRCF	Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MUGA	Multi use games area
NC	Netball Club
NGB	National Governing Body of Sport
NHS	National Health Service
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RDO	Rugby Development Officer
RFU	Rugby Football Union
S106	Section 106 Agreement
SE	Sport England
TBTT	Transforming British Tennis Together
TC	Tennis Club

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been appointed by North West Leicestershire District Council to deliver a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). This covers all formal playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across the Authority to assist it to strategically plan for the future.

Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, this Strategy and Action Plan provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2042 (in line with the current expectations for the emerging Local Plan). It has been developed to provide:

- ◀ Relevant planning policy information to inform the review of the Local Plan.
- ◀ Assessment of current supply against demand and established best practice standards across the District and in specific localities, having regard to the Settlement Hierarchy.
- ◀ Consideration of accessible facilities in neighbouring authorities.
- ◀ Identification of any current and projected shortfalls across the District and within specific localities.
- ◀ Assessment of current stock condition.
- ◀ Assessment of future supply against demand, considering cross-boundary access and based on the location of proposed housing developments and growth in population.
- ◀ Options for increasing provision to meet current and future demand shortfalls.
- ◀ Prioritisation and costings for increasing provision.

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 (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.

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.

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.

The PPOSS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future outdoor sport requirements. Its robust evidence base should inform and be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively. It is capable of:

- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch and outdoor sport providers, including the public, private and third sectors.
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, highlighting particular local demand issues.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas.
- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision.
- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision.
- ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.
- ◀ Supporting funding applications.
- ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

The Strategy and Action Plan also recommends a number of priority projects relating to sports provision which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement all aspects, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.

Partner organisations in North West Leicestershire have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary provision are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), sports organisations and education establishments. In some instances, North West Leicestershire will not be the organisation which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPOSS is not solely just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it updated.

### **Scope**

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.
- ◀ Rugby union.
- ◀ Rugby league.
- ◀ Hockey (artificial grass pitches AGPs).
- ◀ Cricket.
- ◀ Tennis (including padel and pickleball).
- ◀ Athletics.
- ◀ Flat green bowls.
- ◀ Netball.
- ◀ Other sports where appropriate (such as American football, lacrosse etc).

In addition, a bespoke 3G pitch section is included within this report, mainly focusing on football activity but also taking into account other sports that can use the surface type (e.g., rugby union and rugby league).

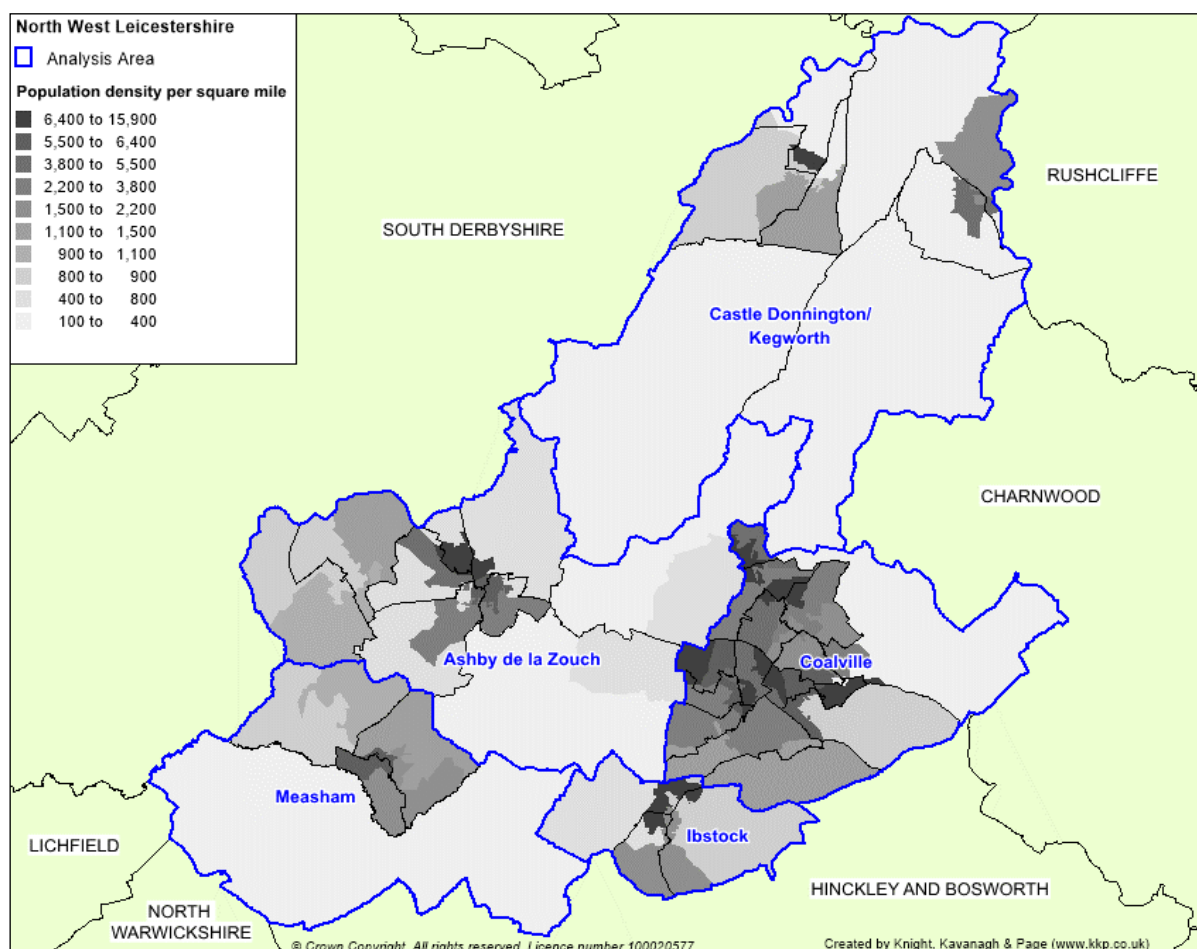
Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, both rugby codes, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified for inclusion. The ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are "non-pitch").

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Study area

The study area comprises the whole local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis. The sub-areas of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Castle Donington/Kegworth, Coalville, Ibstock and Measham can be seen via the table and figure below. These analysis areas align to the previous PPOSS iteration.

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



It should be noted that the PPOSS also includes analysis on imported and exported demand to/from the District. This includes the surrounding local authorities of South Derbyshire, Rushcliffe, Charnwood, Hinckley and Bosworth, North Warwickshire, Lichfield and Erewash.

## Context

The Council developed a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) in 2017 (which has been refreshed), alongside a Built Sports and Recreation Facilities Framework (2017-2021). The Council is seeking to update these documents through a full review, with the addition of community facilities and open spaces, across the District. The intention is to understand current provision, where current and future gaps in provision are likely to be, and to cost and prioritise these.

The Council also requires an evidence base to support the developing Local Plan (2042) and development across the District in order to be able to seek developer contributions and other funding streams. This is to be able to secure the infrastructure required to support the growth of the District.

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

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More broadly, the PPOSS will ensure that North West Leicestershire conforms to requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of this 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.”

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.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

### Vision

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

*" To ensure that North West Leicestershire Council has a robust future proof Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy to ensure the appropriate provision of community facilities for active sport, providing exercise opportunity for all."*

### Aims

To help achieve the overall vision, the following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England planning objectives. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPOSS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

#### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

#### AIM 2

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

#### AIM 3

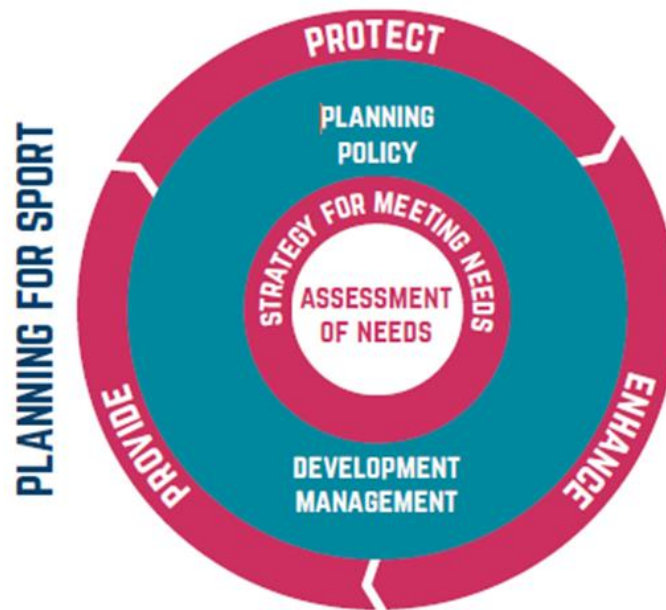
To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

These can be further visualised via Figure 2.1 overleaf.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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Figure 2.1: Sport England planning objectives



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (April 2024)

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS

The table below highlights the current quantitative shortfalls for each main pitch sport included within the PPOSS, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report, both across North West Leicestershire 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.

MES stands for match equivalent sessions and has been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken. 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.

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.

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.

Future demand in the Assessment report has been determined by using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator which looks at population change over a predetermined period. For North West Leicestershire, this has been set to forecasted population rates in 2042 in line with the emerging Local Plan.

Please note the below figures are in reference to North West Leicestershire as a whole, the individual analysis area shortfalls can be found in the relevant tables in Part 6: Action Plan.

Table 3.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (MES)	Future supply/demand balance (MES)
Football	Adult	12.5	7
Football	Youth 11v11	-4	-17.5
Football	Youth 9v9	-8.5	-16
Football	Mini 7v7	5	-2
Football	Mini 5v5	5	1
Football	3G 11v11	-4.5	-6.25
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	-25	-121
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	23	11
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	89	47
Rugby union	Senior	-9.5	-13.25

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (MES)	Future supply/demand balance (MES)
Hockey	AGP	4	4

For the remaining (non-pitch) 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 North West Leicestershire is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

Table 3.2: Headline findings (remaining sports)

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	The supply of tennis provision in North West Leicestershire is currently sufficient to meet club-based demand, with no capacity issues identified and capacity existing for growth. However, it is likely that other forms of demand are not being adequately met, particularly given a lack of sports lighting at parks courts particularly at Coalville Park within the Coalville Analysis Area and Ravenstone Recreation Ground within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area.
<b>Padel</b>	There is currently an absence of padel courts across North West Leicestershire with a need for seven courts based on the LTA methodology.
<b>Netball</b>	There are 15 community available netball courts across six sites in North West Leicestershire. Of these, six are rated as good quality and nine as standard quality. Six courts located at Ashby School and Sixth Form and Ibstock Leisure Complex benefit from sports lighting. Whilst the overall number of community available courts is encouraging, the limited availability of sport -lit courts is a concern. This shortfall likely restricts evening access during the winter months, creating a barrier to participation for some clubs and potentially hindering the growth of netball across the District.
<b>Bowls</b>	With no clubs reporting any capacity issues, it is considered that there is a sufficient supply of provision of bowling greens in North West Leicestershire. It is therefore considered that there is not a need for an increase in the supply of bowling greens, also given that there is an unused green at Moira Miners Welfare.
<b>Athletics</b>	Evidence suggests there is demand for athletics in North West Leicestershire, particularly from local clubs; however, much of this activity currently occurs outside formal track settings, such as on roads and in parks. While neighbouring authorities offer accessible athletics tracks that partially meet local needs, the current level of demand does not justify the development of a traditional 400m track. Nonetheless, this does not eliminate the need for formal provision alternative options like NewGen or Active Track facilities should be considered.

## Conclusions

The existing position for all outdoor sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall. Moreover, for most sports played on natural turf grass pitches there are identified shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered to be a solution to overcoming shortfalls. Linked to this, most of the current shortfalls identified can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities, increasing match play on 3G pitches, and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. However, future demand needs to be monitored as the need for new provision or need to bring disused provision back into use may be greater, especially

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

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in relation to football where the level of growth is expected to exceed what is projected through population growth (based on recent regional and national trends).

In regard to artificial pitches, there is a clear quantified shortfall of 3G pitches for football training that can only be rectified through the installation of new facilities. The development of 3G pitches could also help to alleviate identified grass pitch shortfalls via the transfer of play. Additionally, quality improvements alone will likely not address all the current shortfalls on rugby union pitches, meaning there could be a need for additional pitch provision to accommodate demand, although this could also at least partly be achieved through 3G provision.

There is also a need for padel courts to be developed to support the national and regional growth in demand.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, in order to help develop recommendations and actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This will then inform sport specific recommendations.

Specific reference is also made in parts to Ashby-de-la-Zouch given current aspirations within localised sporting organisations to develop a sports hub within the area.

### 4.1: Football – grass pitches

#### **Assessment Report summary**

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

- Actual spare capacity totals 37.5 equivalent sessions per week and is found across 43 pitches at 19 sites in North West Leicestershire, whilst overplay equates to match equivalent sessions 27.5 across 23 pitches and 13 sites.
- There are currently shortfalls across youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whereas spare capacity exists on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- When incorporating future demand, spare capacity is reduced on adult pitches whereas shortfalls worsen in the case of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. Elsewhere, shortfalls are established across mini 7v7 pitches.
- When findings are compared to the previous PPOSS study completed in 2017, the supply and demand picture is worse. Current spare capacity previously existed on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches whereas a significant shortfall is now calculated for both.

##### **Supply summary**

- The audit identifies a total of 111 grass football pitches across 46 sites in North West Leicestershire. Of these, 103 pitches across 38 sites are identified as being available for community use
- Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the overall number of pitches has decreased by 14 and the number of community available pitches has decreased by one.
- Ashby Ivanhoe FC has planning permission to change the use of adjoining land at Ashby Ivanhoe Football Club (LE65 1TS) to recreation use including the formation of additional pitches, parking area and landscaping (22/01811/FULM).
- Of the 103 community available pitches in North West Leicestershire, 40 are managed by sports clubs (39%), 23 are managed by parish council's (22%) 19 are managed by education sites (18%) whilst the District Council and Other management types manage eight (8%) pitches each. The remaining five pitches (5%) are managed by town councils.
- Within North West Leicestershire, most pitches are assessed as standard quality (54 pitches or 52%), 27 pitches assessed as good quality (26%) and 22 assessed as poor quality (22%).
- Across the District, many sites provide good and/or standard quality provision, although two sites provide poor facilities.

##### **Demand summary**

- A total of 308 teams from 33 affiliated clubs are identified as playing in North West Leicestershire. As a breakdown, this equates to 50 adult teams, 98 youth 11v11 teams, 57 youth 9v9 teams, 56 mini 7v7 teams and 47 mini 5v5 teams.
- There are currently six women's teams and 31 dedicated girls' teams playing football in North West Leicestershire. This represents 12% of all demand across the District
- Since the previous study was completed in 2017, the number of teams within North West Leicestershire has increased from 172 to 308, representing a growth of 44%.
- Five teams from five clubs within North West Leicestershire play within the NLS, Coalville Town FC (Step 6), Heather St John's FC (Step 6), Ashby Ivanhoe FC (Step 5), Ingles FC (Step 6).
- Within North West Leicestershire, FCV Academy (LE67 5UG – Castle Donington / Kegworth Analysis Area) accommodates some imported demand from the neighbouring authority of Charnwood. The site, which was Grace Dieu Manor School until 2020, accommodates training demand from Shepshed Dynamo Youth & Junior FC.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ In total, based on 2024/25 affiliation data, there are 27 teams which currently export their competitive demand outside of North West Leicestershire to surrounding local authorities
- ◀ Nine responding clubs from North West Leicestershire report latent demand in that they report they could field more teams if certain facility-related issues were resolved.
- ◀ Future demand from population growth (to 2042) predicts an increase of 79 teams across the playing formats (39.5 match equivalent sessions). Totalling 13 adult, 25 youth 11v11, 15 youth 9v9, 14 mini 7v7 and 12 mini 5v5 teams.

## Scenarios

### *Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality by one increment*

In total there are 23 pitches overplayed in North West Leicestershire across 13 sites, equating to 27.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving the quality of these pitches (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and consequently reduce both current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 overleaf highlights the current levels of overplay that would be alleviated if quality improved by one increment at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is as follows:

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

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were improved by one increment (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Improved quality (by one increment)	Capacity rating (MES)	Spare capacity in peak period
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Measham	Standard	(9v9)	1	-2	Good	0	-
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Measham	Standard	Adult	1	-2.5	Good	-1.5	-
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	Adult	1	-2	Good	-1	-
6	Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	Adult	1	-1	Good	0	-
6	Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	(11v11)	1	-0.5	Good	1.5	0.5
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	(9v9)	1	-1	Standard	0	-
23	Coalville FC (Owen Street)	Coalville	Poor	(9v9)	1	-1	Standard	0	-
23	Coalville FC (Owen Street)	Coalville	Standard	(11v11)	1	-2.5	Good	-0.5	-
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	(9v9)	1	-0.5	Good	1.5	0.5
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	(11v11)	2	-0.5	Good	3.5	0.5
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham	Poor	(9v9)	2	-0.5	Standard	1.5	1.5
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	(11v11)	1	-3	Standard	-2	-
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	Measham	Poor	(11v11)	1	-1	Standard	0	-
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	Poor	Adult	2	-3	Standard	-1	-
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	Standard	(9v9)	1	-3	Good	-1	-
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Standard	Adult	1	-1	Good	0	-
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	Standard	(9v9)	1	-0.5	Good	1.5	-
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	Adult	2	-1	Standard	1	1
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	Adult	1	-1	Standard	0	-

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The impact of improving overplayed pitches by one increment is shown in the table above. In the main, overplay would be alleviated across five sites providing nine pitches, leaving seven pitches played to capacity located at Albert Village Junior Football Club, Hood Park, Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields), Coalville FC (Owen Street), Oakthorpe Recreation Ground, Spital Park and Westfields Recreation Ground. Although the quality improvements increase the capacity, only four MES of peak time spare capacity are created for additional play.

As seen in the table below, if quality was improved by one increment, overplay would be reduced resulting in actual spare capacity identified across all pitch types. Shortfalls would still remain when factoring in future demand however these would be less, particularly on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch types.

Table 4.2: Overall impact of improving quality (match equivalent sessions per week)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	24	-11.5	12.5	5.5	7
Youth 11v11	3.5	-7.5	-4	13.5	-17.5
Youth 9v9	-	-8.5	-8.5	7.5	-16
Mini 7v7	5	-	5	7	-2
Mini 5v5	5	-	5	4	1
<b>If improvements are made</b>					
Adult	25	-3.5	21.5	5.5	16
Youth 11v11	8.5	-2.5	6	13.5	-7.5
Youth 9v9	4.5	-1	3.5	7.5	-4
Mini 7v7	5	-	5	7	-2
Mini 5v5	5	-	5	4	1

Based on the above findings, the impact has also been applied to pitches specifically within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area to assess the impact of improving pitch quality by one increment.

Table 4.3 Impact of improving pitch quality within Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
<b>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</b>					
Adult	6	-5	1	1	-
Youth 11v11	-	-4	-4	4 <sup>1</sup>	-4
Youth 9v9	-	-1.5	-1.5	2	-3.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
<b>If improvements are made</b>					
Adult	7	-1	6	1	5
Youth 11v11	5	-2	3	4 <sup>2</sup>	-1
Youth 9v9	1.5	-	1.5	2	-0.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5

<sup>1</sup> Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

<sup>2</sup> Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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As seen, improving pitch quality by one increment will alleviate overplay of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches within Ashby-de-la-Zouch with a total of 2.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity created. However, when factoring in future and exported demand, shortfalls are still established across most pitch types, with the exception being adult.

### *Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality to good*

This table below illustrates the position if all overplayed pitches in North West Leicestershire were improved to good quality (rather than just by one increment). This is the highest threshold a pitch can score. As can be seen, overplay would be alleviated across all but four sites and four pitches.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.4: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Good quality rating (MES)	Spare capacity in peak period
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Measham	Standard	(9v9)	1	-2	0	-
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Measham	Standard	Adult	1	-2.5	-1.5	-
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	Adult	1	-2	-1	-
6	Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	Adult	1	-1	0	-
6	Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	(11v11)	1	-0.5	1.5	0.5
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	(9v9)	1	-1	2	1
23	Coalville FC (Owen Street)	Coalville	Poor	(9v9)	1	-1	2	0.5
23	Coalville FC (Owen Street)	Coalville	Standard	(11v11)	1	-2.5	-0.5	-
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	(9v9)	1	-0.5	1.5	0.5
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	(11v11)	2	-0.5	3.5	0.5
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham	Poor	(9v9)	2	-0.5	5.5	2
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	(11v11)	1	-3	0	-
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	Measham	Poor	(11v11)	1	-1	2	-
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	Poor	Adult	2	-3	1	2
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	Standard	(9v9)	1	-3	-1	-
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Standard	Adult	1	-1	0	-
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	Standard	(9v9)	1	-0.5	1.5	-
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	Adult	2	-1	3	2
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	Adult	1	-1	1	1

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

In the main, overplay would be alleviated across eight sites and 12 pitches, leaving just four pitches played to capacity located at Albert Village Junior Football Club, Hood Park, Measham Road Recreation Ground and Spital Park. Furthermore, seven match equivalent sessions of peak time spare capacity are created to accommodate additional play.

Table 4.5: Overall impact of improving quality to good (match equivalent sessions per week)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	24	-11.5	12.5	5.5	7
Youth 11v11	3.5	-7.5	-4	13.5	-17.5
Youth 9v9	-	-8.5	-8.5	7.5	-16
Mini 7v7	5	-	5	7	-2
Mini 5v5	5	-	5	4	1
<b>If improvements are made</b>					
Adult	29	-2.5	26.5	5.5	21
Youth 11v11	10.5	-0.5	10	13.5	-3.5
Youth 9v9	12.5	-1	11.5	7.5	4
Mini 7v7	5	-	5	7	-2
Mini 5v5	5	-	5	4	1

As seen in the table above, if quality was improved to good quality, overplay would be reduced resulting in actual spare capacity identified across all pitch types. However, shortfalls would still remain when factoring in future demand, albeit these would be less, particularly on youth 11v11 pitches.

Similar to the previous scenario, based on the above findings, the impact has also been applied to pitches specifically within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area. As seen, this will alleviate overplay of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, with a total of 5.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity created. When factoring in future demand, this remains the case although shortfalls remain on mini pitch types.

Table 4.6 Impact of improving pitch quality to good within Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
<b>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</b>					
Adult	6	-5	1	1	-
Youth 11v11	-	-4	-4	4 <sup>3</sup>	-4
Youth 9v9	-	-1.5	-1.5	2	-3.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
<b>If improvements are made</b>					
Adult	11	-1	10	1	9
Youth 11v11	5	-	5	4 <sup>4</sup>	1
Youth 9v9	3.5	-	3.5	2	1.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5

<sup>3</sup> Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

<sup>4</sup> Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Reinstating unmarked pitches

As mentioned in the proceeding Assessment Report, there are a number of disused football sites across North West Leicestershire. All disused provision is summarised in the table below.

Table 4.7: Summary of disused unmarked provision within North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Format previously accommodated	Comments
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	(9v9)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	Ibstock	(9v9)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
12	Bardon Hill Sports Ground	Coalville	(9v9)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
17	Bosworth Road Recreation Ground	Measham	(11v11)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided one youth 11v11 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	Coalville	(9v9) (7v7)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches <i>circa 2018</i>
43	Melrose Recreation Ground	Coalville	Adult	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided one adult pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
50	Parsonwood Hill	Coalville	(7v7)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided one mini 7v7 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	(9v9) (7v7) (5v5)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	(9v9)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> - Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
60	The Connery	Measham	(11v11)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided one youth 11v11 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>

The table below examines what the impact would be on the overall supply and demand analysis if all these pitches were brought back into use established to a minimum of standard quality with secured tenure.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.8: Impact on supply and demand balance from reinstating unmarked provision

Pitch/facility type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
Adult	12.5	13.5
Youth 11v11	-4	-1
Youth 9v9	-8.5	-2.5
Mini 7v7	5	8
Mini 5v5	5	6

As seen in the table above, if all disused pitches were to be reinstated, this would reduce shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst spare capacity is increased across adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Using these findings, when reinstating pitches located in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area specifically (at Ravenstone Recreation Ground), shortfalls reduce across youth 9v9 pitches, whilst spare capacity is established for mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.9: Impact on reinstating pitches within Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
<b>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</b>		
Adult	1	1
Youth 11v11	-4	-4
Youth 9v9	-1.5	-0.5
Mini 7v7	-	1
Mini 5v5	-	1

Notwithstanding the above, as there are eight sites that have only one pitch, further feasibility should be considered to judge the value in re-instating these (one pitch sites can be difficult to sustain). Contrarily, the three sites which previously provided multiple pitches are likely to provide a better offering if reinstated.

### *Accounting for club future demand aspirations*

During consultation, seven clubs report aspirations to increase their number of teams, equating to a predicted growth of 37 teams (four adult, six youth 11v11, 12 youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and 16 mini 5v5) over the next five years. This is relatively substantial but has previously been discounted from calculations as it is considered to be more aspirational than future growth predicted via population growth.

If achieved, future demand from clubs will exacerbate existing shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst establishing shortfalls on mini 5v5 pitches and reducing spare capacity across adult and mini 7v7 pitches. This is shown further in the following table.

Table 4.10: Impact of future demand from clubs on supply

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential future demand (club aspirations)	Potential capacity (MES)
Adult	12.5	2	10.5
Youth 11v11	-4	3	-7
Youth 9v9	-8.5	6	-14.5
Mini 7v7	5	1	4
Mini 5v5	5	8	-3

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

When looking at club aspirations specifically within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, shortfalls worsen in the case of youth 9v9 pitches whilst they are established across mini 7v7 pitches.

Table 4.11: Impact of future demand from clubs in Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential future demand (club aspirations)	Potential capacity (MES)
<b>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</b>			
Adult	1	-	1
Youth 11v11	-4	-	-4
Youth 9v9	-1.5	1	-2.5
Mini 7v7	-	1	-1
Mini 5v5	-	-	-

### *Future demand through trend based growth*

This scenario examines the impact of future demand for football pitches based on the percentage of growth from the previous PPOSS until now. With 172 teams identified in the previous study rising to 308, this represents a 44% increase in demand, which is particularly substantial.

An increase in 44% up over the next PPOSS period would result in an additional 136 teams being created and 68 match equivalent sessions per week. On this basis, participation increases reported by clubs during consultation is significantly lower than those identified through forecasting growth via this method.

If the above future demand through forecasted growth was to be realised over the next five years, this would reduce spare capacity on adult pitches, exacerbate existing shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, and create shortfalls on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. This is shown further in the table below.

Table 4.12: Current supply and demand if growth trends continued

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
Adult	12.5	1.5
Youth 11v11	-4	-26
Youth 9v9	-8.5	-21.5
Mini 7v7	5	-7
Mini 5v5	5	-5

It should be noted that the future demand has been accredited to the pitch type based on the overall percentage of that type of demand playing within North West Leicestershire. For example, currently 14% of all demand in the Authority plays on adult pitch types therefore 14% of 68 match equivalent sessions (ten match equivalent sessions) has been attributed.

In the case of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, demand has risen from 33 teams since the previous PPOSS to 83 teams, with this representing a 60% increase in team figures. Should demand continue to increase at this rate, this would result in an additional 37 teams and 18.5 match equivalent sessions per week. When applying the same methodology as shown in the table above, shortfalls are evident across all pitch types.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.13: Current supply and demand in Ashby-de-la-Zouch if growth trends continued

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
<b>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</b>		
Adult	1	-1
Youth 11v11	-4	-10.5
Youth 9v9	-1.5	-5.5
Mini 7v7	-	-3
Mini 5v5	-	-3

Given the current shortfalls identified for grass football pitches, this further evidences the need to improve pitch quality at overplayed and poor quality sites and to potentially develop more pitches (which could include 3G pitches) to better support this anticipated growth in demand.

Given the differing levels of future growth identified, actual growth should be further monitored regularly via Stage E updates to fully understand which growth scenario (population forecasts, continuation of growth trends or club aspirations) is likely to be the most accurate.

### *Loss of access to unsecure sites*

The table below outlines sites in North West Leicestershire which are accessed by community clubs where tenure is unsecure, although this only applies to two which is a comparatively low number. In instances where clubs do not have formal tenure agreements in place, clubs could theoretically be asked to vacate at any time which would result in each requiring alternate provision to service existing levels of demand.

Table 4.14: Demand taking place on grass pitches at unsecure sites

Site	Club	Teams
Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	Ashby United Community FC	13
Kegworth Primary School	Kegworth Imps	2

There are 15 teams from two clubs accessing the two sites with unsecure tenure, with both being education sites. The impact on removal of these two sites for community access is highlighted in the table below.

Table 4.15: Current supply and demand balance without unsecure sites

Pitch/facility type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
Adult	12.5	12.5
Youth 11v11	-4	-5.5
Youth 9v9	-8.5	-9.5
Mini 7v7	5	2.5
Mini 5v5	5	2.5

As can be seen, if access to unsecure sites was to be lost, shortfalls worsen across youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, with spare capacity reducing across mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Therefore, it is necessary to do everything possible to ensure that the grass pitches at unsecure sites continue to stay open for community use.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Removing access to Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields) within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area would see shortfalls worsen in the case of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches and establish shortfalls across mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.16: Current supply and demand balance in Ashby-de-la-Zouch without unsecure sites

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
<b>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</b>		
Adult	1	1
Youth 11v11	-4	-5.5
Youth 9v9	-1.5	-2.5
Mini 7v7	-	-2.5
Mini 5v5	-	-1.5

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision meets NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity.
- ◀ Work to alleviate identified overplay on grass football pitches, particularly those at youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch format through improvement of pitch quality.
- ◀ Explore options to reinstate disused / unused provision in order to alleviate identified shortfalls / provide capacity for future growth.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, prioritising club-led sites, multi-pitch sites and sites which play key strategic roles for adult football and women and girls' participation.
- ◀ Monitor future growth levels to determine when and where new grass pitches may be required.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.
- ◀ 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, with priority placed on priorities and needs identified in the PPOSS Action Plan and the LFFP.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites with community use that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision (subject to viability).

## 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 North West Leicestershire 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**

- ◀ The audit identifies four 11v11 size 3G pitches, all of which are sports lit and available for community use. This equates to two in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area and two in the Coalville Analysis Area.
- ◀ There are also eight smaller size 3G pitches within the District, two of which are each located within Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Measham analysis areas, one within Coalville Analysis Area and three within the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area. Similarly to the 11v11 3G pitches, all of the smaller pitches are available for community use and are serviced with sports lighting.
- ◀ There are clear aspirations from both Ashby RFC and Castle Donington RFC to access WR compliant 3G provision. As Coalville RFC did not respond to consultation its ambitions are unknown, however, due to its proximity to Ashby-de-la-Zouch it would be able to potentially access any future provision created by Ashby RFC to alleviate any grass pitch shortfalls.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, three of the four 11v11 3G pitches are on the FA's 3G pitch register (Castle Donington College is not), whilst none of the smaller sized 3G pitches are on the pitch register.
- ◀ No pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, three of the four pitches are within their recommended lifespan, As such, they are all assessed as good quality, with no major issues identified. The pitch at The Newbridge School has surpassed its recommended lifespan, however, is still on the FA pitch register with no notable issues identified through consultation and is rated as standard quality.
- ◀ The changing rooms at Coalville Town FC have been rated as standard quality, through consultation the Club states that the youth clubhouse is dated and needs investment. These include four changing rooms with self-contained showers and toilets as well as an official's changing room with the same facilities.

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

- ◀ The 3G pitch stock currently servicing North West Leicestershire 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 Coalville Town FC (Owen Street) with the Club having 79 teams.
- ◀ A total of seven football clubs report that they require additional access to 3G provision, with these representing 107 teams (no unmet demand is identified from other sports).
- ◀ Using population forecasts to 2042, an additional 79 football teams are expected to be generated that could require access to 3G provision.
- ◀ 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*

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's scenario of one 11v11 3G pitch equivalent being able to cater for 38 community football teams), the table below explores current requirements in North West Leicestershire.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.17: Current demand for 3G pitches in North West Leicester (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	84	2.25	0	-2.25
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	51	1.5	1.5	-
Coalville	113	3	2.75	-0.25
Ibstock	42	1.25	0	-1.25
Measham	45	1.25	0	-1.25

With 335 teams affiliated to clubs based in North West Leicestershire, there is an overall need for 9.25 11v11 size 3G pitches. With 4.25 pitches currently provided and contributing to community use need, this leaves a shortfall of five pitches. The deficits exist in four of the five analysis areas (demand is being met in the Castle Donington / Kegworth Analysis Area), with the largest shortfall found in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area (2.25 pitches).

When factoring in future demand from population increases, the overall need is projected to increase to 10.5 11v11 3G pitches, meaning a potential shortfall of 6.25 pitches.

Table 4.18 Future shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Analysis area	Future demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	103	2.75	0	-2.75
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	59	1.5	1.5	-
Coalville	136	3.5	2.75	-0.75
Ibstock	50	1.25	0	-1.25
Measham	53	1.5	0	-1.5

*Accounting for future demand via anticipated future growth rate (44% growth rate)*

The table below shows the total need for 3G pitches when accounting for the growth rate trend for football in North West Leicestershire. This growth rate achieves a higher participation total than when compared to the ONS population projections which has already been applied in this report and via using club aspirations (as detailed in the grass pitch scenarios).

Table 4.19: Future demand (44% growth rate) for 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
444	11.75	4.25	-7.5

When considering this anticipated future demand for an additional 136 teams (based on growth identified in Part 2 of this report), there is potential demand for 11.75 11v11 3G pitches overall (rounded up from 11.68), which means a theoretical future shortfall of 7.5 pitches.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities and providers within local authorities to understand the potential demand for 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitches to cater for different formats of match play.

The FA has an ambition to transfer 50% of mini play on to 3G pitches nationally. Thus, a programme of play has been created for North West Leicestershire to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this, given that peak time for both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 football is Sunday mornings.

Table 4.20: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

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

With 56 teams currently playing 7v7 football and 47 teams playing 5v5 football, based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for seven 11v11 size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. Therefore, with 4.25 11v11 size pitches presently provided in North West Leicestershire, this scenario cannot currently be achieved without 2.75 additional pitches being provided. However, by meeting training requirements, this could be implemented.

Below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football. Such demand could be accommodated using five 11v11 3G pitches, meaning a need for just one additional pitch. This is based on 57 teams currently playing this format within North West Leicestershire at peak time.

Table 4.21: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – Noon	1 x 9v9	1/2
Noon – 2pm	1 x 9v9	1/2
2pm – 4pm	1 x 9v9	1/2

### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

World Rugby produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The RFU generally support the development of 3G pitches which support rugby union where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

Within North West Leicestershire there are currently no Worlds Rugby compliant 3G pitches. However, there is a current shortfall on grass pitches of 9.5 match equivalent sessions per week to meet rugby union demand. This equates to a shortfall of four match equivalent sessions in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area and six matches equivalent sessions in the Coalville Analysis Area (0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exist in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area).

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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Based on the above, it is likely that a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch would be particularly beneficial to help alleviate these shortfalls, especially with both Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC expressing aspirations to create a full-size pitch. There is evidence that there is a need specifically within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, although further research is required to understand the strategic location. There is no identified need for such provision within the Coalville Analysis Area.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Work with relevant partners to deliver additional 3G pitches in the District to cater for demand, specifically the Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Ibstock and Measham analysis areas.
- ◀ Work with partners such as the FA, FF, RFU, Sport England and other NGBs as applicable to identify the most suitable locations to build new 3G pitches to alleviate known shortfalls using the findings from the PPOSS.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of any new 11v11 size 3G pitch to provide World Rugby/ compliancy to support RFU training demand.
- ◀ Aim that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place through engagement with operators of pitches and the Council with assistance provided by relevant NGBs as required.
- ◀ Aim that all 11v11 and small size pitches of substantial area are on the FA register where they meet criteria and are re-tested when required to sustain certification, through engagement with operators of pitches not currently registered and when existing certification is nearing expiry.
- ◀ Ensure that all current and future providers have in place a pitch replacement fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Aim that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA quality performance standards.
- ◀ Engage with 3G providers to replace halogen sports lighting to LED systems to improve energy efficiency, reduce costs and reduce light spill.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for multi-sport use and cross sport compliancy of 3G pitches where new are required / in need of refurbishment to help meet shortfalls for rugby league, rugby union and other pitch sports where present.

## 4.3: Rugby union - grass pitches

### *Assessment Report summary*

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

- ◀ In North West Leicestershire only one pitch is considered to have actual spare capacity with this coming from the pitch at Spital Park with 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity.
- ◀ Five pitches across two sites in North West Leicestershire are overplayed by a total of ten match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ The Coalville Analysis Area accommodates the largest amount of overplay, equating to six match equivalent sessions at Coalville RFC. The remaining four match equivalent sessions of overplay take place in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area at Ashby RFC. This overplay is due to a substantial amount of demand with limited capacity due to pitch quality.

#### **Rugby union – supply summary**

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of nine senior rugby union pitches located across four sites within North West Leicestershire, all of which are available for community use
- ◀ Since the previous study was completed, there has been the reduction of seven senior and six age grade pitches. This is because pitches located at Castle Donington College, Ivanhoe College and The Newbridge School are no longer formally marked out. Moreover, the closure of Grace Dieu Manor School has resulted in the loss of three age grade pitches, elsewhere these are no longer marked out with this activity likely to take place on senior pitches.
- ◀ Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC are both considered to have security of tenure at their home sites with both clubs having a freehold. Ashby RFC states that it has established a long-term lease agreement with Ashby Town Council for use of Ashby Memorial Grounds with the Club marking these out for formal use in the coming seasons.
- ◀ Castle Donington RFC has a long-term agreement with Castle Donington Parish Council for use of the senior rugby pitch at Spital Park, whilst also allowing them to train on the sports lit area. On match days, the Club uses the pitch and changing rooms.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, there are currently eight standard quality pitches and one poor quality pitch, with this located at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields). No pitches are rated as good quality.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, the quality of the ancillary provision at the three club sites is generally of a good/ standard quality with all clubs having access to good quality ancillary provision.

#### **Rugby union – demand summary**

- ◀ There are currently three clubs operating in North West Leicestershire fielding a total of 35 teams. These are Ashby RFC (Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, Castle Donington RFC (Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area) and Coalville RFC (Coalville Analysis Area). Broken down this equates to five senior men's, two senior women's, 14 age grade boys, four age grade girl's and ten age grade mixed teams.
- ◀ Both Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC accommodate 17 teams each, with both clubs having dedicated female participation with a total of two senior women's and four age grade girls' teams, as well as a full age grade mixed section.
- ◀ Since the previous study, there has been overall growth of one team, with this being the introduction of a senior women's team at Ashby RFC, elsewhere demand levels have remained relatively similar.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, Ashby RFC has one sports-lit pitch at its home site and use it for training activity. Coalville has a sports-lit training area provided by backlighting off the fully lit pitch. Also, Coalville RFC uses the artificial pitch at Coalville Town FC for age-grade training; it is not WRReg22 and only accommodates non-contact activity.
- ◀ Future demand from population projections forecast a growth of one senior men's, one senior women's, four age grade boys, one age grade girl's and one age grade mixed teams across North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ Ashby RFC states that it aspires to add a third senior men's teams as well as grow the women's and girl's section of the Club, with it hopeful that through the increased access to provision this can be achieved.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Castle Donington RFC aspires to field a second senior men's team from the 26/27 season, with the Club putting emphasis on recruiting players for this.

## Scenarios

### *Improving pitch maintenance and drainage*

Maintenance and drainage solutions are an integral method in improving pitch quality at rugby union sites, ensuring that pitches can accommodate demand throughout the season. Locally, there are four sites which are identified as being overplayed and the following scenario explores what impact improving both the level of maintenance and installation of drainage solutions would have on the capacity of provision.

The table below illustrates the RFU pitch quality scoring methodology which ascertains the capacity of pitches based on the scoring criteria.

Table 4.21: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

<b>Drainage</b>	<b>Maintenance Poor (M0)</b>	<b>Maintenance Adequate (M1)</b>	<b>Maintenance Good (M2)</b>
Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

The table overleaf looks at what capacity benefits would be ascertained through improvement of both maintenance and drainage solutions in one increment on the above technical criteria. It further looks at the benefit of maximum improvements to both drainage and maintenance to explore maximum benefits.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.22: Improving maintenance and drainage on all sites pitches by one increment (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality	Sports lighting?	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
7	Ashby RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	1	3	-2	M2 / D2	Good	-0.75
7	Ashby RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	1.5	-	0.5	M2 / D2	Good	1.75
7	Ashby RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	4	-	-2	M2 / D2	Good	0.75
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	1	M0 / D1	Poor	No	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	M1 / D2	Standard	1.75
24	Coalville RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	-	7	-5	M2 / D2	Good	-3.75
24	Coalville RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	1.5	-	0.5	M2 / D2	Good	1.75
24	Coalville RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	2.5	-	-0.5	M2 / D2	Good	0.75
24	Coalville RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	2.5	-	-0.5	M2 / D2	Good	0.75
55	Spital Park	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	0.5	0.5	1	M2 / D2	Good	2.25

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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The improvement of maintenance and drainage by one increment would increase capacity ratings at all sites. At Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC, overplay on some of the clubs' pitches is alleviated, but remains on others.

Overall, the current overplay levels across the sites would reduce from 9.5 match equivalent sessions to 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Notwithstanding this, despite the overall reduction in shortfalls, there would still be a deficit in mid-week capacity for training demand for Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC, with little changing in this regard. This is because all sports-lit pitches would remain overplayed despite pitch quality improvements.

### *Installing additional sports lighting in addition to pitch improvements*

Much of the existing overuse on grass rugby union pitches within North West Leicestershire is due to club-based training demand taking place on the sports-lit provision at club sites. 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.

The table below shows the supply and demand balance should all pitches be improved by one increment in addition to sports lighting installed on one additional pitch at Ashby RFC and all pitches at Coalville RFC. The creation of more lighting allows for a greater dispersal of training demand across multiple pitches rather than just one.

As seen, overplay would be fully alleviated at Ashby RFC whereas shortfalls at Coalville RFC would reduce from 3.75 match equivalent sessions to just 1.25 match equivalent sessions.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.23: Potential capacity of pitches with additional sports-lit provision and pitch improvements

Site ID	Site name	Current technical score	Quality	Sports lighting?	Pitch capacity sessions (per week)	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
7	Ashby RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	1	3	-2	M2 / D2	Good	-0.75
7	Ashby RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	1.5	-	0.5	M2 / D2	Good	1.75
7	Ashby RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	4	-	-2	M2 / D2	Good	0.75
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	-	7	-5	M2 / D2	Good	-3.75
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	1.5	-	0.5	M2 / D2	Good	1.75
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	2.5	-	-0.5	M2 / D2	Good	0.75
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	2.5	-	-0.5	M2 / D2	Good	0.75
-	<b>With additional sports lighting</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Ashby RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	1.5	1.5	-1	M2 / D2	Good	0.25
7	Ashby RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	1.5	1.5	-1	M2 / D2	Good	0.25
7	Ashby RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	3.5	-	-1.5	M2 / D2	Good	-
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	-	3	-1	M2 / D2	Good	0.25
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	1.5	1.25	-0.75	M2 / D2	Good	0.5
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	2.5	2	-2.5	M2 / D2	Good	-1.25
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	2.5	0.75	-1.25	M2 / D2	Good	-

It should be noted that improving pitches to an M2/D2 rating, as well as installing sports lighting on most club pitches, may not be considered feasible due to cost implications. Additionally, these enhancements do not create sufficient enough capacity to accommodate future demand referenced below. Therefore, options should be explored on how additional capacity can be created including the creating and/or accessing of WR compliant 3G pitch.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## *Future demand*

The overall future demand identified within Assessment Report equates to four match equivalent sessions across North West Leicestershire. The demand, as it is based on ONS population projections, can only be attributed District wide and not by individual analysis areas.

Table 4.24: Overall supply and demand balance with quality improvements

Demand	Capacity (MES per week)	
	Current total	Potential future total
Current	-9.5	-1.25
Future	-13.5	-4.25

As seen in the table above, even with pitch improvements and additional sports lighting there would be shortfalls. Therefore, options to increase capacity for rugby union should be explored through the creation/access of WR compliant 3G provision.

## *Accessing World Rugby compliant 3G provision*

As an alternative means to alleviating overplay, securing access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch could be sought, with no existing provision within North West Leicestershire. This is especially the case given that maximising quality and sports lighting across the grass pitch stock could be considered unrealistic from an investment and maintenance perspective and given that some level of overplay would still remain.

Due to the above, there is clear evidence to warrant the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch which can be utilised by Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC, with the latter already accessing the 11v11 3G pitch at Coalville FC (Owen Street) for training purposes despite it not being World Rugby Compliant. Linked to this, the 3G element within this section of the report (above) presents the potential for new 11v11 3G provision in Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

## **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.
- ◀ Support clubs in undertaking PitchPower assessments of sites to explore technical requirements to improve pitch quality to address overplay.
- ◀ Explore installation of additional sports lighting across the sites used by clubs.
- ◀ Given the amount of overplay identified for rugby union that is caused by midweek training demand, seek to develop a WR22 3G pitch to reduce shortfalls.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of creating a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch within Ashby-de-la-Zouch and the impact that would have on the wider supply and demand analysis.
- ◀ Ensure future demand can be adequately accommodated, particularly in regard to women's and girls' demand.
- ◀ Ensure ancillary facilities are of sufficient quality and can enable inclusive access.
- ◀ Retain the stock of pitches at education sites for continued curricular access.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

## 4.4: Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

### Assessment Report summary

#### Hockey – supply and demand summary

- Given that there are currently ten senior men's and women's teams fielded by Ashby HC and two teams imported by Charnwood HC and Sutton Bonnington HC, there is a need for two full-size pitches. With two pitches currently provided, supply is therefore considered to be sufficient to meet demand in quantitative terms.
- Based on this, it is important for the existing supply of hockey suitable pitches to be protected to meet current and future levels of demand.

#### Hockey – supply summary

- The audit identifies two full-size hockey suitable AGPs with North West Leicestershire, of which, both are sports lit and available for community use with one pitch located within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area at Ivanhoe School, whilst the second pitch is located within the Coalville Analysis Area at The Castle Rock School.
- In addition, the audit also identifies two smaller size hockey suitable AGPs at Ibstock Leisure Complex and Ibstock Miners Welfare, both of which are located within the Ibstock Analysis Area, available for community use and sports lit.
- Since the previous study was completed in 2017, the former smaller size AGPs at Castle Donington College and Oakthorpe Recreation Ground have since been converted to 3G surfaces.
- The AGPs at The Castle Rock School and Ivanhoe School are both managed internally by the respective schools.
- Ashby HC has a community use agreement in place with Ivanhoe School for the usage of the AGP which provides security of tenure. The Club also utilise The Castle Rock School on occasions to accommodate some match demand, however, this is more informal with the Club renting this on an ad-hoc basis.
- In North West Leicestershire, the AGP at The Castle Rock School has been assessed as standard quality with this significantly surpassing the recommended life span, despite this, no quality issues are reported. Elsewhere, the AGP at Ivanhoe School is rated as good quality, with this resurfaced in the last three years.
- A planning application has been submitted REF: 24/00732/FULM for the redevelopment of The Castle Rock School, in line with this, it has been speculated that as part of the redevelopment the AGP will be resurfaced.
- Ashby HC states that it has no specific clubhouse to access on match days with it known to share the Ashby RUFC's clubhouse, which has recently been refurbished. Despite this, the rugby club is up to a ten minute drive from where the AGP is located and comes at a cost. The Club has also used public houses for post-match hospitality, although found it is not suitable.

#### Hockey – demand summary

- There is currently one club identified as playing hockey within North West Leicestershire. Ashby HC fields four senior men's, four senior women's, four junior boys and four junior girls as well as two mixed teams.
- All the Club's training demand takes place on the AGP at Ivanhoe School, with senior men's activity on Thursday evenings and senior women's activity on Tuesday evenings both of which have two hour sessions. Junior activity is then split across Wednesday's, Thursday's and Sundays.
- In the previous PPOSS, Coalville Town HC and Rangers HC were also identified as playing hockey within North West Leicestershire. This is no longer the case, with both folding (both clubs used the AGP at The Castle Rock School).
- Membership and team figures at Ashby HC have stayed at similar levels since the previous PPOSS, with current membership at 285 and 18 teams. Despite this, due to the loss of Coalville Town HC and Rangers HC, this suggests an overall decline of hockey demand within the District
- In relation to club aspirations, Ashby HC would like to grow the number of its teams, however, states that limitation of slots available on the AGP at Ivanhoe School restricts this growth. The Club states that 5-aside football also takes place on the AGP and has struggled to negotiate more training slots with the school.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, Ashby HC offers Walking Hockey sessions on Thursday evenings from. However, no other initiatives are currently known to be in operation.

## **Scenarios**

### *Meeting demand for hockey suitable AGPs*

It is suggested that a full-size hockey suitable, sports-lit AGP can accommodate up to four matches on one day, providing no usage limitations are in place. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one pitch being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (which is Saturdays for seniors and Sundays for juniors). Using this, on the basis that there are currently two full size hockey suitable pitches in North West Leicestershire, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 16 senior teams at peak time across the District.

Given that there are currently ten senior men's and women's teams fielded by Ashby HC and two teams imported by Charnwood HC and Sutton Bonnington HC, there is a need for two full-size pitches. With two pitches currently provided, supply is therefore considered to be sufficient to meet demand in quantitative terms. However, it should be noted that the AGP at Ivanhoe School is currently played to capacity and whilst this has recently been resurfaced, usage should be monitored to ensure that it remains sustainable.

Further to the above, the AGP at The Castle Rock School is highlighted for a resurface as part of a wider planning application to redevelop the school. As such, emphasis should be placed on this taking place to improve its overall quality and ensure that hockey demand at this site can continue to be accommodated and absorb any potential future demand.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect the AGPs at The Castle Rock School and Ivanhoe School for continued hockey use.
- ◀ Ensure the AGP at The Castle Rock School is resurfaced as part of a wider planning application to redevelop the school.
- ◀ Ensure a sinking fund is in place at all hockey sites for any future refurbishment.
- ◀ Ensure that Ashby HC continues to have security of tenure for access of the AGP at Ivanhoe School.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

## 4.5: Cricket pitches

### **Assessment Report summary**

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

- Based on the supply and demand analysis, there are shortfalls of natural turf cricket squares to meet demand within North West Leicestershire. When broken down and assessing each analysis area, there is overplay within Castle Donington/Kegworth, Coalville and Ibstock analysis areas.
- When looking at the peak periods, there is currently an insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet demand especially in the case of Saturday cricket, this is as a result of overplayed sites whereas actual spare capacity exists for additional Sunday and midweek demand.

#### **Cricket – supply summary**

- In total, there are ten grass wicket cricket squares in North West Leicestershire across ten sites all of which are available for community use.
- There are also seven non-turf pitches (NTPs) across North West Leicestershire all of which are also available for community use. Of these, four accompany grass wicket squares, whilst the remaining three are standalone NTPs.
- Both the Castle Donington/Kegworth and Coalville analysis areas have the greatest number of squares with three each (30%), the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area has two squares (20%), whilst the Ibstock and Measham analysis areas have one square each (10%).
- Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, it has been identified that two sites formerly provided grass cricket provision with one square each at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields) and Long Whatton Cricket Club. It should be noted that the latter still has one active square onsite.
- The position in North West Leicestershire is that all clubs operate with security of tenure at their respective grounds.
- The audit of grass wicket squares in North West Leicestershire found eight (80%) squares to be good quality and two (20%) to be standard quality. No squares are rated as poor quality within North West Leicestershire.
- Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the quality of squares across North West Leicestershire has improved, with the poor quality square at Western Park eradicated as well as an increase to five good quality squares.
- In relation to NTPs across North West Leicestershire, four are assessed as good quality and three are assessed as poor quality, no NTPs are rated as standard quality within the District.
- In total, seven sites supply a total of 13 fixed-lane practice net provision.

#### **Cricket – demand summary**

- There are ten clubs in North West Leicestershire which collectively provide 61 teams. When broken down this equates to 32 senior men's, three senior women's, 22 junior boys and four junior girls' team.
- Ibstock CC is the largest club within the District with 12 teams, whilst Castle Donington CC and Packington CC are the smallest with one senior men's team each.
- Coalville Analysis Area accommodates the most demand with 17 (29%) teams identified. The area with the least amount of cricket demand is the Measham Analysis Area with eight teams (14%).
- Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the overall number of teams has increased by eight representing a 14% increase. Half of this figure is represented by a growth of women's and girl's demand with the increase of two senior women's teams and two junior girls' teams.
- The total amount of future demand based on ONS population projections is anticipated to equate to eight senior men's, one senior women's, six junior boys' and one junior girl's teams.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Scenarios

### Addressing overplay

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

In North West Leicestershire, overplay is identified on three squares at three sites. The scenario below looks at the impacts of quality improvements as a solution to reducing or alleviating overplay. As a reminder, for good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play, although it should be noted that no squares are rated as poor in North West Leicestershire.

Of the overplayed squares, two are rated as good quality already, whereas one square is assessed as standard quality, which means the position will improve. The impact of improving quality to good is shown below.

Table 4.25: Impact on overplay if all overplayed squares were improved to good quality

Site ID	Site name	Club	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of wickets	Current overplay (matches per season)	Potential position (matches per season)
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	Broomleys CC	1	Standard	10	-13	-3
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock Town CC	1	Good	10	-11	-11
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Long Whatton CC	1	Good	6	-13	-13

As seen in the table above, overplay would still remain across the three sites, albeit capacity will marginally improve Broomleys Cricket Club. As a result, alternative methods should be examined to alleviate shortfalls.

### Non-turf pitches

Cricket squares can be accompanied by non-turf pitches (NTPs), made of a synthetic material that allows users to play on a usable wicket all year round whilst not contributing towards playing demand on natural turf wickets (grass wickets). By the nature of its design, an NTP can accommodate significantly more demand than a natural cricket wicket, meaning it can contribute towards addressing overplay issues on grass cricket squares.

Currently, the squares located at Broomleys Cricket Club and Long Whatton Cricket Club are not serviced by an NTP and both could theoretically benefit from such provision as a way of reducing identified overplay. Ibstock Town Cricket Club already has an accompanying NTP provided, meaning it should look to increase the use of its existing NTP for junior teams as to reduce overplay.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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The ECB highlights that non-turf pitches which follow its TS6 guidance<sup>5</sup> on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets. Typically, however, play would be more suited to junior teams as senior leagues typically stipulate the use of natural turf wickets.

### *Hybrid wickets*

One potential solution to improving the overall quality of squares, particularly at local authority sites is the installation of hybrid wickets. A hybrid wicket combines natural turf grass with less the 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.

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 overplayed 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.

Although it is difficult at this stage to understand what impact hybrid wickets could have on each site's capacity. This assumes that more senior demand can take place on the hybrid wickets allowing for the outer senior wickets to be used/converted for junior demand. It should also be noted that this approach is currently a rather expensive means of reducing overplay.

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' quality are suitable.

### *Bringing unused provision back into use*

The unused cricket square identified at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields) in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area has not had wickets prepared for a few years and is now used to accommodate football, meaning it is still an active playing field servicing other sports. The square previously provided eight wickets. On the assumption this was brought back into use at a minimum of standard quality, there is theoretical capacity to accommodate 32 match equivalent sessions per season. Moreover, the site is serviced with a pavilion which includes changing rooms and toilet facilities.

As Ashby School (Range Road Playing Field) is used to accommodate football demand, there is the possibility to re-introduce cricket at the site, if it was deemed beneficial enough to support the current need for cricket. That being said, if the site were to be re-introduced, this would have to consider the current demand using the space alongside any new cricket demand. Furthermore, the site will most likely need higher levels of capital to get back into a sufficient quality position for use (albeit this would need to be fully determined via an agronomy report undertaken by a turf specialist)

In addition, security of tenure would need to be secured for any clubs accessing the site in order to create spare capacity due to it being managed by an Education provider.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cag.org.uk/docs/ecb-non-turf-pitches-ts6-final-328.pdf>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## *Ancillary provision (women's and girls' focus)*

For women's and girls' cricket to thrive in North West Leicestershire, it is essential that existing facilities evolve to better meet their growing demand. Due to the current overplay of cricket squares within the District, it is essential for an increase in capacity of grass wicket provision to accommodate the growth of women's and girl's teams. As of the 2025 season, Appleby Magma CC, Broomleys CC, Grace Dieu Park CC, Ibstock CC and Kegworth CC club offer competitive opportunities for women and girls, with a total of eight dedicated teams.

To ensure a more inclusive and welcoming environment, the key criteria for women's and girls' cricket provision include:

- ◀ **Separate changing and showering facilities**, incorporating enhanced privacy features such as private changing and shower cubicles.
- ◀ **Secure storage options**, such as lockers, to safeguard personal belongings.
- ◀ **Gender-specific toilets** to ensure comfort and accessibility.
- ◀ **Appropriate umpire facilities** to accommodate both male and female officials.

Enhancing provisions will be vital in fostering the growth of cricket across North West Leicestershire. The table below outlines two sites which are serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.

Table 4.26: Poor quality ancillary provision cricket sites within North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site	Club	Ancillary provision quality
63	Western Park	Packington CC	Poor
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Grace Dieu Park CC	Poor

Notwithstanding the sites included within the table above, ancillary facility improvements may also be required at those sites rated as standard quality such as Bath Grounds (Ashby Hastings CC) Ibstock Town Cricket Club (Ibstock CC) King George V Playing Field (Kegworth) (Kegworth CC), Long Whatton Cricket Club (Long Whatton CC) and Moira Dale Sports Ground (Castle Donington CC).

If funding is to be invested into ancillary provision, improvements to key strategic cricket sites (including sites where a multi-sport benefit could be introduced) should be targeted through consultation with Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation and the ECB.

## *Accommodating future demand*

In North West Leicestershire, three clubs expressed aspirations to increase teams at specific ages, as seen in the table below. This has previously been discounted due to being considered more aspirational than future growth through population increases, although it does require consideration as it is feasible for it to be achieved.

Table 4.27: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls
Bardon Hill CC	Coalville	-	-	1	-
Ibstock Town CC	Ibstock	1	-	-	1
Kegworth Town CC	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	-	1	-	-
-	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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For reference and as identified in the Assessment Report, the average number of matches for senior men's cricket (Saturday) is 12 match equivalent sessions per season, for senior women's cricket (Sunday) it is ten match equivalent sessions per season and for junior cricket (Midweek) it is six match equivalent sessions per season.

Only future demand reported by Bardon Hill CC can currently be accommodated at its home ground. Ibstock Town CC and Kegworth Town CC do not have spare capacity at the relevant peak times.

Even if all spare capacity is utilised across North West Leicestershire, there would be a shortfall of capacity to cater for all club aspirational demand, particularly for women and girls' activity. This is further compounded with the need to improve some of the ancillary provision at cricket sites in the District, as outlined above, to better accommodate this demographic.

As only four club sites have a NTP (Appleby Magma Recreation Ground, Bath Grounds, Ibstock Town Cricket Club and King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)), a potential option to increase capacity for future growth would be to install a NTP, particularly for junior demand which could assist in providing additional capacity.

Further to the above, only Moira Dale Sports Ground in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area and Western Park in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area have capacity for additional senior men's cricket (Saturdays). The only options for growth, further to those listed above, would be reinstating the unused provision at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Field). Further investigation is required to understand the feasibility of creating new provision and whether or not there is/will be enough demand to sustain its longevity.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Improve quality at sites assessed as standard quality and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good through partnership working with LRCF particularly at Broomleys Cricket Club and Western Park.
- ◀ Install additional NTPs to accompany grass wicket squares (where space allows), particularly at club sites without.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place, particularly those engaging in lease renewals.
- ◀ Improve the changing and ancillary facilities where there is a need to do so, especially to cater for women and girls demand.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of reinstating unused provision at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Field) to assist in alleviating overplay and creating future capacity for growth in North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities to support the growth of demand.
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## 4.6: Tennis courts

### Assessment Report summary

#### Tennis - supply and demand summary

- ◀ The supply of tennis provision in North West Leicestershire is currently sufficient to meet club-based demand, with no capacity issues identified and capacity existing for growth.
- ◀ It is likely that other forms of demand are not being adequately met, particularly given a lack of sports lighting at parks courts particularly at Coalville Park within the Coalville Analysis Area and Ravenstone Recreation Ground within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area.
- ◀ Demand for padel is not being met. This is because no padel courts are currently provided.

#### Tennis - supply summary

- ◀ There are 32 tennis courts identified in North West Leicestershire across 12 sites. Of these, 31 courts across 11 sites are available for community use (the court at St Hardulph's C of E Primary School is unavailable for community use).
- ◀ The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area contains the most courts with 12 (39%) whilst the Ibstock Analysis Area has the least number of courts with two (5%). The Measham Analysis Area has no courts.
- ◀ Ashby School and Sixth Form previously provided five poor quality sports lit courts, although in April of 2025 these were resurfaced to four sports lit netball courts.
- ◀ There are currently no padel courts provided across North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ It should be noted that an initial planning application REF: 24/00732/FULM has been submitted for the rebuild of Castle Rock School which includes the creation of three new tennis and netball courts. *(It is identified that as of November 2025, this now has planning permission)*
- ◀ Across North West Leicestershire, ownership and management of tennis courts is varied; education sites have the most with 12 (38%), whilst the remaining courts are split between the Council and sports clubs with ten each (31%).
- ◀ In the case of Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs, both clubs own its respective courts.
- ◀ Within North West Leicestershire 23 courts (72%) have a macadam surface. The remaining courts consist of six (19%) with an artificial turf surface and three (9%) offering clay.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, 10 (31%) of tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, with all courts across four sites available for community use
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, 15 (47%) courts are assessed as good quality, 17 (53%) rated as standard quality courts. No courts are rated as poor quality. The good quality courts include all three clubs in North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities are generally good at club sites but poor at non-club sites.
- ◀ Oaks & District TC states that it has some issues in relation to parking, with it situated in a rural area access is limited. Similarly, Ashby Castle states that its parking situation can be an issue due to a limited number of spaces at the site, notwithstanding that a public car park is available for overflow.

#### Tennis - demand summary

- ◀ There are three tennis clubs within North West Leicestershire, across all clubs where known, membership totals 418 representing a moderate level of demand with Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club as the largest within the District
- ◀ There is no Parks Tennis League operating in North West Leicestershire currently.
- ◀ No padel usage is taking place due to no courts existing, although take up is likely to be high as and when provision is established with reported demand for seven courts existing.
- ◀ No clubs report any unmet or latent demand, meaning any that does exist is for non-club activity.
- ◀ Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs wish to grow the number of members within the respective clubs. Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club quantifies this growth as 20 members, ten of both senior and junior members, whilst Oaks & District Tennis Club wishes to increase by 40 members, equating to 20 seniors and 20 junior members.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## **Scenarios**

### *Improving the recreational tennis offer*

Increasing recreational tennis demand is currently a priority for the LTA, with twice as many people playing casually rather than at clubs. In North West Leicestershire, Coalville Park (Coalville Analysis Area) has recently been improved as part of the LTA Parks Investment Strategy, including the refurbishment of two courts.

Although not currently identified for improvement, options could be explored to invest further in provision at Ravenstone Recreation Ground and Whitwick Memorial Park. If these courts are improved, in addition to the aforementioned Coalville Park, this would increase the quality of community available courts not in a club environment.

### *Padel courts*

The LTA Padel Provision Calculator indicates demand for seven padel courts within North West Leicestershire to meet local needs, there are currently none provided across the District. Given the rapid growth of padel as a sport and the identified demand, strategic investment in padel provision should be considered to enhance local access and support North West Leicestershire residents' participation in this emerging sport.

### *Indoor Community Tennis Projects<sup>6</sup>*

Although not specifically within the remit of a PPOSS, it should be noted that North West Leicestershire has been identified by the LTA as a priority area within the Midlands for the development of indoor/covered tennis courts. Options should therefore be explored on where such provision could be developed. This could include finding solutions to cover established courts including but not limited to; King George V Playing Field (Kegworth), Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club, or create dedicated provision at new developments such as a proposed sports hub in Ashby-de-la-Zouch or large scale housing development such as Isley Woodhouse.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of tennis courts, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Explore options to invest in community accessible tennis courts at Ravenstone Recreation Ground and Whitwick Memorial Park in order to provide suitable accessible provision outside of a club environment.
- ◀ Explore options to improve the parking situation for Oaks and District Tennis Club.
- ◀ Look consult with Kegworth Tennis Club to identify any capacity issues as part of the Stage E process as it didn't respond within the PPOSS consultation period.
- ◀ Explore options to develop indoor community tennis provision within North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ Support the development of padel courts within North West Leicestershire, as long as they do not impede on other sporting provision.
- ◀ Aim to put sinking funds in place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator.

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<sup>6</sup><https://www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/venues/tennis-facility-funding-advice/indoor-community-tennis-projects/>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## 4.7: Netball

### Assessment Report summary

#### Netball – supply and demand summary

- Within North West Leicestershire, there is a significant demand for outdoor netball with seven clubs and one league.
- Whilst there are a good amount of community available courts the number of these which are sports lit is low in comparison.

#### Netball – Supply summary:

- In total, there are 27 outdoor netball courts located across 15 sites in North West Leicestershire. Of these, 15 courts across six sites are open to community access, representing 56% of all outdoor courts.
- Across North West Leicestershire, 25 (93%) of the 27 courts have a macadam surface.
- Across North West Leicestershire most courts are managed in house by education sites equating to 25 (93%) of the 27 courts.
- Most netball provision in North West Leicestershire is standard quality. However, of the 15 accessible courts, six are good quality (26%), nine are of a standard quality (70%) with no poor quality courts.
- It should be noted that an initial planning application REF: 24/00732/FULM has been submitted for the rebuild of Castle Rock School which includes the creation of three new tennis and netball courts. *(It is identified that as of November 2025, this now has planning permission)*

#### Netball – Demand summary:

- There are several netball clubs (Ashby / Castle Donington / Whitwick / Sence Valley / Measham / Coalville Fireflies and Papura) that access outdoor provision in North West Leicestershire.
- NWL Netball League – operates every Sunday at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre, using the main 8 court hall. It currently caters for 36 teams, with limited scope to increase this number due to court availability. It reports a need for more court time at the centre, ideally on a Saturday to be able to meet demand.

## Scenarios

### Increasing the number of sports lit community accessible courts

Table 4.28 below outlines the available sports lit courts broken down by analysis area. As can be seen, of the 27 netball courts identified within North West Leicestershire, only six of 15 community available courts are currently sports lit, with these being at Ashby School and Sixth Form and Ibstock Leisure Complex.

Table 4.28: Sports lit community accessible netball provision

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lit?	Quality
<b>Sports lit courts</b>						
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	Ashby-de-la Zouch	4	Yes	Yes	Good
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	Ibstock	2	Yes	Yes	Standard
<b>Non-sports lit courts</b>						
20	Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	2	Yes	No	Standard
21	The Castle Rock School	Coalville	2	Yes	No	Standard
38	King Edward VII Science and Sports College	Coalville	2	Yes	No	Standard
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	3	Yes	No	Standard

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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As there are no community accessible sports lit courts currently in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth and Coalville analysis areas, both analysis areas could be looked at as an area to improve to grant residents in these analysis areas with improved access to provision.

A site such as The Newbridge School in the Coalville Analysis Area has three community accessible non-sports lit courts. It also has community accessible football pitches and an 11v11 3G pitch that are accessed, meaning the site is accustomed to letting its sports facilities to the general public. Similarly, Castle Donington College in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area has two community accessible non-sports lit courts as well as an 11v11 3G pitch. These sites should therefore be viewed as a potential site for fitting sports lights to better service the Castle Donington/ Kegworth and Coalville analysis areas.

Notwithstanding the above, all sites with non-sports lit community accessible courts receive demand from clubs within the District and as such should not be omitted from potentially providing sports lighting in the future, if planning allows. Efforts should also be made to utilise sports lit community accessible courts for England Netball initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball to further develop netball across North West Leicestershire.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts in line with national and local planning policy.
- ◀ Consider establishing additional sports lighting at additional venues such as Castle Donington College, The Castle Rock School, King Edward VII Science and Sports College and The Newbridge School to increase the supply of useable, supplementary provision.
- ◀ Ensure the standard quality courts across the District are monitored and resurfaced when required to continue to provide community accessible netball provision.

## **4.8: Athletics**

### **Assessment Report summary**

#### **Athletics – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Initial evidence suggests that sufficient demand exists for a traditional 400m track to be established within North West Leicestershire based on the demand from the aforementioned clubs. This being said, some of this demand takes place away from track provision on local roads, parks etc. Additionally, there are a number of athletics tracks in neighbouring authorities which are considered accessible to service the partial amounts of demand within North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ Therefore, it is considered that a traditional 400m track would be unsustainable based on current levels of demand.
- ◀ It is important to emphasise that this does not mean there should be no formal athletics provision. Instead of a traditional track, alternative options such as a NewGen or Active Track facility should be explored.

#### **Athletics – supply summary**

- ◀ North West Leicestershire currently has no formal athletics facilities with the closest traditional 400m tracks in surround areas such as Loughborough University (Paula Radcliffe Stadium) in Charnwood, Saffron Lane Stadium in Leicester and at The Pingles Stadium in Nuneaton.
- ◀ EA suggest that there is no need for a traditional 400m track, however, has identified North West Leicestershire for a NewGen facility or Active Track.

#### **Athletics – demand summary**

- ◀ England Athletics (EA) affiliation data there are three clubs in North West Leicestershire namely, Coalville Triathlon Club, Hermitage Harriers and Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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- ◀ Coalville Triathlon Club has 25 male, 24 female and one U18s member totalling 50 people and aspires to increase by 15 male, 16 female and 15 juniors. Hermitage Harriers has approximately 100 members.
- ◀ Ivanhoe Robins Juniors Athletics Club is the junior section of Ivanhoe Runners Club which has a wider running remit and is based at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre.

## Scenarios

### *NewGen Tracks*

England Athletics identifies North West Leicestershire as a priority area for a NewGen track<sup>7</sup>. This is based on a detailed analysis of current supply and demand for existing outdoor synthetic facilities using a 20 minute (Urban) and 30 minute (Rural) drive time catchment zone.

North West Leicestershire is not currently serviced by a 400-metre athletics track. However, nearby facilities are located at Loughborough University (Paula Radcliffe Stadium) in Charnwood, Saffron Lane Stadium in Leicester and at The Pingles Stadium in Nuneaton.

Given the scale of the housing developments taking place within North West Leicestershire, considerations should be made to develop supplementary provision such as a play track, compact track, mini track or active track. These facilities cater for a more recreational and informal offer for athletics and general health and wellbeing opportunities. They are currently a focus area for England Athletics, particularly in areas not currently serviced by formal provision.

For reference the below broadly outlined NewGen facility concepts as identified by England Athletics.

### *Track & Field (Run/Jump/Throw)*

- ◀ **Play Track:** The simple animation of dated playground surfaces using colourful painted lines and markings to (KS1 & KS2) – encouraging participation in run/jump/throw activities by creating challenging and inspiring environments.
- ◀ **CompactTrack:** A sports-lit, multiple lane, synthetic sprint straight with optional jumps and throws provision.
- ◀ **MiniTrack:** A sports-lit synthetic “mini” running oval, with sprint straight, multi-sport “infield” and optional jumps and throws provision.

### *Recreational Running/Endurance Running/Multi sport*

- ◀ **Active Track:** A free to access, macadam running / cycling circuit designed to be sympathetic to the local environment and support the recreational needs of local communities.
- ◀ Ideally lit by low level lighting / solar columns, ActiveTracks can be introduced to existing parks, open spaces and playing fields<sup>8</sup> or integrated into the master planning of new housing developments.
- ◀ Sport England Case Study: ActiveTrack: [Sowerby Sports Village](#).

Evidence from the Assessment Report suggests that the proposed sports hub development in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, along with the large-scale housing development in Isley Woodhouse, presents opportunities to develop such provision. However, alternative options should also be considered during the Stage E process.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.EnglandAthletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/facilities/newgen-tracks/>

<sup>8</sup> It should be noted that Sport England will not support the development of Active Tracks where they conflict with the Playing Field Policy.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Recommendations

- ◀ Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◀ Continue to increase participation both within affiliated clubs and the wider running market, building on the success of Park Run and look to increase other initiatives such as RunTogether groups and Couch to 5k.
- ◀ Consider the need to include NewGen facilities within strategic housing allocations to provide formal athletics offer within North West Leicestershire, including but not limited to the Isley Woodhouse development.
- ◀ If a dedicated sports hub is to be established within Ashby-de-la-Zouch explore options to include a NewGen facility which can be managed by an overarching operator.

## 4.9: Bowls

### Assessment Report summary

#### Bowls – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Overall, with no clubs reporting any capacity issues, it is considered that there is a sufficient supply of provision of bowling greens in North West Leicestershire. It is therefore considered that there is not a need for an increase in the supply of bowling greens, also given that there is an unused green at Moira Miners Welfare
- ◀ Further interrogation of demand should also be pursued regarding clubs that have been unresponsive to this study to ensure the findings can be extrapolated in relation to them.

#### Bowls – supply summary

- ◀ There are 13 flat bowling greens identified in North West Leicestershire across 12 sites. The Coalville Analysis Area has the largest amount of bowling greens with six (46%) whereas the Measham Analysis Area has the least number of greens with one (8%).
- ◀ Within North West Leicestershire, tenure of bowling clubs at their respective sites is deemed to be secure with the majority of these managed by North West Leicestershire District Council, or local Parish and Town Councils.
- ◀ The audit of greens identifies eight to be of a good quality (62%) and two greens to be standard quality (15%) as well as three (23%) poor quality greens identified.

#### Bowls – demand summary

- ◀ There are 11 bowls clubs in North West Leicestershire. Of the seven clubs that have responded to consultation requests, the total membership equates to 307 members. This comprises of 316 senior male, 87 senior female and four junior members.
- ◀ Total future demand identified across the three clubs result in 74 new members.
- ◀ All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues.

## Scenarios

### Accommodating current and future demand

Bowls England 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 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting the required level of demand. In North West Leicestershire, where membership is known, only Ashby Bowls Club is currently above this as the Club has 76 members.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

When accounting for future demand (club aspirations), Kegworth Bowls Club will also be operating above Bowls England capacity guidelines, if ambitions are achieved. As such, the capacity level of Ashby Bowls Club and Kegworth Bowls Club should be monitored over the upcoming years to ensure clubs can continue to accommodate its current demand. No existing issues are reported, suggesting that supply is currently sufficient.

## Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of currently used greens and, as a minimum, sustain quality.
- ◀ Look to improve all utilised poor quality greens to a minimum standard quality.
- ◀ Ensure that any proposed development of currently used greens is in line with NPPF and local planning policy.
- ◀ Assist clubs, where possible, with any future ancillary provision improvements.
- ◀ Monitor capacity levels at Ashby Bowls Club and Kegworth Bowls Club to ensure demand continues to be adequately accommodated.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.

## 4.10: Ashby Sports Hub

As part of the PPOSS process, the feasibility of establishing a sporting hub site within the locality of Ashby-de-la-Zouch has been explored. This includes the relocation of clubs from their current sites to one dedicated facility.

The table below is a summary of sports clubs, both outdoor and indoor, operating within Ashby-de-la-Zouch and the findings from the consultation carried out as part of the PPOSS and the accompanying Indoor and Built Facility study.

Table 4.29: Summary of findings for Ashby based sports clubs from consultation

Demand	Comments
Football	None of the football clubs consulted report aspirations to relocate to a hub site and prefer to improve their current facilities. There is an identified shortfall of grass youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, however, these can be mainly alleviated through grass pitch improvements. Additionally, assistance can be provided to Ashby Ivanhoe FC and Ashby United Community FC to create new provision at Ashby Ivanhoe Football Club and Ashby School / Ashby RFC, respectively.
Rugby union	Ashby RFC does not state an aspiration to relocate and instead aspires to develop its own facilities, such as improving pitch quality.
3G pitches	Clear identified shortfall of two 11v11 size 3G pitches within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area. This can only be alleviated through the creation of new provision at existing or new sites depending on feasibility. The option to make at least one of the 3G pitches World Rugby compliant should be explored to alleviate rugby union grass pitch shortfalls.
Rugby league	No demand.
Hockey	Demand from Ashby HC is catered for on the AGP at Ivanhoe School if tenure and quality can be sustained. Any increase in demand can be accommodated on the AGP at The Castle Rock School with no requirement for new provision.
Cricket	Cricket demand within Ashby-de-la-Zouch can be catered for with the current stock of provision although some enhancements to pitch and ancillary provision is required (Western Park). Neither Packington CC nor Ashby Hastings CC indicate an aspiration to relocate. To increase capacity options to reinstate the square at Ashby School should be considered instead of creating a new square.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Demand	Comments
Tennis (Padel)	The LTA identifies a shortfall of indoor tennis provision and Padel courts across North West Leicestershire. Ashby Castle Lawn TC state an aspiration to access indoor tennis courts.
Bowls	No identified demand for relocation.
Netball	Outdoor provision has recently been improved at Ashby School & Sixth Form to provide additional capacity for the NWL Netball League and Ashby Netball Club.
Archery	Ivanhoe Archers currently use Ivanhoe School indoor sports hall during the winter, and the school grounds during the summer. The Club would like its own indoor dedicated facility. Current issues: storage at the school, need more sports hall slots, currently has a waiting list.
Cycling	Ashby Ivanhoe Road Cyclists would like a dedicated off road 'closed' circuit, either at the leisure centre or at one of the schools. Without this, it feels its junior section will struggle to exist.
Athletics	There is an identified need for athletics provision in the form of a NewGen or Active Track facility across North West Leicestershire as a whole. Ivanhoe Robins Junior AC has clear ambitions to establish provision to service its demand with the current lack of provision restricting its growth.
Sports halls	There is evidence of a shortfall of sport hall provision to service Ashby-de-la-Zouch, however, with potential developments at Castle Donington and Isley Woodhouse demand on Ashby is likely to be lessened (clubs in the North will be catered for in the North and not need to travel to Ashby). It is anticipated that developments at one or both locations would address the issue.  There is also a need to address hours of availability at Ivanhoe School. Increasing the opening hours of current sport hall stock, particularly within the evenings, in order to provide additional capacity for sports such as basketball and badminton.
Swimming	There is evidence of a need for additional pool capacity.
Open space	As a sports hub the provision of open space for public use is unlikely to be warranted. However, for reference the Ashby area is noted as having potential shortfalls in allotments and play areas.

Based on the evidence above, there are identified shortfalls for various sports within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area. However, most of these can be addressed without providing a new dedicated sports hub site (grass football, grass rugby union, hockey, cricket). For example, strategic quantitative and qualitative improvements at existing sites, in addition to the creation of provision outside of the area (sports halls), can provide capacity to accommodate current and future levels of demand.

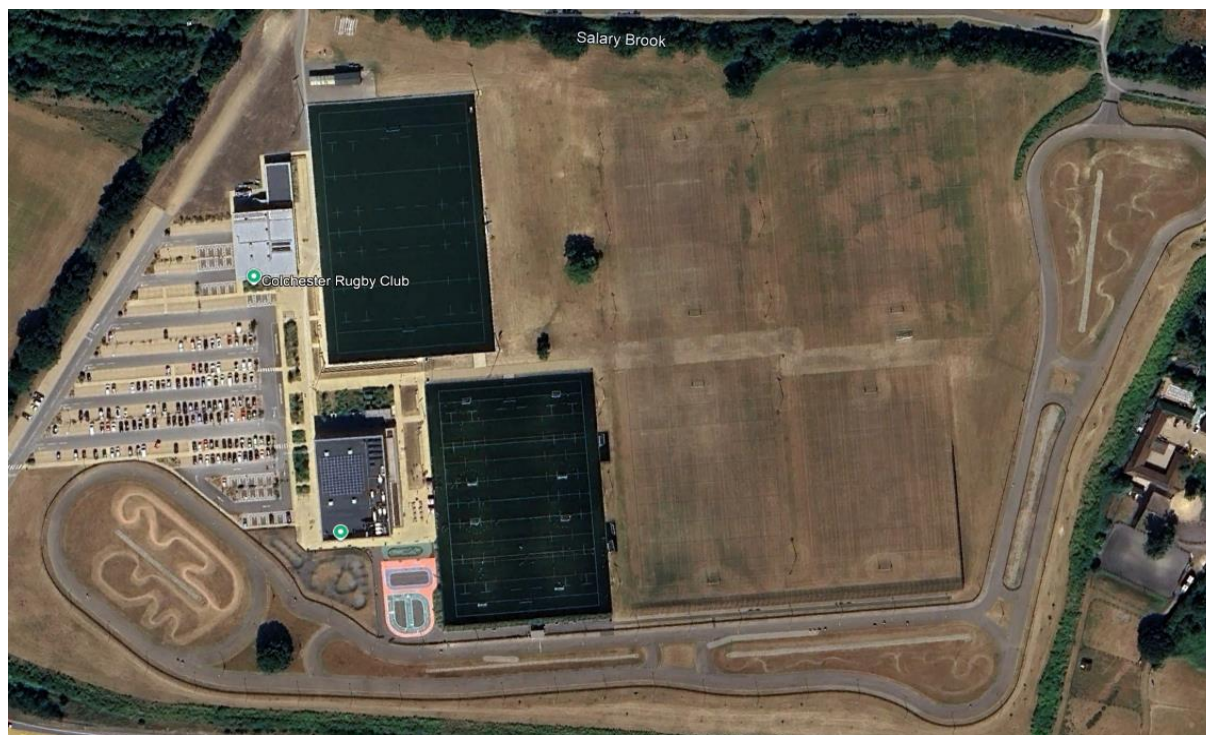
At a minimum the new facilities that are required in the Area include two 11v11 size 3G pitches to meet a shortfall for football training, with one potentially being World Rugby compliant, to address current and grass pitch rugby union shortfalls.

Although not strategically required, based on identified shortfalls within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, there is the opportunity to alleviate North West Leicestershire area wide shortfalls at a proposed Ashby Sports Hub. This could include indoor/covered tennis courts, as well as potentially padel courts, a NewGen athletics track, cycling provision and a community space.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

A wider feasibility study is required to fully understand if this facility mix could form a new dedicated sports hub site (akin to a small version of Colchester Sports Park<sup>9</sup>). This would require finding a suitably sized site which could accommodate the sporting provision and relevant infrastructure such as car parking and ancillary provision.

Figure 4.1: Example of sports hub site (Colchester Sports Park)



Alternative options should also be explored as to whether the shortfalls for new provision identified could potentially be addressed at current sporting sites within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area that already have some level of established infrastructure. These could include, but not limited to the following:

- ◆ Ashby Ivanoe FC (LE65 1TS).
- ◆ Hood Park (LE65 1HU).
- ◆ Ashby RFC (LE65 1DP).
- ◆ Ashby School – Range Road Playing Fields (LE65 1EB).
- ◆ Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club (LE65 1BQ).

The above examples could include putting an air dome over the tennis courts at Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club and the creation of one 11v11 size 3G pitch at either Ashby Ivanoe FC or Ashby RFC, with both of these options replacing grass pitches.

If the above can be achieved, a smaller new site could be developed which accommodates the remaining provision required. For example, with a facility mix which includes one 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch with a potential NewGen athletics facility and adjacent cycling facility and tennis/padel courts.

It should be noted that given its proximity to Ashby, contribution from the Money Hill development could go to the development of Ashby Sports Hub, if the project moves forward.

<sup>9</sup> <https://colchestersportspark.co.uk/>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Based on levels of identified demand there is a need to create additional sporting provision within Ashby, however, options need to be explored on whether this should be a bespoke sports hub / development of current sites or both.
- ◀ A feasibility study would be required to understand the site and facility mix for any proposed sports hub.
- ◀ If a dedicated sports hub is to be created within Ashby explore obtaining relevant funding from S106 from surrounding housing development, such as Money Hill, to contribute to its development.

## PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

### AIM 1

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

#### Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that 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 outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

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 replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes disused (including any which may not have been identified in this document) underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

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 replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. 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 needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

The PPOSS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field used within the last five years. They will use the PPOSS to help assess the planning application against its Playing Fields Policy as set out below.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## *Policy Exception E1:*

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

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

## *Policy Exception E2*

'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*

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:*

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

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

## *Policy Exception E5*

'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 sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as they may provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused playing fields are included within this Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one or two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards creating bigger and better quality venues (hub sites). Such sites could then be re-purposed to meet other recreational needs or, if appropriate and agreed, could be developed for other uses. It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

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

Much like some authorities nationally, there is reliance on the education sector to provide for most of the demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities in North West Leicestershire. However, where this is the case, it is imperative that future opportunities to secure tenure for clubs is explored and progressed where possible. The following schools provide community use to clubs.

- ◀ Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields).
- ◀ Ashby School and Sixth Form.
- ◀ Castle Donington College.
- ◀ The Castle Rock School.
- ◀ Ivanhoe School.
- ◀ Kegworth Primary School.
- ◀ The Newbridge School.

Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as England Hockey, Football Foundation and Leicestershire FA 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.

The Council and private landlords (as relevant) should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council (where relevant), parish and town councils 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 evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.

### *Alternative management models*

The Council could explore possible alternative options for the future management of some sites within its playing field portfolio, including leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT). Potential benefits of this include reducing costs which may allow for the retention and possible improvement of other retained sites within the portfolio, as well as potentially opening up new routes to improvement of sites and access to external funding opportunities through club-led management models.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

### *Community Asset Transfer*

Another way of ensuring long term tenure for clubs is through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This is the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (usually a local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Development Trust, a Community Interest Company or a social enterprise) for less than market value – to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Community based organisations are often much more effective at engaging people than other types of organisation because they are close to and directly accountable to their community.

Communities that come together to plan and deliver services can make them more inclusive and responsive than state run services. Communities can mobilise a lot of volunteer time and energy. Asset transfer can, for example:

- ◀ Help local authorities meet policy objectives.
- ◀ Make better use of underused assets.
- ◀ Open and increase opportunities for clubs/organisations to access grant funding for which local authorities cannot apply (e.g. Football Foundation Grass Maintenance Fund).
- ◀ Improve assets through increased time and resource (both financial and volunteer) than what the local authority may be able to contribute.
- ◀ Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability and help transition clubs away from being funding dependent. Opens opportunities to revenue generation and greater self-dependence.
- ◀ Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces. Reducing costs to the local authority and protection against further budgetary cuts.
- ◀ Involve people in designing and running the services from which, they benefit.
- ◀ Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers.
- ◀ Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets.

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<sup>10</sup> [Link to CASC benefits](#)

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

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The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step-by-step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process should this be an option for the Council to consider. It can be accessed here: [Link to Sport England Community assets and rights](#)

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

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

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the venues and local clubs, as well as helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

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 extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

As outlined in the scenarios above the following schools do not allow community access to some or all of their facilities:

- ◀ Ashby Hill Top Primary School.
- ◀ Ashby Willesley County Primary School.
- ◀ Belton Church of England Primary School.
- ◀ Broom Leys Primary School.
- ◀ Orchard Community Primary School.
- ◀ St Clares Primary School.
- ◀ St Hardulphs C of E Primary School.
- ◀ Thringstone Primary School.

Gaining access to some, or all of these sites, could have a significant impact in alleviating shortfalls for a variety of sports. It should be noted this may also include qualitative improvements.

The Council, with assistance from NGBs and SE, needs to work towards gaining secured access to more educational sites in order to provide additional capacity for community sports. This should include ensure relevant policies are contained within strategic documents such as the emerging local plan.

There are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, yet it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and 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.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

Sport England's Use our School<sup>11</sup> campaign provides guidance on how the Council could obtain access to educational sites including providing relevant information surrounding potential operating models, legal and governance / finance / marketing and operating information.

Where new schools are provided, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential impact of the provision. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as courts that can accommodate for sports such as tennis.

### **AIM 2**

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

#### **Recommendations:**

- d. Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary
- 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**

There are several ways in which it is possible to improve pitch quality, and these are explored below.

#### ***Available support programmes***

##### *Ground Management Association (GMA) Pitch Advisory Service*

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation, the Pitch Advisory Service (PAS, formerly the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme) was launched in 2014 and is funded by the GMA and its partners; the Football Foundation, Sport England, FA, ECB, RFU and RFL.

Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots clubs across England and Wales. The PAS provides an enhanced network of support and expertise available to those maintaining natural turf pitches, particularly at a local level.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/use-our-school>

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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The service can be utilised by grassroots clubs, organisations and local authorities with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

Pitch providers are encouraged to complete a self-assessment of pitches using the Football Foundation PitchPower (PP) app. In August 2022, PitchPower was re-launched, with enhanced capability to support use beyond football pitches and is now accessible for the assessment of natural turf pitches for cricket, rugby league and rugby union. It should be noted that with cricket in particular, more PitchPower assessments are planned to be carried out, therefore, there is a need to review quality as part of the Stage E process of this PPOSS.

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

### *Football Foundation PitchPower Assessment*

The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund, the app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

In North West Leicestershire, Leicestershire FA plays a proactive role as the County FA, supporting clubs, schools and pitch operators, to engage in the pitch power process, monitoring uptake and new potentials to access funding support, from the Football Foundation.

The tool across web app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

In addition to non-technical assessments, clubs and education sites across North West Leicestershire continue to undertake PitchPower assessments as a means of improving the quality of provision. Consequently, it should be recommended through the PPOSS process for the local authority to support delivering any improvement to new sites that undertake PitchPower assessments.

### *Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)*

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment. If a PitchPower assessment categorises pitches as 'poor' or 'basic' they are then eligible to apply for funding through the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund<sup>12</sup>, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 good quality grass pitches by 2030. Clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to improve and sustain quality.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

All applicants must have, as a minimum, landowners permission to accept investment or ideally long term security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, charities, community organisations, education providers and town and parish councils. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have landowners permission as stated above.

However, the Council, can undertake technical assessment of pitches using the PitchPower app. Opportunities to access the fund to support presently Council managed sites include establishment of a service level agreement with a resident club for maintenance responsibilities, or transfer of long-term management to the club/organisation through leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT), both enabling the club/organisation to apply to the fund.

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

### **Addressing overplay**

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

The FA, RFU, RFL, ECB and EH all recommend a 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.

Table 5.3: Recommended capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches (Good quality)	No. of matches (Standard quality)	No. of matches (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
Rugby league	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Rugby league	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	Full size AGP	4 per day	4 per day	4 per day

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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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 to transfer to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. Alternatively 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.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of 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 adjacent to existing squares.

For rugby union, overplay can be reduced but not resolved through improvements to pitch maintenance and increase sports lighting. There is a clear need for the creation of WR complaint 3G provision across North West Leicestershire to transfer some demand off match pitches and alleviate overplay on grass pitches.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality that 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 were 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.

### *Improving changing provision*

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in North West Leicestershire (these are detailed further in the Action Plan), for example, the changing provision at Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club and Western Park are poor quality with users stating the need to redevelop the ancillary facilities as the current facilities are outdated. As previously mentioned, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised.

Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement such as, multi-sport pitch sites, club managed sites and sites which are strategically important for adult and/or women and girls participation.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed on a phased basis the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan (contained in a separate document) for the proposed hierarchy. Developer contributions, where relevant to the development and appropriate, could be informed by this hierarchy.

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

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

To address community need 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.

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

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Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.

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

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

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

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council continue to use 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 linking to sites within the locality. This should form part of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sports pitch type contained within the Assessment Report and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport. That percentage is then applied to the population growth.

The additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions and associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) then given. 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.

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a 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).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that 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. The preference 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 future AGP development. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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PPOSS Steering Group meetings, which should take place regularly following adoption of the Strategy as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. It is recommended that these take place every 6-12 months and inform the annual review/update (see Part 8 for further information).

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate provision and subsequent maintenance. S106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a 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) as a minimum, the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England Playing Pitch 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, where possible and appropriate.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

### AIM 3

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

#### Recommendations:

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

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

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. 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.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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- ◀ 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 community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

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

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

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality, or unused sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome.

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

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision.

Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for 3G pitches and padel courts, the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

In addition, for rugby union, shortfalls would still be present even if the existing stock was improved to its maximum potential. As such, there may be a need for new rugby union provision, although this could also be provided for via 3G provision (World Rugby compliant).

Large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. 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 will be of a benefit to the school as well as the wider community.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is organised by Analysis Area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

### **Site hierarchy**

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

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

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	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 two.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school 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 and clubs
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.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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**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. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

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

It is considered that some financial investment 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.

**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 (e.g., bowling green sites).

For local sites, 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 is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

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.

## **Partners**

The column indicating partners in the Action Plans below refers to the main organisations that the Council (or the relevant provider) would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

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 included. 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 venues), and a supporting role at others (such as private sites/schools etc).

## **Priority**

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

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These 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.

The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and are often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

## **Costs**

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

- (L) - Low - less than £150k.
- (M) - Medium - £150k-£750k.
- (H) - High £750k and above.

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs<sup>13</sup>.

## **Timescales**

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 anticipated delivery times and are not priority based:

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

## **Aim**

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

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<sup>13</sup> [Facility cost guidance | Sport England](#)

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary – pitch sports<sup>14</sup>

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2042) <sup>15</sup>
<b>Football (grass)</b>	-	-	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	1	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Youth 11v11	-4	-4
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Youth 9v9	-1.5	-3.5
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Mini 7v7	-	-1.5
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Mini 5v5	-	-1.5
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-17.5</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>-8.5</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Football (3G)</b>	-	-	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	11v11	-2.25	-2.75
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-6.25</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Saturday	-	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Sunday	24	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Midweek	30	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-121</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Senior	-4	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>-9.5</b>	<b>-13.25</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>AGP</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>15</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at an Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	Ashby Castle LTC has capacity to accommodate 46 additional members, when factoring in future demand this reduces to 26.
<b>Netball</b>	Ashby School and Sixth Form provides four good quality community available sports lit courts.
<b>Athletics</b>	N/A
<b>Bowls</b>	Ashby BC is currently oversubscribed by 16 members, when factoring in future demand this worsens to 41. This is considered manageable but needs to be monitored as part of the Stage E process.

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
3	Ashby Hastings Primary School	30009924	LE65 2AX	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
4	Ashby Hill Top Primary School	6015305	LE65 2NF	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
4	Ashby Hill Top Primary School	6015305	LE65 2NF	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	30002770	LE65 1TS	Football	Sport Club	<p>One adult pitch of standard quality, one mini 7v7 pitch of good quality and one mini 5v5 pitch of good quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by two MES per week whilst the mini pitches are played to capacity at peak time.</p> <p>Ashby Ivanhoe FC has planning permission to change the use of adjoining the site to recreation use including the formation of additional pitches, parking area and landscaping (22/01811/FULM).</p> <p>The site is serviced by good quality ancillary and changing provision although the Club has planning permission (REF:24/00754/VCU) and is currently in the process of extending its existing clubhouse to include raising the roof height to provide first floor accommodation, dormer windows and a balcony with the erection of a single storey building to provide changing room facilities.</p>	<p>Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay.</p> <p>Support the Club's development plans to enhance ancillary provision and provide additional playing field provision to alleviate overplay and accommodate future demand on site.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of the Club's 3G aspirations to assist with local 3G shortfalls.</p>	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	M	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
6	Hood Park	1004048	LE65 1HU	Football	Everyone Active	<p>One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch. The adult pitch is overplayed by one MES per week whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.</p> <p>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision although changing facilities are reported to be unsuitable for senior demand requiring showering facilities.</p>	<p>Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of improving changing facilities on site.</p>	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
6	Hood Park	1004048	LE65 1HU	3G	Everyone Active	Two small-size 3G pitches that are sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	Everyone Active CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
7	Ashby RFC	1208811	LE65 1DP	Rugby Union	Sport Club	Three senior rugby union pitches of standard (M1/D1) quality. One of the pitches is serviced by sports lighting. Two of the three pitches, including the sports lit pitch, are each overplayed by two MES per week whilst the third pitch is played to capacity at peak time. The pitches on site are well maintained although the Club is in the process of clearing its current drainage system as it is not currently functioning sufficiently. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary and changing provision. Ashby RFC states that it aspires to lay down a World Rugby compliant 11v11 3G pitch at its site, the Club is currently in the process of planning for this with the recent upgrade of its clubhouse and additional car parking area as well as liaising with Ashby Town Council.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay. Explore the feasibility of the Club's 3G aspirations to assist with local 3G and RFU pitch shortfalls.	Sport Club RFU CFA FF	Local	H	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	50000410	LE65 1EB	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 pitch of good quality, one youth 9v9 of poor quality, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by one MES per week whilst all other pitch types are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	School CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	50000410	LE65 1EB	Rugby Union	Education	One senior rugby union pitch of poor (M0/D1) quality that is available to the community although spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	School RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	1004017	LE65 1DD	Football	Education	Two good quality adult football pitches with discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	College CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	1004017	LE65 1DD	Netball	Education	Four good quality sports lit macadam netball courts that are available for community use. The College reports it is in the process of submitting a planning application to allow the usage of its lighting until 21:30 to allow greater community usage.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support the college with its planning application to extend period of sports lighting to allow for greater community usage.	College EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
11	Ashby Willesley County Primary School	6015315	LE65 2QG	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
11	Ashby Willesley County Primary School	6015315	LE65 2QG	Netball	Education	One good quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
13	Bath Grounds	6001833	LE65 2GL	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with 17 grass wickets and a poor quality NTP. The square has actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek cricket. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision and a two-lane, fixed bay practice net that is ECB approved.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the option of resurfacing the NTP to accommodate junior demand or division nine senior men's demand.	Sport Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
13	Bath Grounds	6001833	LE65 2GL	Bowls	Sport Club	One standard quality flat bowling green that is home to Ashby BC. The green is operating above the recommended capacity, with this expected to be exacerbated when considering the Club's potential growth. The green is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Monitor green quality and ensure operating above capacity does not cause green quality to deteriorate.	Sport Club BE	Local	M	L	L	Protect
16	Blackfordby Football Field	30004618	DE11 8AW	Football	Town Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch with discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Town Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
22	Champneys Springs	1009103	LE65 1TG	Football	Commercial	One standard quality adult football pitch with one MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Commercial CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
36	Ivanhoe School	1004051	LE65 1HX	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of standard quality. Both pitch types are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	School CFA FF	Key	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
36	Ivanhoe School	1004051	LE65 1HX	Hockey	Education	One good quality, full-size, hockey suitable AGP that is sports lit and available for community use. Ashby HC reports that changing facilities on site are insufficient for current demand and inaccessible on Sundays.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary. Explore the feasibility of expanding ancillary provision on site.	School EH	Key	M	L	M	Protect Enhance
36	Ivanhoe School	1004051	LE65 1HX	Tennis	Education	Four standard quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use but without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore sports lighting potential to allow for greater community usage.	School LTA	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
36	Ivanhoe School	1004051	LE65 1HX	Netball	Education	Four standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	School EN	Key	L	L	L	Protect
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	6021026	DE12 6AA	Football	Sport Club	One adult, one youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of poor quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by three MES per week. The adult and mini 7v7 pitches have discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality whilst the mini 5v5 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
46	Moira Miners Welfare	6004411	DE12 6BP	Football	Community Organisation	Two standard quality adult football pitches with two MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Community CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
46	Moira Miners Welfare	6004411	DE12 6BP	Bowls	Community Organisation	One poor quality bowling green that is not utilised by any club.	Explore the feasibility of merging the screen with the rest of the site in accordance with Sport England guidelines and if the green is deemed as surplus to requirement.	BE Community	Local	L	L	L	Protect
47	Moira United Football Club	30004675	DE12 6DJ	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality adult football pitch with one MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	6020388	LE67 2AU	Football	Parish Council	Two standard quality adult football pitches with two MES of actual spare capacity per week. A youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch were previously marked on site.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	6020388	LE67 2AU	Tennis	Parish Council	One standard quality macadam tennis court that is available for community use but without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality and explore the option of providing sports lighting to allow for greater community usage.	Parish Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
56	Spring Cottage Recreation Ground	30005901	DE12 6ND	Football	Town Council	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch with discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Town Council CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
63	Western Park	6001830	LE65 2FA	Football	Town Council	Two poor quality adult football pitches that are overplayed by one MES per week. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision although requires significant quality improvements to ensure they are suitable for women's and girl's demand. The site currently hosts girl's teams.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site.	Town Council CFA FF	Local	M	L	M	Protect Enhance
63	Western Park	6001830	LE65 2FA	Cricket	Town Council	One standard quality cricket square with eight grass wickets. The square has actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek cricket. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision which is unsuitable for women and girls.	Improve square quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to increase square capacity. Explore the option of improving ancillary provision to better cater for women's and girl's demand.	Town Council ECB	Local	M	L	M	Protect Provide Enhance
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	6001832	LE65 2LD	Football	Town Council	One adult football pitch that is overplayed by one MES per week. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Town Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
78	Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	-	LE65 1BQ	Tennis	Sport Club	Four artificial turf and three clay tennis courts, all of which are good quality, sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sport Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## CASTLE DONINGTON / KEGWORTH ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary – pitch sports<sup>16</sup>

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2042) <sup>17</sup>
<b>Football (grass)</b>	-	-	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Adult	6	4.5
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Youth 11v11	-	-1
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Youth 9v9	-	-0.5
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Mini 7v7	0.5	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Mini 5v5	0.5	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-17.5</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>-8.5</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Football (3G)</b>	-	-	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	11v11	-	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-6.25</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Saturday	-1	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Sunday	11	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Midweek	47	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-121</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Senior	0.5	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>-9.5</b>	<b>-13.25</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>17</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at an Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2042) <sup>17</sup>
Hockey	-	-	-
North West Leicestershire	AGP	4	4

### Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	Oaks & District TC has capacity to accommodate 136 additional members, when factoring in future demand this is reduced to 96. Further research is required to uncover membership figures for Kegworth TC
<b>Netball</b>	Castle Donington College provides two good quality community available courts although these are not sports lit.
<b>Athletics</b>	N/A
<b>Bowls</b>	Kegworth BC has capacity to accommodate an additional four members, however after factoring in future demand it becomes over subscribed by 13.

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
14	Belton Church of England Primary School	30004286	LE12 9TS	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
14	Belton Church of England Primary School	30004286	LE12 9TS	Netball	Education	One poor quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
15	Belton Recreation Ground	6006279	LE12 9TS	Football	Community Organisation	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7, both of poor quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity whilst the mini 7v7 pitch has discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Community CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
20	Castle Donington College	1003583	DE74 2LN	Football	Education	Two standard quality adult football pitches with two MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	College CFA FF	Key	L	L	L	Protect
20	Castle Donington College	1003583	DE74 2LN	3G	Education	One good quality, full-size 3G pitch that is sports lit, available to the community and features on the FA register. There are also two small-size 3G pitches on site that are sports lit and available to the community.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	College CFA FF	Key	L	L	L	Protect
20	Castle Donington College	1003583	DE74 2LN	Netball	Education	Two good quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use. The courts are not currently serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to provide sports lighting at the site to allow for greater community usage.	College EN	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
27	FCV Academy	1008342	LE67 5UG	3G	Commercial Management	One good quality, full-size 3G pitch that is sports lit, available for community use and features on the FA register. There is also one small-size 3G pitch on site that is sports lit and available to the community.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	College CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
30	Hemington Sports Ground	30007781	DE74 2RF	Football	Sport Club	One adult and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of good quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity whilst the mini 5v5 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Hemington Hammers FC is seeking match funding from the Football Foundation for pitch drainage and reconstruction of pitches. This is recommended by the GMA due to undulations and existing poor drainage. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support the Club's aspirations to rectify drainage and undulations on the existing pitches.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
30	Hemington Sports Ground	30007781	DE74 2RF	Cricket	Sport Club	A good quality, standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Sustain NTP quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sport Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
37	Kegworth Primary School	30004751	DE74 2DA	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch with discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	6020300	DE74 2FH	Football	Trust	One poor quality adult football pitch that is played to capacity. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Trust CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	6020300	DE74 2FH	Cricket	Trust	One good quality cricket square with 14 wickets and a good quality NTP. The site has actual spare capacity for an increase in midweek demand. The site is serviced by an ECB approved fixed bay practice net with two lanes. Kegworth Town CC aspires to add an additional lane to its practice net facility. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision although changing facilities are not suitable for women's and girl's demand.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option of improving changing facility offering to better cater for women's and girl's demand.	Trust ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	6020300	DE74 2FH	Tennis	Trust	Three good quality macadam tennis courts that are sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Trust LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	6020300	DE74 2FH	Bowls	Sport Club	One good quality flat bowling green that is home to Kegworth BC. The green currently has capacity for four additional members although Kegworth BC has extensive future demand aspirations. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Monitor membership levels at the Club to ensure capacity does not deteriorate green quality.	Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	1040885	LE12 5DF	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality adult football pitch with one MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	1040885	LE12 5DF	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with six grass wickets. The square is overplayed by 13 matches per season. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision, with the clubhouse considered to be of good quality although changing facilities are unsuitable for women's and girls' demand. The site is serviced by an ECB approved fixed bay practice net with two lanes. Long Whatton CC aspires to refurbish its fixed-lane practice nets.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option of improving ancillary facilities to better cater for women's and girl's demand.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	30004716	DE74 2PJ	Football	Parish Council	Two good quality adult football pitches with two MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Parish Council CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	30004716	DE74 2PJ	Cricket	Parish Council	A good quality grass cricket square with ten wickets. The square has actual spare capacity at all peak times. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities although the social facilities are in need of updating and the changing facilities are not suitable for women's and girls' demand. Castle Donington CC aspires to provide a mobile cage on site.	Explore the option of improving ancillary facilities to better cater for women's and girl's demand. Support Castle Donington CC with its aspiration to provide training facilities on site.	Parish Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
49	Orchard Community Primary School	30007600	DE74 2QU	Netball	Education	One standard quality netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
55	Spital Park	6005161	DE74 2NQ	Football	Parish Council	Three adult, two youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches. One of the adult pitches and the mini 7v7 pitches are of standard quality whilst all remaining pitches are of good quality. The standard quality adult pitch is overplayed by one MES per week whilst the youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity at peak time. The good quality adult pitches have two MES of actual spare capacity per week whilst both mini pitch formats both have 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Explore the feasibility of reallocating demand on site to alleviate overplay.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
55	Spital Park	6005161	DE74 2NQ	Rugby Union	Parish Council	One senior rugby union pitch of standard (M1/D1) quality that is available for community use. The pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity per week. Castle Donington RFC states that the pitch at Spital Park is undergoing a drainage assessment. It suspects the existing French drain is blocked and consultants are being brought in to reassess and improve the drainage system to prevent future flooding issues. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Support Castle Donington RFC to rectify drainage concerns on site.	Parish Council RFU	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
58	St Hardulphs C of E Primary School	6015155	DE73 8AN	Tennis	Education	One standard quality macadam tennis court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular demand.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
58	St Hardulphs C of E Primary School	6015155	DE73 8AN	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## COALVILLE ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary – pitch sports<sup>18</sup>

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2042) <sup>19</sup>
<b>Football (grass)</b>	-	-	-
Coalville	Adult	1	-1
Coalville	Youth 11v11	0.5	-4.5
Coalville	Youth 9v9	-4.5	-7.5
Coalville	Mini 7v7	2	-1
Coalville	Mini 5v5	2.5	1.5
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-17.5</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>-8.5</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Football (3G)</b>	-	-	-
Coalville	11v11	-0.25	-0.75
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-6.25</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
Coalville	Saturday	-13	-
Coalville	Sunday	-1	-
Coalville	Midweek	17	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-121</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
Coalville	Senior	-6	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>-9.5</b>	<b>-13.25</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>AGP</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>19</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at an Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## Area summary – non-pitch sports

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Headline findings</b>
<b>Tennis</b>	N/A
<b>Netball</b>	The Castle Rock School, King Edward VII Science and Sports College and The Newbridge School each provide standard quality community accessible courts however are not serviced with sports lighting.
<b>Athletics</b>	N/A
<b>Bowls</b>	Whitwick BC and Coalville BC each have spare capacity to accommodate additional members and this remains when factoring in future demand.

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	6002413	LE67 4BS	Football	Sport Club	Two youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of good quality. The youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity at peak time whilst the mini 7v7 pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity per week. The mini 5v5 pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity per week. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision and standard quality changing facilities. The site previously included a youth 9v9 pitch that is no longer marked.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	6002413	LE67 4BS	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with 12 wickets. The square has actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek cricket. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The site is serviced by an ECB approved fixed bay practice net with two lanes.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sport Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
18	Broom Leys Primary School	30003845	LE67 4DB	Football	Education	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
18	Broom Leys Primary School	30003845	LE67 4DB	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	1041810	LE67 4RN	Cricket	Sport Club	One standard quality cricket square with ten wickets. The square is overplayed by 13 matches per season. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The site is serviced by an ECB approved fixed bay practice net with two lanes.	Explore option to improve square quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to reduce overplay at the site.	Sport Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
21	The Castle Rock School	1013799	LE67 4BR	Football	Education	Three youth 11v11 pitches of standard quality. The pitches have three MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
21	The Castle Rock School	1013799	LE67 4BR	Hockey	Education	<p>One standard quality, full-size, hockey suitable AGP that is sports lit and available for community use. The pitch has capacity for an additional four teams at peak time, The pitch significantly exceeds the recommended lifespan although no quality issues are reported.</p> <p>A planning application has been submitted REF: 24/00732/FULM for the redevelopment of the site. It has been speculated that as part of the redevelopment the AGP will be resurfaced.</p> <p>Changing and toilet facilities are currently accessible although will no longer be accessible to teams utilising the AGP if redevelopment plans move forward.</p>	<p>Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.</p> <p>Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.</p>	School EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
21	The Castle Rock School	1013799	LE67 4BR	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use. The courts are not serviced with sports lighting.	<p>Sustain court quality.</p> <p>Explore the option to provide sports lighting to allow for greater community usage.</p>	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
21	The Castle Rock School	1013799	LE67 4BR	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use. The courts are not serviced with sports lighting.	<p>Sustain court quality.</p> <p>Explore the option to provide sports lighting to allow for greater community usage.</p>	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
23	Coalville FC (Owen Street)	6011709	LE67 3DA	Football	Sport Club	<p>One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and three mini 5v5. The youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch are of poor quality. All remaining pitches are of standard quality.</p> <p>The adult pitch and poor quality mini 5v5 pitch are played to capacity whilst the youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 2.5 and one MES per week respectively. The mini 5v5 pitches have two MES of actual spare capacity per week. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.</p> <p>Coalville Town FC is exploring options to provide a new clubhouse on site to better accommodate youth demand.</p>	<p>Improve pitch quality through enhance maintenance regime to reduce overplay.</p> <p>Explore options to reallocate some demand away from the site to alleviate overplay.</p>	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
23	Coalville FC (Owen Street)	6011709	LE67 3DA	3G	Sport Club	One good quality full-size 3G pitch that is sports lit, available for community use and features on the FA register.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
24	Coalville RFC	1208813	LE67 5PF	Rugby Union	Sport Club	Four senior rugby union pitches, all of standard (M1/D1) quality. One of the pitches is serviced by sports lighting. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The sports lit pitch is overplayed by five MES per week whilst two of the three pitches without lighting are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. The final pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay. Explore the feasibility of reallocating training demand away from the match pitches to alleviate overplay on site.	Sport Club RFU	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
28	Greenhill Recreation Ground	6007271	LE67 4HS	Football	District Council	One poor quality adult football pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	30010320	LE67 5FU	Football	District Council	Three adult football pitches of standard quality that have three MES of actual spare capacity per week. The site previously provided a youth 9v9 and a mini 7v7 pitch that are no longer marked. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	30010320	LE67 5FU	3G	District Council	One small-size, sports lit 3G pitch that is available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
35	Ingles Football Club	6011708	LE67 8LL	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality adult football pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
38	King Edward VII Science and Sports College	1004056	LE67 4UW	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	College EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
43	Melrose Road Recreation Ground	1040882	LE67 8NH	Football (unused)	District Council	One adult pitch that is no longer marked. Work is being carried out to engage with the Football Foundations Home Advantage Programme to bring football back to this site and transfer on a 25 year lease to Ingles FC.	Support aspirations to reinstate the pitch on site.	Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
44	Millfield Recreation Ground	6017649	LE67 2GB	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult football pitch with 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity per week. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision. Significant quality improvements are required to suitably accommodate women's and girl's demand.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site.	Council CFA FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
50	Parsonwood Hill	30004576	LE67 5AT	Football (unused)	District Council	One mini 7v7 pitch that is no longer marked on site.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	District Council, CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
52	Scotlands Playing Fields	6007318	LE67 3JD	Football	District Council	Two poor quality adult football pitches, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of standard quality. The adult and youth 9v9 pitch types are both overplayed by three MES per week whilst the mini 7v7 pitch is played to capacity. The site previously hosted a youth 9v9 pitch that is no longer marked. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision and poor quality changing facilities. Significant quality improvements are required to suitably accommodate women's and girl's demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay. Look to reintroduce the second youth 9v9 pitch on site to alleviate overplay. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site.	Council CFA FF	Local	H	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
57	St Clares Primary School	30011064	LE67 3SF	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of poor quality and unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
61	The Newbridge School	6013965	LE67 3SJ	Football	Education	Two adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of standard quality. The adult pitches are played to capacity whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. The mini 7v7 pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	School CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
61	The Newbridge School	6013965	LE67 3SJ	3G	Education	One good quality full-size 3G pitch that is sports lit, available for community use and features on the FA register.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
61	The Newbridge School	6013965	LE67 3SJ	Cricket	Education	A standalone NTP of poor quality that is available for community use.	Improve NTP quality to better cater for curricular demand and allow for greater community use.	School ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
61	The Newbridge School	6013965	LE67 3SJ	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use. The courts are not serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through detailed levels of maintenance. Explore the option to provide sports lighting to allow for greater levels of community use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
61	The Newbridge School	6013965	LE67 3SJ	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use. The courts are no serviced with sports lighting.	Explore the option to provide sports lighting to allow for greater levels of community use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
62	Thringstone Primary School	30003770	LE67 8LJ	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
62	Thringstone Primary School	30003770	LE67 8LJ	Tennis	Education	One standard quality macadam tennis court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	-	LE67 8LR	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with eight grass wickets. The square has actual spare capacity for an additional midweek team. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision with changing rooms deemed unsuitable for women's and girls' demand despite the Club fielding a women's team. The site is serviced by a one-lane, fixed bay training net that is ECB approved.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to improve the quality of ancillary facilities at the site to better cater for women's and girl's demand.	Sport Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
74	New Lount Bowls Club	-	LE67 8JF	Bowls	Sport Club	One good quality flat bowling green that is home to New Lount BC. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sport Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
79	Thringstone Bowling Club	-	LE67 8LR	Bowls	Sport Club	One good quality flat bowling green that is home to Thringstone BC. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sport Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	-	LE67 5HA	Tennis	Whitwick Parish Council	Two standard quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use. The courts are not serviced with sports lighting.	Explore options to provide sports lighting to allow for greater levels of community use.	Parish Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	-	LE67 5HA	Bowls	Whitwick Parish Council	One poor quality flat bowling green that is home to Whitwick BC. The green has capacity for an additional 29 members.	Improve green quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to better cater for community demand.	Parish Council BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.							
82	Coalville Town Bowling Club	-	LE67 4FA	Bowls	Sport Club	Two flat bowling greens of good quality that are home to Coalville BC. The greens have capacity for an additional 68 members. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision although the Club aspires to refurbish its kitchen and toilets.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sport Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## IBSTOCK ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary – pitch sports

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2042) <sup>20</sup>
<b>Football (grass)</b>	-	-	-
Ibstock	Adult	6	5.5
Ibstock	Youth 11v11	-	-1
Ibstock	Youth 9v9	-	-0.5
Ibstock	Mini 7v7	2.5	1
Ibstock	Mini 5v5	1	0.5
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-17.5</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>-8.5</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Football (3G)</b>	-	-	-
Ibstock	11v11	-1.25	-1.25
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-6.25</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
Ibstock	Saturday	-11	-
Ibstock	Sunday	-11	-
Ibstock	Midweek	-11	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-121</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
Ibstock	Senior	-	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>-9.5</b>	<b>-13.25</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>AGP</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>20</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at an Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## Area summary – non-pitch sports

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Headline findings</b>
<b>Tennis</b>	N/A
<b>Netball</b>	Ibstock Leisure Complex provides two standard quality courts which are serviced with sports lighting.
<b>Athletics</b>	N/A
<b>Bowls</b>	Ibstock BC has spare capacity to accommodate additional members and when factoring in future demand this remains.

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	6021191	LE67 6HB	Football	Sport Club	Two youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity at peak time whilst both mini pitch formats have one MES of actual spare capacity per week. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The site previously hosted a youth 9v9 pitch that is no longer marked.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
26	Ellistown FC	6002325	LE67 1GD	Football	Sport Club	Two good quality adult football pitches with two MES of actual spare capacity per week. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	6020352	LE67 2QJ	Football	Sport Club	Four adult, two youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches. The youth 9v9 pitches are of standard quality whilst all remaining pitches are of good quality. The adult pitches have four MES of actual spare capacity per week whilst the mini 7v7 pitches have 1.5 MES of actual spare capacity per week. The youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Heather St Johns FC receives assistance from Leicester City Football Club for maintenance, including aeration to improve drainage on match pitches. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. Heather St Johns FC aspires for an 11v11 3G pitch to be provided at St Johns Park with supporting changing and storage facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of installing a full-size 3G pitch on site to support local shortfalls.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	H	L	H	Protect Provide
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	1004050	LE67 6NE	Hockey	Council	Two small-size, hockey suitable AGPs of good quality that are available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment.	Council EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	1004050	LE67 6NE	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality, artificial turf tennis courts that are sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels and ensure a sinking fund is in place for resurfacing when required.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	1004050	LE67 6NE	Netball	Council	Two standard quality, artificial turf netball courts that are sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels and ensure a sinking fund is in place for resurfacing when required.	Council EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	6001366	LE67 6HN	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult football pitch that is unavailable for community use. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	6001366	LE67 6HN	Hockey	Parish Council	One small-size, hockey suitable AGP of standard quality that is available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment.	Parish Council EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	6001366	LE67 6HN	Bowls	Parish Council	One standard quality flat bowling green that is home to Ibstock BC. The green has capacity for an additional 15 members. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Parish Council BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	1040883	LE67 6NN	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with ten grass wickets and a good quality NTP. The square is overplayed by 11 matches per season. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision although changing facilities are deemed to be of standard quality and unsuitable for women's and girls' demand. The site is serviced by an ECB approved fixed bay practice net with two lanes. Ibstock Town CC aspires to have an additional mobile cage or one extra lane on its fixed-lane practice nets.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option of improving ancillary facilities at the site to better cater for women's and girl's demand.	Sport Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
68	Batram Bowls Club	-	LE67 1GD	Bowls	Sport Club	One good quality flat bowling green that is home to Batram BC. The green has capacity for an additional 40 members. Despite being rated as good quality, Batram BC states that due to dry weather and excessive heat, the green has dried out and become harder than usual. The Club states it can be expensive to use water on the green to help with this issue. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision although Batram BC indicates the windows need replacement whilst the changing facilities are in need of expansion and upgrading.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance to ensure this remains as good. Support the Club with improving its access to water to ensure appropriate levels can be carried out.	Sport Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### MEASHAM ANALYSIS AREA

#### Area summary – pitch sports

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2042) <sup>21</sup>
<b>Football (grass)</b>	-	-	-
Measham	Adult	-1.5	-2
Measham	Youth 11v11	-0.5	-3
Measham	Youth 9v9	-2.5	-4
Measham	Mini 7v7	-	-0.5
Measham	Mini 5v5	1	0.5
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>7</b>
North West Leicestershire	Youth 11v11	-4	-17.5
North West Leicestershire	Youth 9v9	-8.5	-16
North West Leicestershire	Mini 7v7	5	-2
North West Leicestershire	Mini 5v5	5	1
<b>Football (3G)</b>	-	-	-
Measham	11v11	-1.25	-1.5
North West Leicestershire	11v11	-4.5	-6.25
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
Measham	Saturday	-	-
Measham	Sunday	-	-
Measham	Midweek	6	-
North West Leicestershire	Saturday	-25	-121
North West Leicestershire	Sunday	23	11
North West Leicestershire	Midweek	89	47
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
Measham	Senior	-	-
North West Leicestershire	Senior	9.5	13.25
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
North West Leicestershire	AGP	4	4

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>21</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	N/A
Netball	N/A
Athletics	N/A
Bowls	Measham BC has spare capacity to accommodate an additional 33 members and when factoring in future demand, this remains the same.

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	30007523	DE12 7PY	Football	Sport Club	One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 2.5 MES per week whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by two MES per week. Both mini pitch formats are played to capacity at peak time. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay. Explore options to reallocate some demand away from the site to alleviate overplay.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	6001808	DE12 7BE	Football (unused)	Appleby Parish Council	The site previously provided a youth 9v9 pitch that is no longer marked.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	Parish Council, CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	6001808	DE12 7BE	Cricket	Appleby Parish Council	One good quality grass cricket square with eight wickets and a good quality NTP. The square has actual spare capacity for midweek cricket. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Parish Council ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
17	Bosworth Road Recreation Ground	30004585	DE12 7LG	Football (unused)	District Council	The site previously provided a youth 11v11 pitch that is no longer marked.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	District Council, CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
25	Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds	6001231	DE12 7PX	Football	Parish Council	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity whilst the adult pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity. The site is without ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	1003602	DE12 7HR	Football	Parish Council	Two youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all available for community use. The mini 5v5 pitch is of standard quality whilst all remaining pitch types are of poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						The youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week whilst the mini 7v7 pitch has discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality. The mini 5v5 pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity per week.							
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	1003602	DE12 7HR	3G	Parish Council	One small-size 3G pitch that is sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	1003602	DE12 7HR	Bowls	Parish Council	One poor quality flat bowling green that is home to Measham BC. The green has capacity for an additional 33 members. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve green quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to allow for greater community use/	Parish Council BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	6001230	DE12 7RG	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by one MES per week. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	6001230	DE12 7RG	3G	Parish Council	One small-size 3G pitch that is sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
60	The Connery	6020507	DE12 7DB	Football (unused)	District Council	One youth 11v11 pitch that is no longer marked on site.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	District Council, CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2042 (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.

Similarly, the Sports Facilities Calculator identifies the potential need for tennis courts from the population growth associated to housing developments. This element has therefore also been added to this section of the document. However, it does not calculate a need for netball, athletics or bowls, which are also covered in the scope of the PPOSS. Instead, it is recommended that need for this type of provision is determined using other relevant context within the Strategy.

The scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in North West Leicestershire, thus showing how the calculators work and what data they provide. Figures are taken from emerging North West Leicestershire Local Plan. The occupancy rate of 2.33 has been used, which is in line with the 2021 census for North West Leicestershire.

### 7.1: Scenario One – IW1 New Settlement (Isley Woodhouse) 4,250 dwellings (9,903 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 4,250 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.33 people per household (based on a national average) is 9,903 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 14.76 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.7 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 47.71 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 27.1 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, 1.32 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for rugby union and 1.51 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 9,903 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week <sup>22</sup>	Training demand <sup>23</sup>
Adult football	2.21	27.10 hours
Youth football	6.83	As above
Mini soccer	4.51	As above
Rugby union	1.21	1.32 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0	0 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.35	1.06 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.35	0.45 hours
Cricket	47.71	-

<sup>22</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>23</sup> Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifecycle costs.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>24</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>25</sup>	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	2.21	£256,512	£51,124	4.42	£930,859
Youth football	6.83	£661,615	£133,646	8.63	£1,816,559
Mini soccer	4.51	£138,002	£27,324	0	£0
Rugby union	1.21	£215,998	£39,960	2.42	£509,139
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	1.07	£393,791	£72,458	2.14	£451,219
Sand based AGPs	0.12	£119,410	£3,105	0.23	£49,256
3G pitches	0.71	£872,910	£25,674	1.43	£300,063
Tennis courts	1.28	£149,707	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.94</b>	<b>£2,807,945</b>	<b>£353,291</b>	<b>19.27</b>	<b>£4,057,095</b>

Overall, an additional 17.94 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 9,903 people living in Isley Woodhouse. This consists of 15.83 grass pitches, 0.83 artificial pitches and 1.28 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £2,807,945 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £353,291. To facilitate the increased provision, 19.27 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £4,057,095.

### 7.2: Scenario Two – A5 Money Hill, Ashby 1,200 dwellings (2,796 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 1,200 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.33 people per household (based on a national average) is 2,796 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 4.46 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.2 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 13.47 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 7.65 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, 0.37 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for rugby union and 0.43 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 2,796 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week <sup>26</sup>	Training demand <sup>27</sup>
Adult football	0.62	7.65 hours
Youth football	1.93	As above
Mini soccer	1.27	As above
Rugby union	0.34	0.37 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0	0 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.1	0.3 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.1	0.13 hours

<sup>24</sup> [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

<sup>25</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)

<sup>26</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>27</sup> Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Pitch sport	Match demand per week <sup>26</sup>	Training demand <sup>27</sup>
Cricket	13.47	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifecycle costs.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>28</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>29</sup>	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.62	£73,269	£14,434	1.25	£262,813
Youth football	1.93	£186,800	£37,734	2.44	£512,900
Mini soccer	1.27	£38,961	£7,714	0	£0
Rugby union	0.34	£60,988	£11,283	0.68	£143,757
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.3	£111,182	£20,457	0.61	£127,396
Sand based AGPs	0.03	£33,715	£877	0.07	£13,907
3G pitches	0.2	£246,715	£7,249	0.4	£84,718
Tennis courts	0.36	£42,268	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.05</b>	<b>£793,898</b>	<b>£99,748</b>	<b>5.45</b>	<b>£1,145,491</b>

Overall, an additional 5.05 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 2,796 people living at the Money Hill development. This consists of 4.46 grass pitches, 0.23 artificial pitches and 0.36 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £793,898 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £99,148. To facilitate the increased provision, 5.45 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £1,145,491.

*It should be noted that the development known as Land off Stephenson Green, Coalville is also for a collective 1,200 dwellings (2,796 new population) and would therefore have the same figures in the above tables.*

### 7.3: Scenario Three – CD10 West of Castle Donington 1,076 dwellings (2,507 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 1,076 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.33 people per household (based on a national average) is 2,507 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 3.74 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.18 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 12.08 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 6.86 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, 0.31 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for rugby union and 0.38 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

<sup>28</sup> [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

<sup>29</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)

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 2,507 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week <sup>30</sup>	Training demand <sup>31</sup>
Adult football	0.56	6.86 hours
Youth football	1.73	As above
Mini soccer	1.14	As above
Rugby union	0.31	0.31 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0	0 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.09	0.27 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.09	0.11 hours
Cricket	12.08	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifecycle costs.

Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>32</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>33</sup>	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.56	£65,692	£12,941	1.12	£235,635
Youth football	1.73	£167,509	£33,837	2.19	£459,937
Mini soccer	1.14	£34,931	£6,916	0	£0
Rugby union	0.31	£54,681	£10,116	0.61	£128,891
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.27	£99,686	£18,342	0.54	£114,223
Sand based AGPs	0.03	£30,232	£786	0.06	£12,471
3G pitches	0.18	£220,980	£6,499	0.36	£75,692
Tennis courts	0.32	£37,899	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.54</b>	<b>£711,610</b>	<b>£89,437</b>	<b>4.88</b>	<b>£1,026,849</b>

Overall, an additional 4.54 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 2,507 people living at Park Lane, Castle Donington. This consists of 4.01 grass pitches, 0.21 artificial pitches and 0.32 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £711,610 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £89,437. To facilitate the increased provision, 4.88 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £1,026,849.

### The most appropriate way to meet the estimated demand

It is important that the above results are looked at alongside the findings of the Assessment Report, and the recommendations and actions of the Strategy. By doing so, the most appropriate way of meeting the estimated needs can be determined and any resulting proposals justified. This should include:

- ◀ Using the Assessment Report and related Strategy to understand the nature of the playing pitch and tennis sites within an appropriate catchment of the new population along with issues, recommendations and actions relevant to that area.

<sup>30</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>31</sup> Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>32</sup> [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

<sup>33</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)

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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- ◀ Looking at the different ways in which the needs could be met, including for example:
  - ◀ Enhancing existing provision to increase capacity, supported by suitable management and maintenance arrangements to ensure the greater capacity is maintained over the longer term;
  - ◀ Undertaking works, and ensuring long term maintenance and access arrangements, to secure new or greater community use of existing provision;
  - ◀ Providing new pitches as an extension on current sites.
  - ◀ Providing new (natural and/or artificial grass pitches).

If the decision is taken to provide new pitches, then the calculator takes the estimated needs for matches and training activity and converts this into an estimate of the likely pitch provision required to meet the needs of population projections. Indicative costs are also provided to provide this level of pitch provision in addition to costing for associated changing room provision.

### Summary (Scenario One)

Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created on site. However, in North West Leicestershire, this certainly applies to Scenario One (Isley Woodhouse), with this being of sufficient size to warrant on site outdoor sports provision given the proposed development of 4,250 dwellings.

Where new pitches are required, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to offer long-term sustainability. As such, if numerous developments in an area warrant new pitch provision, consideration should be given to pooling resources to create one larger site, rather than numerous smaller sites.

Scenario One indicates that the following is needed:

- ◀ One tennis court – can be located at the secondary school site and overmarked with netball.
- ◀ Two adult football pitches.
- ◀ Seven youth football pitches.
- ◀ Five mini football pitches – instead of creating these pitches contributions could go towards the 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch.
- ◀ One Sports lit 3G pitch.
- ◀ One cricket square.
- ◀ 19.27 changing rooms.

Based on initial designs within the current outline planning application<sup>34</sup> (25/00865/OUTM), the proposal for playing field land to be provided is adjacent to the secondary school could accommodate the majority of the provision above as long as curricular, extracurricular and community accessibility is incorporated into the design process. An additional playing field area may be required for the cricket square, and potentially some of the youth pitches, with accompanying ancillary facilities.

For the remaining sports of hockey and rugby union, only minimal demand is identified, meaning off sites contributions are more appropriate to improve existing, nearby facilities. For rugby union, to avoid the creation of a single pitch, contributions could go pitch improvement or creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, particular to service the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coalville areas.

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<sup>34</sup> Correct at the time of writing October 2025

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

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It should be noted that based on these scenarios, using current supply and demand data, any future development over 1,000 dwellings should be examined for potential onsite provision using relevant evidence within the PPOSS. This approach would need to be regularly examined with updated data throughout the Stage E process.

### **Summary (remaining scenarios)**

For the remaining scenarios, the tables above show that through housing growth, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. However, it is unlikely there will be a requirement for new provision onsite. Each of the scenarios are indicating a need for either a youth or mini football pitch; however, to avoid creating single pitch sites (as mentioned above), in addition to evidence within the PPOSS, off site contributions are recommended.

Demand for the remaining sports generated from the housing growth does not equate to a whole pitch for any of the sports, with contributions therefore better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPOSS including the Action Plan, as well as continued/future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g. to select suitable sites).

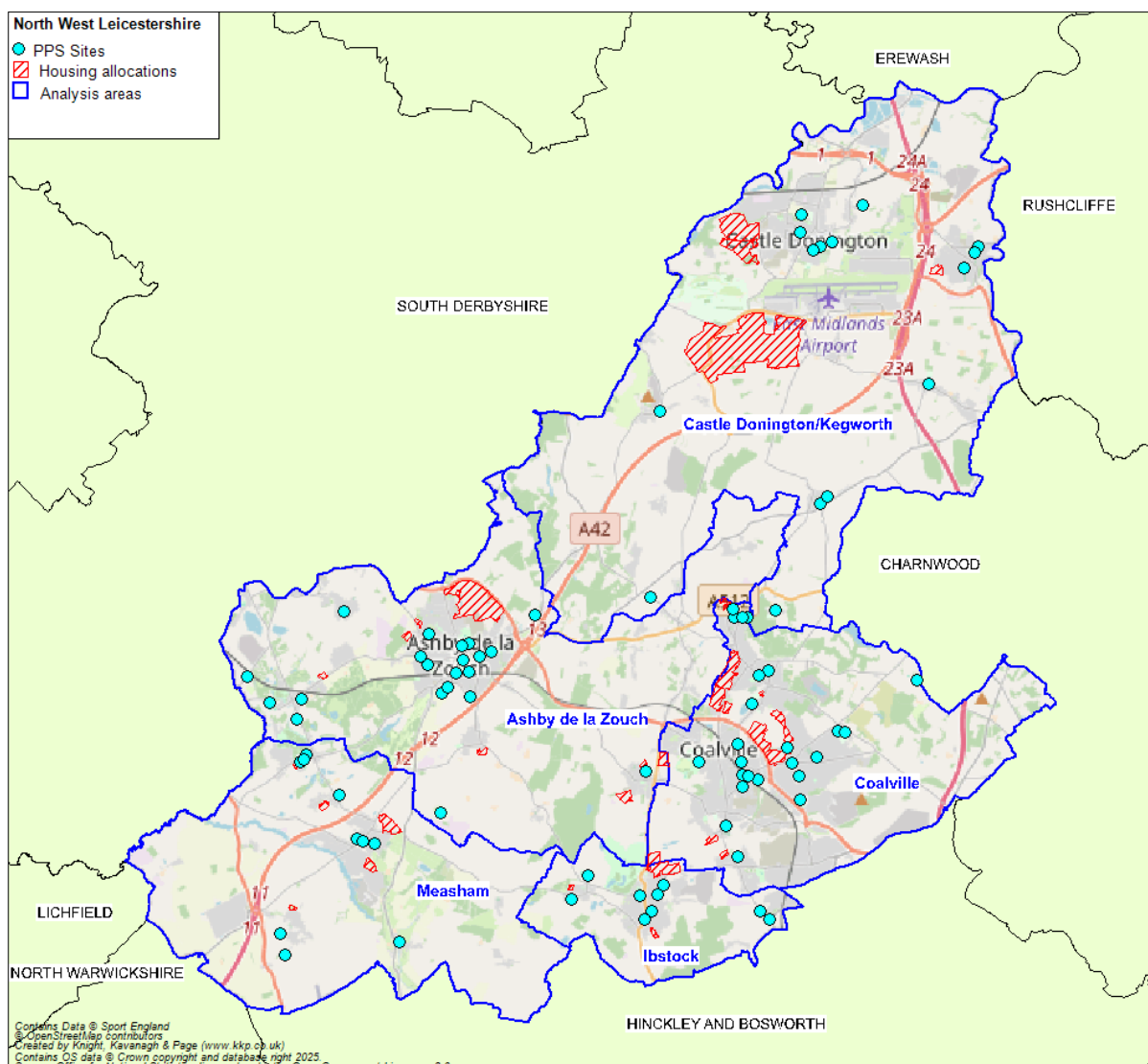
In addition, as the calculators only include the main pitch sports and tennis, there may also be a requirement to consider other pitch and non-pitch sports such as netball, bowls and athletics. Therefore, securing developer contributions to deliver improvements/new provision should be guided by this Strategy and in particular the site-by-site Action Plan and in consultation with the relevant NGBs through the PPOSS Steering Group.

The Figure overleaf identifies all the playing pitch locations within the North West Leicestershire PPOSS with an overlay of the abovementioned housing sites. This assists in identifying which sites maybe be better suited.

For a more detailed breakdown via analysis area please see Appendix Two: Housing Scenarios Maps.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Figure 7.1: Summary of playing pitch sites in North West Leicestershire with key housing sites



An alternative approach to obtaining contributions for each individual housing development and allocating them to improving localised sporting sites identified for improvement within the PPOSS, is to pool them together. This would allow for greater levels of investment into sports provision, where needed, for more significant enhancements such drainage or ancillary expansions or even the creation of artificial pitches. Additionally, this would also allow for the collating of contributions from smaller developments to maximise the benefit they can provide to sporting sites across North West Leicestershire.

The pooling of contributions could also lead to the creation of new provision where strategically relevant to address significant shortfalls identified, such as the following:

- ◀ Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area – youth 11v11, youth 9v9, 3G pitches, rugby union.
- ◀ Castle Donington / Kegworth Analysis Area – youth 11v11, youth 9v9.
- ◀ Coalville Analysis Area – youth 11v11, youth 9v9, 3G pitches, rugby union, cricket squares.
- ◀ Ibstock Analysis Area – 3G pitches and cricket squares.
- ◀ Measham Analysis Area – adult pitches, youth 11v11, youth 9v9, 3G pitches.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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Pooling of contributions should be done strategically and ought to be localised to the analysis area in which they reside, and even potentially within their key settlements. This is to ensure that the S106 monies are spent on improving the sporting infrastructure that the new population will utilise.

*Furthermore, it should be noted that the above is based on current supply and demand evidence (2024/25). It is anticipated that as some of these housing allocations begin to be developed, such as Isley Woodhouse, updated supply and demand data will need to be factored into the scenarios as per Sport England Guidance which may alter the recommendations above. Additionally, as progress begins more bespoke recommendations can be made following consultation with NGBs and Sport England as priorities from these stakeholders may alter in the future.*

*As a result, it is advised that the above recommendations and accompanying housing growth scenario is refreshed on a regular basis to ensure validity and so that any developments in the sporting landscape across North West Leicestershire are factored in.*

*In the first instance there will need to be a greater exploration of supply and demand requirements for the first delivery phase of any housing where a stronger outline on what needs to be provided can be achieved. This would coincide with a longer term vision/scope on what the long term need could be. Again, it would be for the Local Plan review alongside an updated PPOSS to then provide the exact level of need at that point.*

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

The section below sets out 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 North West Leicestershire based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group. This could also link to what is done in other authorities locally.

### ***Delivery***

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across North West Leicestershire. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Borough can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and recommends how best to resolve this in the future. This document should be regarded as part of the planning process as a material consideration.

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

The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are needed to improve the situation and meet future demand.

The process of preparing 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***

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue to be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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The Council is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up-to-date in order that area-by-area action plans can be updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

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, then 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 and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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

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

Once the PPOSS is complete the role of the Steering Group should evolve so that it:

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

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

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

## Checklists

In order for this Strategy to be signed off by the steering group, a Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy has been prepared which indicates where a step has been completed or if further action may be required.

Stage D <u>Checklist</u> : Develop the Strategy	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan</b>	✓	
1. Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?	✓	
2. Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information?	✓	
3. Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?	✓	
4. Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?	✓	
5. Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?	✓	
6. Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?	✓	
7. Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed?	✓	
8. Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?	✓	
9. Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?	✓	
10. Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?	✓	
11. Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?	✓	
12. Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?	✓	
13. Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?	✓	
14. Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?	✓	
15. Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?	✓	
16. Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?	✓	
17. Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?	✓	
18. Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?	✓	

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

<b>Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy</b>		
1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?	✓	
2. Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?		✓
3. Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	✓	
4. Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	✓	
5. Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	✓	
6. Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?		✓

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

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

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

### National context

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

### ***Department of Culture, Media and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)***

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
  - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
  - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
  - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
  - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
  - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
  - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
  - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## ***Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)***

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

### *Tackling inequalities*

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

## ***National Planning Policy Framework (2024)***

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

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

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

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

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

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

### ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls' football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock** to maintain current provision, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## ***The FA: A Thriving Grassroots Game (2024-28)***

This new strategy aims to enhance participation, improve facilities and create a more inclusive and enjoyable environment for players, coaches, volunteers and officials.

The strategy focuses on five main areas:

1. **Improving Playing Choice and Opportunity**  
Creating diverse and flexible playing options to cater to all individuals.
2. **Delivering Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls**  
Ensuring every woman and girl has access to football in a safe and enjoyable setting.
3. **Building and Improving Facilities**  
Increasing the quality and quantity of grassroots football pitches and facilities.
4. **Tackling Poor Behaviour**  
Reducing incidents of poor behaviour and discrimination, promoting positive conduct.
5. **Developing a Valued Network of Volunteers, Coaches, and Referees**  
Growing and supporting the grassroots workforce to sustain the game's future.

To achieve these priorities, the FA has identified three key drivers:

- ◀ **Supporting Thriving Community Clubs**  
Assisting clubs to grow sustainably and provide excellent football experiences.
- ◀ **Connecting and Serving Participants**  
Enhancing digital services to offer personalized and accessible opportunities.
- ◀ **Progressing the Game's Governance**  
Implementing high governance standards to serve all football participants effectively.

These initiatives are developed in collaboration with County FAs to ensure local needs are met.

The FA's strategy aims to transform grassroots football by addressing key challenges, investing in facilities, and promoting inclusivity and positive behaviour.

## ***The FA: Inspiring Positive Change Through Football (2024-28)<sup>35</sup>***

The FA launched its new Strategy which aims to 'take English football forward, with clear focus on the biggest opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed'.

To achieve this, eight key strategic priorities are identified which include four 'Game Changer' objectives and four 'Drivers' objectives as detailed below. The strategy also outlines how The FA's plans to achieve these objectives.

Game Changers:

- ◀ Win tournaments
  - ◀ Develop pathways
  - ◀ Support elite players
  - ◀ Enhance environments
  - ◀ Collaborate and influence
- ◀ A game free from discrimination
  - ◀ Boost representation
  - ◀ Drive more inclusion
  - ◀ Tackle discrimination
- ◀ Equal opportunities for women & girls
  - ◀ Increase school participation
  - ◀ Increase club participation
  - ◀ Enhance women's competitions
  - ◀ Support female coaches and referees

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<sup>35</sup> [FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association](#)

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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- ◀ Transform the pitch landscape
  - ◀ Sustain and grow high-quality grass pitches
  - ◀ Deliver new 3G pitches
  - ◀ Support inclusivity accessibility and environmental sustainability of facilities
- ◀ Drivers:
- ◀ Thriving community clubs
  - ◀ Develop club opportunities
  - ◀ Support the current and future generation of club leaders
  - ◀ Equip clubs to add long-term value to local communities
- ◀ World-class FA cups
  - ◀ Broaden commercial appeal
  - ◀ Evolve the Adobe Women's FA Cup format
- ◀ Participant led
  - ◀ Place participants at the centre of decision making
  - ◀ Create flexible models to meet participants needs
  - ◀ Provide digital tools to improve experiences
- ◀ Progressive governance
  - ◀ Support integration of women's and girls' football
  - ◀ Support governance of the NLS
  - ◀ Support our County Football Associations (CFAs)

## ***The FA: Reaching Higher (2024-28)***<sup>36</sup>

The FA's 2020-2024 strategy, 'Inspiring Positive Change', coincided with record growth across the sport, with more women and girls playing, coaching, officiating and supporting the flourishing professional game than ever before.

This strategy aims to build on the success achieved to date and strives to continue working to unlock the full potential of the women's and girls' game. The strategy outlines four strategic priorities as seen below.

1. **Build and Protect the Uniqueness of the Women's Game:** Continue to honour the history of women's football and recognise those who have contributed towards making it so unique, whilst ensuring the distinct qualities and unique culture of the women's game are valued and protected.
2. **Win a Major Tournament:** Continue to be world-leaders both on and off the pitch, developing players and building an inclusive talent pathway system to make football more equal and accessible at every level of the game, ensuring the England pathway and teams represent society.
3. **Build Robust, High-Quality Competition:** Create compelling competition structures and support clubs to develop to the appropriate level within the game, while enabling people to grow and develop within The FA's competition structures.
4. **Deliver Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls to Play:** Sustain growth in schools whilst tackling inequalities. Continue to grow the number of female teams and deliver vibrant league offers whilst extending and enhancing the sessional football offer. The ambition is for 90% of schools to deliver equal access for girls to play football in key stages two and three.

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<sup>36</sup> [The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28](#)

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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There are five golden threads which weave through each of the four strategic priorities and across all levels of the women's and girls' game, which will be instrumental for delivering the next phase of growth by 2028:

1. **Female Health and Wellbeing:** Develop the game to support women and girls with their health and wellbeing needs, providing them with environments in which they can thrive.
2. **Safeguarding:** Support the evolution of an ever-safer culture across the women's and girls' game.
3. **Refereeing:** Grow and nurture a new generation of referees who are representative of our society.
4. **Coaching:** Support and develop brilliant coaches capable of unleashing every player's potential in a safe and inclusive game.
5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Ensure the game is more reflective of our society.

### *Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28)<sup>[1]</sup>*

In October 2024 the ECB released its updated strategy Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28). Cricket in England and Wales has seen transformative growth since the publication of its previous strategy Inspiring Generation (2020-24). Its new strategy represents an evolution of its plans, however, many of its previous themes are still relevant. Its main purpose is to say 'Cricket is a game for me' through its vision:

- ◀ To become the most inclusive team sport
- ◀ To grow and unite the game
- ◀ Lead the game through global transformation

It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives

- ◀ Make cricket diverse, inclusive and accessible
- ◀ Transform Women's and Girl's cricket
- ◀ Connect communities through play
- ◀ Inspire through winning England teams
- ◀ Support a thriving and sustainable men's and women's professional game
- ◀ Win the battle for attention

Underpinning these six ambitions are a series of enablers that cut-across multiple areas of the game, alongside Cricket's Core Values.

### *The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards*

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

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[1] <https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/10/22/19a925d7-3c92-4a36-8e7b-f49cb470377f/ECB-Inspiring-Generations-2025-2028.pdf>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## Game Objectives:

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

## Driving Objectives:

- ◀ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◀ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◀ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ◀ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

## **England Hockey Strategy (2023 – 2028)**

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

Aiming to make hockey more noticeable, relevant, and accessible to all, England Hockey have launched their new strategy 'Creating a Future for Our Game Together' on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

The new strategy is a continued effort to re-engage with the current hockey community and to reach out to potential newcomers to introduce them to hockey.

Underpinning the strategy and of importance to the hockey community are four values, "collaborate inclusively, care for people and places, play with spirit win with grace and resilient in everything we do".

The strategy is the culmination of two years consultation with various stakeholders across the sport and larger sporting sector. Hockey will be guided by five key objectives over the next five years.

1. **Lead Positive Change:** to create and champion positive change within the community by broadening and widening the engagement of the sport and making it more ethnically and culturally diverse.
2. **Meaningful Growth:** to make sure that our sport thrives and grows into the future, we want to nurture a love of hockey within a more diverse group of young players and communities to reflect society.
3. **Drive Visible Impact:** to produce and release high-quality, engaging content that shares the love of the game, captures the passion, builds a deep connection and amplifies the voices of the hockey community with new and existing participants.
4. **Responsible Leadership:** to provide forward thinking, compassionate and inclusive leadership. Leadership that fosters trust within physically and psychologically safe environments and which puts players, the community and sustainability at heart of every decision.
5. **Inspirational International Success:** inspirational club and national teams delivering podium success in Europe and on the world stage, underpinned by a thriving talent system and domestic game.

The strategy aligns with Sport England's 'Uniting the movement' strategy and UK Sport's Powering Success, Inspiring Impact' strategic plan.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

### Objectives:

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
  - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
  - ◀ The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

### Strategies:

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

## ***England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)***

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023) and Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031). Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## ***England athletics strategy plan 2021 – 2032: Athletics and runners at the heart – creating opportunities, enhancing experiences and powering potential***

This strategy ensures a robust and clearly defined future direction for the sport which places athletics and runners at the heart of everything we will do over the 12 year period to 2032.

England Athletics overarching purpose and visions are:

**Purpose:** ‘To inspire more athletics and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport.’

**Vision:** ‘For athletics to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.’

At the heart of this plan, and the focal point for everything England Athletics do, are the people and communities involved in athletics across the following five areas:

1. Clubs, Club Leaders and facilities
2. Competition
3. Coaches and officials
4. Participation: young people and running
5. Talented athletes

Each has its own unique challenges and opportunities, yet also the opportunity to positively influence the success and growth of the other areas.

There are four key supporting activities that will be essential in enabling us to deliver the strategic priorities and ultimately achieve goals:

- ◀ Provide strong leadership that builds trust and respect by creating an open and positive culture.
- ◀ Embrace technology and reduce our environmental impact by putting digital first and encouraging innovation and creativity.
- ◀ Ensure greater engagement through sharing of high-quality insight, information and content.
- ◀ Develop commercial minds to maximise funding opportunities and diversify income.

## ***England Netball***

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year ‘Adventure Strategy’ for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball’s ‘Adventure Strategy’ shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

The ‘Adventure Strategy’ outlines the intention to:-

- ◀ accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
- ◀ elevate the visibility of the sport, and
- ◀ lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

The elite game is in focus too, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.

Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

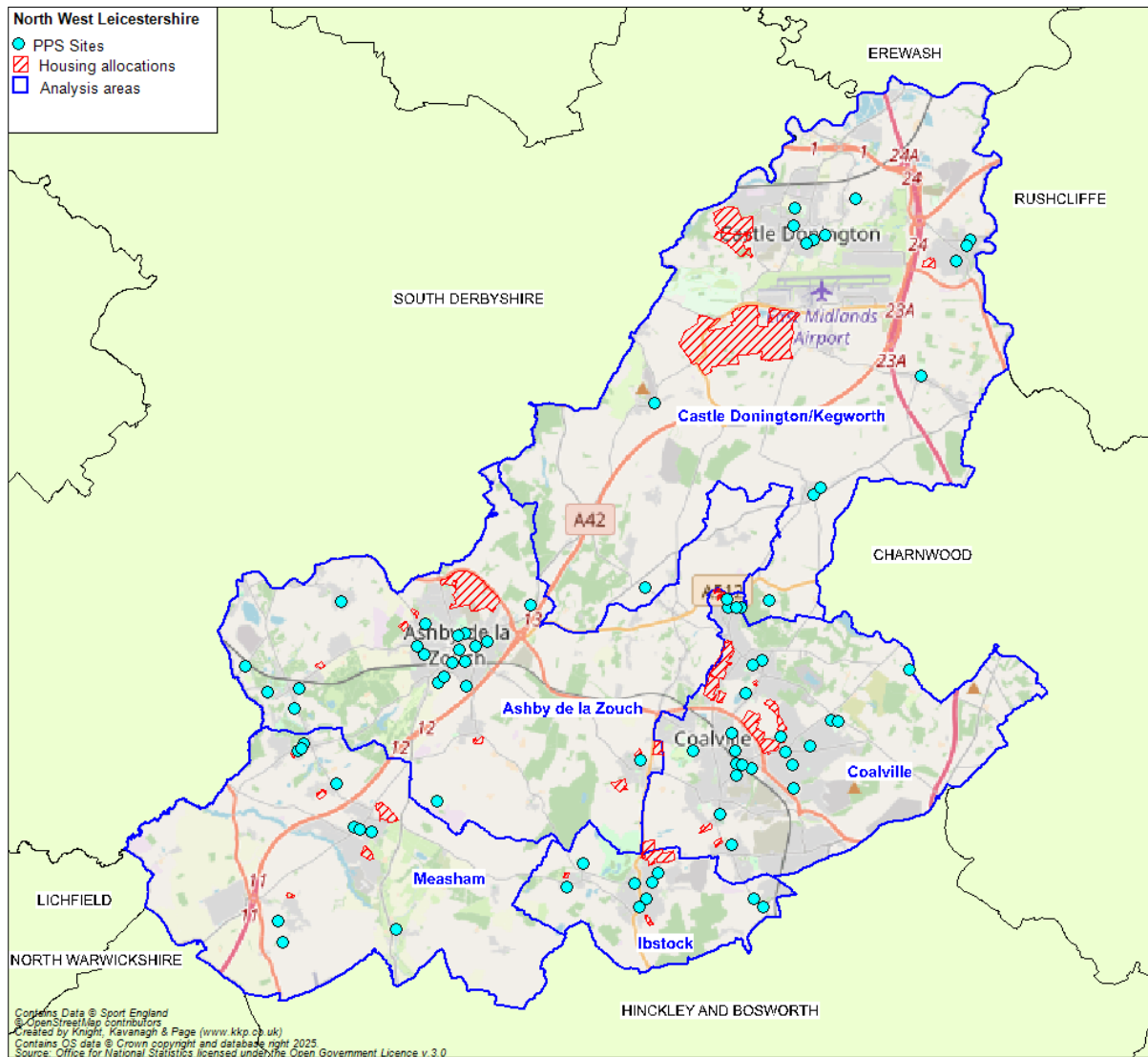
### *Facility Development*

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- ◀ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ◀ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ◀ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.
- ◀ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
- ◀ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- ◀ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ◀ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ◀ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ◀ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ◀ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## APPENDIX TWO: HOUSING SCENARIO MAPS



# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

