

Draft document for Council governance process July and August 2026

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

JUNE 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CC	Cricket Club
CDC	Cotswold District Council
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non turf pitch
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

A Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) has been commissioned by Cotswold District Council (CDC), to assess playing pitch and outdoor sport facility needs. This report provides the Strategy for Cotswold.

Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, this Strategy & Action Plan provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2031 (in line with the Local Plan review). It has been developed to provide:

- ✦ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- ✦ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ✦ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
- ✦ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ✦ A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.

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

A PPS 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.
- ✦ 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.

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The Strategy and Action Plan recommends several 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 it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.

Partner organisations 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, education establishments and parish/town councils. In many instances, Cotswold District Council will not be the organisation which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPS is not just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

Scope

The following are the key pitch sports in the Cotswolds and as such are included within the scope of this report:

- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Football
- ◀ Third generation artificial grass pitches (3G pitches)
- ◀ Rugby union
- ◀ Rugby league
- ◀ Hockey (artificial grass pitches)
- ◀ Polo

Study area

The study area comprises the whole of Cotswold District Council's administrative area which has been broken into smaller subsections known as analysis areas. The specific ward boundaries of these three analysis areas can be found in the preceding Assessment Report.

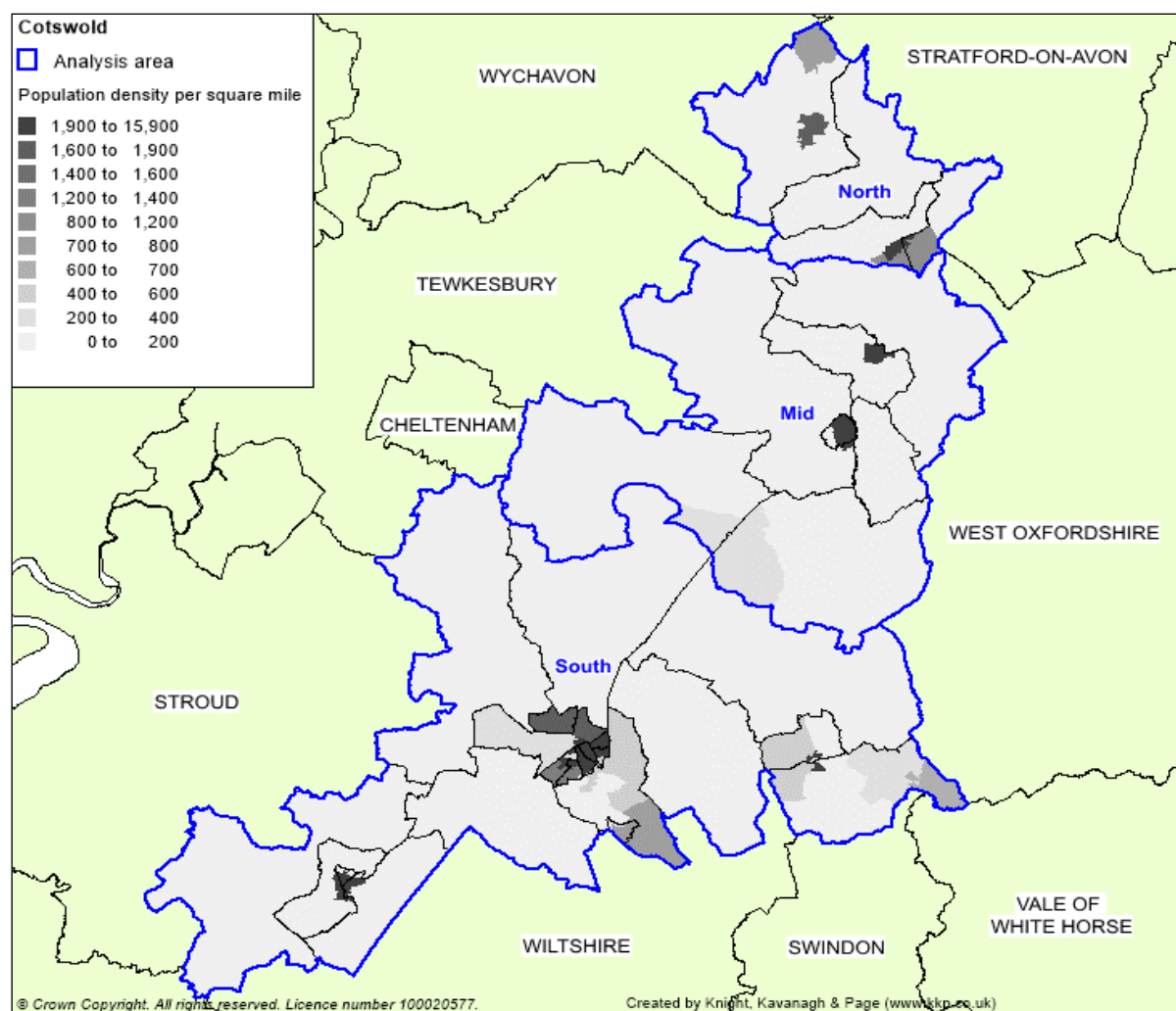
- ◀ North Area
- ◀ Mid Area
- ◀ South Area

Cross boundary issues have been explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries.

The analysis areas and population density are shown in figure 1.1.

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Figure 1.1: Analysis areas



Local context

The new Cotswold PPS will form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan (2011-2031). The main reasons for updating the Cotswold PPS are:

- ◆ To align with the other two Public Authorities. Therefore, increasing alignment of studies which will provide the opportunity for long term efficiencies in terms of Officer resources, procurement and finance.
- ◆ To contribute to the partial update of the adopted Local Plan 2031.
- ◆ To inform the development and implementation of planning policy and infrastructure planning work.
- ◆ To provide a robust and up to date evidence base to assist the Council in determination of planning applications in the provision or loss of playing pitches.
- ◆ To provide justification and evidence base for developer contributions and external funding bids involving playing pitches, an up to date PPS would be a requirement of any investment from organisations such as the Football Foundation.
- ◆ To identify opportunities for improving access to playing pitches, whilst supporting the delivery ambitions contained in the Corporate Plan (supporting health and wellbeing and making the local plan green to the core), the Strategic Outcomes Planning Model (Leisure Strategy), sporting governing bodies' objectives and partial update to the Local Plan 2031

Cotswold Corporate Strategy (2020-2024)

The Cotswold Corporate Strategy recognises and embraces the challenges facing the district and states its aims and ambitions. It is underpinned by a set of action plans that describe in detail how we plan to deliver these ambitions. Of these, one of the key principles is to support the health and wellbeing of the district's residents. It sets out the following five aims to achieve this:

- ✦ Encourage resilient, well-connected and active communities that take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing goals.
- ✦ Promote both mental and physical health equally, to increase awareness of mental health issues and improve the community response to people in crisis.
- ✦ Promote healthy lifestyles, fun and self-care for all ages.
- ✦ Ensure our housing and built environments enable residents to live healthy lives.

National context

Paragraphs 98 of the NPPF states 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 as relevant.

Paragraph 99 of the NPPF discusses assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". Paragraphs 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

An up-to-date PPS will form a key element of the Council's evidence base to support its emerging health and well-being policies and the Local Plan as a whole.

This may provide opportunities to develop new playing pitches or improve the quality of existing playing pitches in Cotswold in response to housing developments that create additional demand for pitches (as well as the accompanying ancillary offer). Any requirement would be calculated by using the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator¹. Where possible, this will be aligned to existing community sport clubs in Cotswold which already play an integral part in providing sport and physical activities to the local community.

Headline findings

Table 1.1 below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. 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.

The position on future demand is established through ONS projections (2031) and through a mixture of consultation feedback from community clubs in the district and information provided by the relevant national governing bodies of sport. Full details of this can be found in the preceding Assessment Report.

¹[Link to Sport England Sport Playing Pitch Calculator](#)

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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 they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket is able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

The Sport England PPS guidance does not advocate the conversion of MES to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed. For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

For artificial surfaces (AGPs/3G pitches), how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, whole pitches are used as the comparable unit. Similarly, for the other non-pitch sports (i.e., tennis, netball bowls etc) where it is not as easy to determine carrying capacity, whole facilities are used as the comparable unit.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Sport	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Football (grass pitches)	North	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
	Mid	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
	South	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 5.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
Football (3G pitches) ²	North	Full size (Minimum dimensions 91 x 55m)	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
	Mid		Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
	South		Shortfall of 1.25	Shortfall of 1.75
	North	Saturday	Spare capacity of 40	Spare capacity of 40

² Based on accommodating 38 teams on one full size pitch.

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Sport	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Cricket ³		Sunday	Spare capacity of 40	Spare capacity of 40
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 88	Spare capacity of 88
	Mid	Saturday	Spare capacity of 48	Spare capacity of 48
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 60	Spare capacity of 60
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 114	Spare capacity of 114
	South	Saturday	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 9
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 27	Spare capacity of 27
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 75	Spare capacity of 75
Rugby union	North	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Mid		Shortfall of 3.25	Shortfall of 3.25
	South		Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 2.5
Rugby league	Cotswold	Senior	No demand so no provision required	No demand so no provision required
Polo	Cotswold	-	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Cotswold	Full size (Minimum dimensions of 97.4 x 59m)	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply, but a requirement for quality improvements.

Conclusions

From a quantitative perspective, the existing position for each sport is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall. Where shortfalls exist, these are currently small but are expected to be exacerbated in the future (based on increases in demand for each sport).

Where shortfalls do not currently exist, particularly for football, it is anticipated that over the Local Plan period that shortfalls will emerge, but at levels which are manageable and that can be theoretically be addressed through pitch improvements of existing provision, rather than the need for providing additional pitches.

Shortfalls are identified for 3G pitches, and these shortfalls cannot be addressed unless this type of pitch is approved and constructed within the District.

Hockey demand within Cotswold is currently adequately catered for. However, the existing pitches at both The Cotswold School and the Royal Agricultural University are due to fall out of use over the lifespan of the PPS and shall require surface replacements.

There are capacity deficiencies for rugby union which are expected to increase in the future. It is expected issues associated to this can be alleviated through quality improvements and the development of new provision expected to be established during the lifespan of the PPS.

Across all sports where demand is being met, this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead spare capacity is considered to be a solution to

³Future demand for cricket has been applied on a district wide level and cannot be allocated to the used catchments. It anticipates a growth of seven senior men's cricket teams putting additional pressure on the Saturday peak time period.

overcoming current or future shortfalls. There is a resultant need to protect all existing outdoor sport provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

For the most part, the shortfalls identified can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, re-configuration, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities or enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. However, there is a shortfall of 3G pitches that can likely only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, particularly at sites managed by parish and town councils, an increase in such provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, which in turn can reduce overplay and aid pitch quality improvements.

PART 2: VISION

Vision

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

“To ensure that there are enough playing pitches and related facilities in Cotswold District of the right type, the right quality and in the right place to meet the needs” of the residents of the District now and in the future.”

To achieve this vision the PPS will deliver the following objectives:

- ◆ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport.
- ◆ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs.
- ◆ Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand.
- ◆ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer-term aspirations.

PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England objectives. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPS 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.

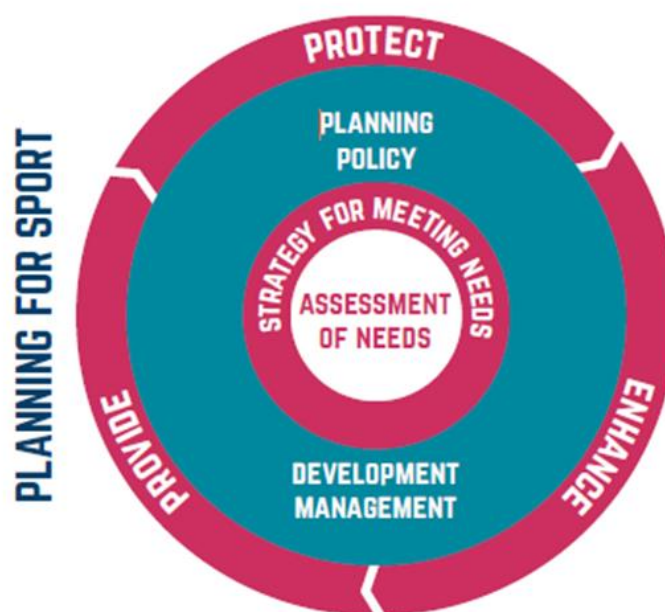
AIM 2

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.

Figure 3.1: Sport England objectives



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

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 then informs sport specific recommendations.

Football – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Football – grass pitch summary

- ◆ The current supply of football provision is broadly sufficient in accommodating football demand on mini pitches and youth 9v9 pitches.
- ◆ Comparatively, adult and youth 11v11 pitches are showing a combined overplay of 2.5 MES.
- ◆ Future demand through team generation rates creates a shortfall of two match equivalent sessions per week.

Grass football pitch supply:

- ◆ The audit identifies a total of 116 grass football pitches across 55 sites. Of these, 90 are available, at some level, for community use across 37 sites. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites, the Duke of Gloucester Barracks and the Fire Service College Leisure Hub.

Grass football pitch quality:

- ◆ Of the 90 pitches which offer community use, 27 pitches are assessed as good quality, 38 as standard quality and 25 as poor quality. The identified good quality pitches are located at seven sites, those being Baunton Lane Playing Field, Cirencester Deer Park School, Corinium Stadium, Fairford Town FC, Horcott Road Playing Fields, Moreton Rangers FC and Royal Agricultural University.

Affiliated football demand:

- ◆ Through the audit and assessment, 157 teams from 35 clubs are identified as playing in Cotswold. This consists of 34 adult men's, one adult women's, 70 youth boys', three youth girls and 49 mini mixed teams.
- ◆ Future demand equates to the growth of two adult, nine youth boys' teams and two mini mixed teams based on team generation rates. Club growth ambitions of 17 teams have been discounted.
- ◆ The PPS Strategy & Action Plan will contain a housing growth scenario that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development.

Supply vs demand analysis conclusions:

- ◆ There is broadly a sufficient supply of provision in Cotswold to accommodate demand on youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types.
- ◆ There are existing shortfalls on adult and youth 11v11 pitches.
- ◆ Future demand exacerbates shortfalls on adult and youth 11v11 pitches and makes mini 5v5 pitches played at capacity, to give an overall picture of four MES of overplay for the District.
- ◆ There is spare capacity for youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches both now and in the future.

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Scenarios

Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality

In total there are 10 pitches overplayed in Cotswold across nine sites, with overplay equating to 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving 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 highlights the current levels of overplay that would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating as detailed in the table below:

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

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

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Good quality rating (MES)
9	Blockley Sports & Social Club	North	Poor	Adult	1	0.5	1.5
11	Bourton Rovers Football & Social Club	Mid	Standard	Adult	1	0.5	0.5
12	Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Mid	Standard	Youth 11v11	1	0.5	1.5
13	Charlton Rovers AFC (Shipton Playing Fields)	Mid	Standard	Youth 9v9	1	1	1
36	Fairford RFC	South	Poor	Youth 11v11	1	0.5	2.5
48	Kingshill Sports Complex	South	Standard	Youth 11v11	2	2	2
62	Shipton Moyne Rec Ground	South	Standard	Adult	1	4.5	3.5
70	SWR Leisure	South	Poor	Youth 9v9	1	0.5	1.5
76	Upper Up Playing Fields	South	Standard	Adult	1	1	-

The impact of improving overplayed pitches to good quality is shown in the table above. In the main, overplay would be largely alleviated at all but one site; Shipton Moyne Recreation Ground which would still have 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week of overplay remaining. The overall impact of this equates to a reduction of overplay equating to 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week to 3.5.

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Table 4.2: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
	Current actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total	Potential position with improved pitches
Adult	5.5	6.5	1	2.5
Youth 11v11	1.5	3	1.5	2.5
Youth 9v9	4.5	1.5	3.5	7.5

Making these improvements would, on a districtwide level, theoretically alleviate all overplay. Remaining overplay at Shipton Moyne Recreation Ground would remain, but spare capacity at other sites across the District would balance out the overall position.

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)⁴

As improving the quality of all overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving specific strategic sites. To that end, the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) identifies nine sites for grass pitch improvements that are in need of investment and that are key to the development of football across Cotswold. This improvement is led by the County FA and FF with local clubs playing a role in the activation of projects.

The Cotswold LFFP (2018) identified two sites for pitch improvements. The impact on improving these is shown in Table 4.3 below. Pitches at the Corinium Stadium (associated with Cirencester Town Youth FC) are now good quality (having improved since the LFFP was established) and as such there is no theoretical improvement to capacity (albeit the user experience can still be improved and the durability of pitches during inclement weather can also be better withstood).

For Tetbury Memorial Ground improving the quality of pitches would create a total of eight match equivalent sessions of spare capacity.

Table 4.3: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Good capacity rating
25	Corinium Stadium	Adult	2	Good	1	N/A
		9v9	2		8	N/A
		7v7	2		11.5	N/A
72	Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	0.5	2.5
		Youth 9v9	1		2	5
		Mini 5v5	1		3	5

As there is no peak time capacity available on any of the pitches at these two sites, there overall supply vs demand balance of the District would remain consistent with the current findings.

As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPS, it is recommended that the priority list is updated on the back of this study to account for changes in demand since the project was completed. To help guide this process, the table below comments on whether the PPS provides evidence to support the inclusion of the sites currently featured.

⁴[Link to Cotswold LFFP](#)

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Table 4.4: Assessing LFFP priority list (grass pitch improvements)

Site ID	Site name	Comments	LFFP update recommendation
25	Corinium Stadium	Key for youth football.	Retain for improvement
72	Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground	Key site that contains pitches which are standard quality. Site is in the process of delivering pitch improvements through Football Foundation funding.	Retain for improvement

In addition to the projects already within the LFFP, there is scope to add further projects based on the findings of the PPS to increase capacity of provision in the District as well as improving the user experience of pitches for resident clubs.

Most overplay in the District originates on single pitches; however, these are largely not single pitch sites and including these sites within any LFFP update will work to reduce pitch specific overplay but also benefit the surrounding pitches via capacity improvements. Suggested sites based on PPS findings are as follows:

- ✦ Charlton Rovers AFC (Shipton Playing Field)
- ✦ Fairford RFC
- ✦ Kingshill Sports Complex
- ✦ SWR Leisure

Fairford RFC and SWR Leisure are also key sites for rugby union and there may be overlapping opportunities to see improvements as part of a multi-sport funding offer.

Loss of tenure at education sites

Currently two education sites in the Cotswolds are accessed by community clubs where there is no tenure arrangement in place. Theoretically, these clubs could be asked to vacate at any time which would result in each requiring new provision to service existing levels of demand.

The football 22/23 affiliation data accounts for Forest Green Rovers Youth FC accessing Royal Agricultural University and Tetbury Town Youth access Sir William Romneys School. In the case of Royal Agricultural University, the site is now accessed by Stratton YFC which has a 15-year lease agreement in place, whilst Tetbury Town Youth FC uses Sir William Romneys for the equivalent amount of demand. The impact on removal of these two sites for community access are highlighted in the table below. Figures presented are in line with the 22/23 affiliation data.

Table 4.5: Assessing LFFP priority list (grass pitch improvements)

Pitch format	Actual spare capacity ⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)		
		Overplay	Current total	Current total if education sites become unavailable
Adult	5.5	6.5	1	1
Youth 11v11	1.5	3	1.5	4
Youth 9v9	4.5	1	3.5	1
Mini 7v7	2.5	-	2.5	-
Mini 5v5	1	-	1	-

⁵ In match equivalent sessions

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Reconfiguring grass pitch layout

One potential means of reducing shortfalls for grass football pitches is re-configuring the use of existing football pitches which are unused to accommodate for formats with the highest need.

Shortfalls currently existing on adult and youth 11v11 pitch formats with no other format having a current or future shortfall. The sites identified below are sites which could be considered for reconfiguration, relative to goalposts and support being provided for site operators and sufficient demand generating the need to change provision formats.

Table 4.6: Potential grass pitch layouts

Site ID	Site name	Current grass pitch layout	Current supply and demand balance	Potential grass pitch layout	Potential supply and demand balance
36	Fairford RFC	Youth 11v11 x 1	0.5	Youth 11v11 x 2	0.5
		Youth 9v9 x 2	2	Youth 9v9 x 1	1
48	Kingshill Sports Complex	Youth 11v11 x 2	2	Youth 11v11 x 3	1
		Youth 9v9 x 3	4	Youth 9v9 x 2	2

In addition to these, unused sites with adult football pitches could also be considered for conversion to youth 11v11, particularly where changing rooms are not provided (as these sites typically cannot be utilised for competitive adult play).

Recommendations

- Protect the existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision meets Sport England 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.
- Seek to gain access to sites not currently available for community use, particularly where large quantities of pitches are provided, such as The Cotswold School.
- Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, such as Bourton Rovers FC and Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground.
- Where appropriate, help to facilitate partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites, such as Tetbury Town FC at Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground.
- Encourage clubs in the NLS to upgrade to LED sports lighting.
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- Protect existing quantity of pitches, including lapsed and disused provision, until all demand is being met (unless replacement provision meets Sport England requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- Consider pitch re-configuration where capacity of one pitch type can be used to reduce shortfalls of another, and where it can better accommodate what demand is received.

Third Generation turf (3G) pitches

Assessment Report summary

3G summary⁶

Supply:

- There is one full size 3G pitch (106 x 72m) within Cotswold, located at Corinium Stadium. In addition to this there is one small sided (55 x 37m) domed 3G pitch, also located at Corinium Stadium. Both pitches are serviced by sports lights and open to community use.
- The full size 3G pitch at Corinium Stadium is on the FIFA register meaning it can accommodate competitive matches. The site is scheduled to lose its FIFA certification in June 2023.
- There are no World Rugby Compliant 3G pitches in Cotswold. The nearest of such provision is located at the Cheltenham RFC within Cheltenham.

Quality:

- The full-size pitch located at Corinium Stadium is of a standard quality as it is the same surface since its installation in 2017. Comparatively, the small size provision at Corinium Stadium is of a good quality having initially been installed in 2003, with replacement surfaces being installed in 2010 and May 2022.
- The ancillary provision provided at Corinium Stadium is all of a good quality and accessible to members of the public accessing outdoor provision. The site hosts two good quality changing rooms, four standard quality changing rooms, a large function room and an office space with a viewing point overlooking the stadia pitch.

Supply vs demand analysis:

- With 157 football teams currently affiliated to Cotswold, there is a need for four full size pitch equivalents (measuring minimum dimensions of 91 x 55m) to service current levels of demand. Future demand from ONS projections increases this requirement to 4.5 pitches.
- With one full size and one small sided pitch within Cotswold, there is the need for a further 3 full size pitches (measuring a minimum of 91 x 55m) to be provided (rounded up from a need of 2.75).
- When studying demand by analysis area, shortfalls are apparent in all three PPS analysis areas, with the South Analysis Area having the largest shortfall of 1.25 full size pitches (with one full size pitch measuring a minimum of 91 x 55m).
- Comparatively, the Mid Analysis Area shows both a current and future shortfall of one full size pitch, meaning the delivery of one project with a full size 3G pitch (measuring a minimum of 91 x 55m) would be able to accommodate both current and future levels of demand for one of the three analysis areas in the District. None of the three analysis areas are currently adequately catering for current or future demand, however, shortfalls in the North Analysis Area are minimal with it only supporting 16 teams currently accessing pitches.
- With both sites outlined in the LFFP for the installation of new small sided provision being located in the South Analysis Area, this would support but not resolve the existing shortfalls if delivered.

⁶ A full size 3G pitch is one in which meets the minimum dimensions of 91 x 55m. A small sided pitch is one which falls under these dimensions.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's scenario of one full size 3G pitch equivalent being able to cater for 38 community football teams) there is a need for four full size equivalents 3G pitches to accommodate all training demand.

Note, a full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 91 x 55 metres. However, where possible, and where demand requires, pitches should be constructed to a size of 100 x 64 metres.

Table 4.7: Current demand for full size⁷ 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Full size 3G requirement ⁸	Current number full size of 3G pitches	Current shortfall (full size)
Mid	30	1	0	1
North	16	0.5	0	0.5
South	111	2.5	1.25	1.25
Total	157	4	1.25	2.75

The broad need for four pitches is also consistent when analysed by analysis area with the South Analysis Area having the highest need for provision, with 1.25 full size pitches (with one full size pitch one full size measuring minimum dimensions of 91 x 55m).

When considering future demand (defined by ONS population casts to 2031) the shortfall in the South Analysis Area increases by 0.5 thus resulting in a full-size pitch shortfall of two pitches (each measuring minimum dimensions of 91 x 55m). There is no change to the need in the remaining analysis areas.

Cotswold Local Football Facility Plan

The Cotswold LFFP (2018⁹) identifies a need for two smaller size 9v9 format 3G pitches. These are at Fairford Town FC and Tetbury Memorial Ground to service the respective football clubs based at each site. Both sites are in the South Analysis Area.

As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up to date PPS, the priority project list should be revisited following this study and updated/amended based on the findings. As such, the aforementioned project list has been matched against the table below to see how it services against existing shortfalls.

Table 4.8: Impact of delivering current LFFP 3G pitch projects on PPS shortfalls

Analysis area	Potential full size 3G requirement	Current number of full size 3G pitches	Potential full size shortfall	No. of proposed full size 3G pitches	Remaining shortfall
Mid	1	0	1	-	1
North	0.5	0	0.5	-	0.5
South	2.5	1.25	1.25	1	0.25
Total	4	1.25	2.75	1	1.75

⁷ A full size pitch is one with dimensions of a minimum of 91 x 55m.

⁸ Rounded to the nearest 0.25 pitch

⁹[Link to Cotswolds LFFP](#)

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Based on the existing portfolio of projects identified in the LFFP, if both projects were to be delivered there would remain a shortfall of 1.75 full size pitch equivalents in the District (with one full size pitch measuring a minimum of 91 x 55m).

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 full size (minimum 91 x 55m) 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 Cotswold to determine how many full size 3G pitches (measuring a minimum of 91 x 55m) would be required to accommodate this, given that peak time for both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 football is Sunday mornings.

Table 4.9: 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

Based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for 3.5 full size 3G pitches (with each of the full size pitches measuring a minimum of 91 x 55m) to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 25 teams playing 5v5 football and 24 teams playing 7v7 football at peak time.

If the current 3G pitch requirement of three additional full size pitches (each measuring 91 x 55m) for training within Cotswold were to be provided; it is feasible that all mini football requirements could be accommodated using the one existing and three additional 3G pitches.

The below looks at the number of full size (91 x 55m) pitches which would be required to accommodate 27 teams currently playing this format within Cotswold at peak time.

Table 4.10: 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

Based on the above programming, there would be a need for 4.5 full size pitches (each measuring a minimum of 91 x 55m) to accommodate all youth 9v9 demand.

Based on the local landscape of football and its more traditional home vs away format, it is unlikely the above approach is viable and the development of 3G pitches provide more so to aid the need for recreational play and training requirements.

Forest Green Rovers – Eco Park Relocation

Forest Green Rovers FC is one of the highest level football clubs in the region. It has an integral link with the Cotswolds, with the Club using provision in the District for its junior academy teams as well for training requirements for its professional men's first team.

Its primary training base for its first team and senior academy teams is at the Coronium Stadium (home of Cirencester Town FC). Gloucestershire FA confirms the Club pays a premium rate for its access to the site. The Club has future plans¹⁰ to develop its own provision which will adequately provide a training base outside of the Cotswolds in Stroud, which it considers to be its primary home location. Currently, its stadium for its men's first time is based in Nailsworth, Stroud.

A relocation of the Club would outside of the District for training purposes would therefore free up space on the only full size 3G pitch in the Cotswold district, at the Coronium Stadium. In relation to midweek evening use (17:00 – 21:00) Forest Green Rovers FC currently utilise 9.5 hours of full pitch use at the site. However, of this access 8.5 hours is on Mondays and Fridays which falls outside of the football peak usage model designed by the Football Association. One hour of use is therefore within the peak usage window on Wednesdays.

When considering this re-location against 3G requirements for the District and associated need for new provision (based on new availability likely to be present on the pitch). It can be determined that the relocation does not impact on existing need which has been identified. This is due to the impact of peak time need, typically between Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday between 18:00 – 21:00 being broadly unaffected.

3G pitch development – Tetbury

The PPS Assessment Report identifies a need for 1.25 full size 3G pitches in the South Analysis Area of Cotswolds to meet existing demand for football. As a reminder, one full size pitch has minimum dimensions of 91 x 55m. The larger clubs within the Analysis Area are based in and around Tetbury and as such this location has been identified as the most appropriate for the development of a new full size pitch (with minimum dimensions of 91 x 55m).

Gloucestershire FA also highlights demand for 3G provision from Malmesbury area (Wiltshire Council) which would likely access provision in Tetbury to form a full usage programme of any provision which is developed.

SWR Leisure (Tetbury) aspires to develop a full sized 3G pitch (minimum dimensions of 91 x 55m) on its playing field. Likewise, the operators of the Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground (Dolphins Trust) also have an aspiration for such a development to take place at Tetbury Memorial Recreational Ground.

Both Sport England and the Football Foundation has a preference to the SWR Leisure site as the development would not impact existing cricket or rugby union demand at the site (Tetbury Memorial Ground) and it would also allow for level of curricular usage of the facility throughout the school day. One of the key concerns of developing provision at Tetbury Memorial Ground is the prejudicial impact on cricket and the ability for matches to continue to be played.

¹⁰ <https://www.fgr.co.uk/eco-park>

On the basis of the above, there is a sound evidence base to see the development of a full size 3G pitch (minimum 91 x 55m) to be developed in Tetbury and football partners and relevant stakeholders should come to a consensus on the most appropriate location relative to sporting outcomes.

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. In the case of Cotswold, there are no WR compliant 3G pitches within the District. The nearest example of this provision is situated at Cheltenham RFC.

Locally, capacity shortfalls are identified for rugby union pitches. These are however broadly minimal and not to the extent of which a need to modify existing provision (to install a rugby suitable shock pad) or to create new 3G pitches solely for the benefit of rugby union is warranted. These issues can be addressed via capital investment and maintenance improvements at club sites throughout the district. No clubs further identified this as an investment priority. On the basis of the above, there is no need for WR compliant 3G pitches to be provided in the District.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◆ Work with relevant partners to deliver additional 3G pitches in the district to cater for football training demand.
- ◆ Work with partners such as the FA, FF, Sport England and other NGBs as applicable to identify the most suitable locations to build new 3G pitches to alleviate known shortfalls, with SWR Leisure as a priority site.
- ◆ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place.
- ◆ Ensure that all full size (with minimum dimension of 91 x 55) and larger smaller sized pitches remain on the FA register and are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- ◆ Ensure all current and future providers have in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◆ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions (minimum 91 x 55m) and quality performance standards.

Cricket pitches

Assessment report summary

Cricket – supply and demand summary

- ▶ The current broad position in Cotswold is actual spare capacity for peak time senior men's cricket, with all remaining formats also able to be accommodated.
- ▶ Actual spare capacity of 79 MES is present for Saturday demand, a figure that once future demand through Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator is considered, is removed and overplay of 5 MES is identified.
- ▶ Sunday and Midweek demand continues to display actual spare capacity once future demand is accounted for.
- ▶ The impact of club aspirations which be explored in the Strategy & Action Plan.
- ▶ Eight sites are overplayed, these are; Cirencester CC (both squares), Great Rissington CC, King George V Playing Field (Northleach), Meysey Hampton Playing Fields, Upper Up Playing Fields, Barnsley Beeches CC, Cowley CC and Chedworth CC. Total overplay equates to 65 MES.
- ▶ Despite overall spare capacity being present across the District, clubs such as Cirencester CC, Fairford CC, Chipping Campden CC, Moreton Marsh CC and Tetbury CC all have capacity issues specifically regarding peak time adult demand.

Cricket – supply summary

- ▶ In total, there are 36 active cricket sites in Cotswold consisting of grass squares.
- ▶ In total there are 39 grass wicket squares across 36 sites of which 34 squares are available for community use across 33 sites. The three non-community accessible sites are Rendcombe College, The Cotswold School and Westonbirt School and Leisure Centre.
- ▶ There are a seven standalone NTP's within Cotswold all of which are located at education sites and are not available for community use.
- ▶ Six clubs in Cotswold have freehold ownership of its sites, 12 have lease agreements in place and four rent its sites. The remaining clubs either have verbal agreements or are merely on good terms with the landowners.
- ▶ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares found six to be good quality, 19 to be standard quality and nine to be poor quality.
- ▶ Several clubs report issues relating to ancillary provision including clubs such as Ampney Crucis CC, Fairford CC and Williamstrip CC.
- ▶ Tetbury CC, Fairford CC, Cirencester CC, Bibury CC, Williamstrip CC and Ampney Crucis CC are all in the process of or have ambitions to enhance its ancillary provision offering.
- ▶ Nine clubs state the demand for additional training facilities at its home site, with developments including the installation of new fixed practice nets and NTP's.
- ▶ There are five disused squares (former grass pitch) within Cotswold, those being Stow-On-The-Wold CC, Guiting Power Village Hall, Kempsford CC, Windrush Valley Field and Avening and Cherington CC.

Cricket – demand summary

- ▶ There are 29 clubs in Cotswold which collectively provide 56 senior men's, seven senior women's, 43 junior boys teams and three junior girls team.
- ▶ Eight clubs within Cotswold currently offer the All-Stars program, whilst seven clubs deliver Dynamos sessions.
- ▶ Four clubs confirm delivering women's and girls' softball sessions which bring total participation figures of 50 participants.
- ▶ Future demand for cricket is identified through team generation rates using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator. This equates to the growth of seven senior men's teams, one senior women's team and five junior boys' teams by 2031.
- ▶ Club aspirations equate to the potential growth of four senior men's teams, two senior women's teams, six junior boys' teams and one junior girls' teams. A strategy exploring how future demand through club aspirations shall impact the supply and demand balance shall be explored in the accompanying strategy report.
- ▶ Ampney Crucis CC hosts the only example of imported demand within Cotswold whilst accommodating Swindon Nomads CC. The Club began accessing the site as of 2012, and share pitch allocation with Poulton CC. There are no identified instances of exported demand.

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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 Cotswold, overplay is identified at eight sites and across nine squares. The ECB recommends that poor quality squares do not have a carrying capacity due to being unfit for use. Regarding the squares below, six are poor quality. The impact of improving quality at all these sites, to good, where each wicket has a theoretical capacity of five is considered in the table below.

Table 4.11: Overplay if all overplayed squares were good quality

Site ID	Site name	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of wickets	Current overplay (matches per season)	Potential position (matches per season)
17	Cirencester CC	2	Good	10	20	20
			Standard	6	20	14
41	Great Rissington CC	1	Good	10	5	5
46	King George V Playing Field (Northleach)	1	Poor	5	3	17
53	Meysey Hampton Playing Field	1	Poor	7	6	22
76	Upper Up Playing Fields	1	Poor	5	4	16
92	Barnsley Beeches CC	1	Poor	10	3	37
95	Cowley CC	1	Poor	6	1	23
99	Chedworth CC	1	Poor	5	3	17

As seen in the table above, only the squares provided at Cirencester CC (two squares) and Great Rissington CC would continue to be overplayed if the quality were to be improved to good.

Poor-quality squares across Cotswold are only showing small amounts of overplay, that would be removed if quality was only improved to standard. As this is a more achievable recommendation to clubs it should certainly be prioritised.

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 is able to accommodate significantly more demand than a natural cricket wicket, meaning it can contribute towards addressing overplay issues on grass cricket squares.

Great Rissington CC is not serviced by an NTP and could theoretically benefit from such provision as a way of reducing identified overplay.

The ECB highlights that non-turf pitches which follow its TS6 guidance¹¹ 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.

Cirencester CC has an on-site NTP which is suitable for younger aged junior cricket. Higher utilisation of this may provide a capacity benefit but other options could be considered as highlighted below.

Hybrid wickets

Although not readily available within grassroots cricket, there may be potential in the future to address overplay through the installation of hybrid wicket/s on competitive senior squares. The ECB has been working with SIS Pitches on the installation of hybrid cricket wickets at county cricket clubs (2019) and more recently recreational squares such as Perry Hall Park in Birmingham (2021) and Didsbury Cricket Club in Manchester (2022). Due to already good standing provision at Cirencester Cricket Club, and Great Rissington Cricket, there is scope to potentially explore the opportunity to install hybrid wickets in the future.

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 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, it is suggested that it could potentially alleviate all the overplay on all three squares in the District. 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.

Accommodating future demand

Population growth over the Local Plan period to 2031 is expected to see the population of the district rise from 90,264 to 104,399. The Sport England PPC anticipates this will lead to the creation of seven senior men's teams, one senior women's team and five junior boys' teams.

This future demand cannot be attributed to any one analysis area or club but is important to understand how this can be accommodated across the District. The preceding Assessment Report shows that for men's Sunday cricket, senior women's and all formats of junior cricket there is sufficient capacity (notwithstanding specific club overplay issues).

For senior men's cricket on Saturdays, however, there are shortfalls identified if all future demand is realised equating to five match equivalent sessions. In the main, this is modest and will largely be unfelt at club level but dependent on where demand aligns itself to (i.e. club specific and analysis area specific) they may well be instances of pressure at certain clubs which have high levels of existing demand (i.e. Cirencester CC).

¹¹ [Link to ECB website TS6 guidance](#)

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Where increases in demand are causing capacity issues for Saturday cricket, the PPS Assessment identifies that the sites listed below can accommodate for an increase in demand within the peak period and if ground sharing agreements can be fostered then demand could be accommodated for at these sites on Saturday afternoons (based on 2022 season data):

- ✦ Andoversford Sports and Social Club
- ✦ Bibury Cricket Club
- ✦ Blockley Sports & Social Club
- ✦ Ebrington Cricket Club
- ✦ Lechlade Cricket Club
- ✦ Longborough & Sezincote Cricket Club
- ✦ Mickleton Sports Club
- ✦ North Cerney CC
- ✦ Slaughters CC
- ✦ Stowell Park CC

That being said, it is not always realistic for clubs to access other club sites as secondary venues due either increases in demand changing the availability of provision, clubs wishing to protect the quality of provision for their existing teams, or not wanting to permit access altogether. On this basis, it is important to note the role disused provision can play in accommodating demand for cricket in the future.

Disused sites

There are five disused cricket squares in Cotswold located at the following sites:

- ✦ Stow-On-the-Wold CC (Queen Elizabeth II Field)
- ✦ Guiting Power Village Hall
- ✦ Kempsford CC
- ✦ Windrush Valley Field
- ✦ Avening and Cherington CC

Of these sites, provision at Stow-On-the-Wold CC and Avening and Cherington are most akin for cricket usage having had the most recent use and thus requiring the least amount of investment to bring back into use.

The remaining three sites are most likely to need higher levels of capital to get back into a sufficient position for use (albeit this would need to be fully determined via an agronomy report undertake by a turf specialist).

As there are future shortfalls identified for cricket in the District, where possible, a minimum of one of these sites should be retained for the benefit of cricket. Site nearest to prominent clubs exhibiting high levels of demand are likely the best and could, in theory, serve as secondary home venues if suitable partnerships and access arrangements can be made.

Tetbury CC Loss of Flicx pitch

Consultation with Gloucester Cricket Foundation confirms that the use of a Flicx pitch¹² at Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground (Tetbury CC) is something that clubs within its league do not approve of. This has resulted in the league requesting that it identifies another pitch to play on. It uses currently uses the provision to enable two senior games to take place concurrently on the site.

¹² [Link to Flicx website](#)

As identified in the accompanying Assessment Report, this temporary form of artificial pitch is rolled onto the senior rugby union pitch at the site which is used predominately by Tetbury RFC. However, Tetbury Rugby Club has purchased a 12 acre site; Pike Field, in the north of Tetbury and plans to relocate to this site in 2025.

Dependent on how demand is satisfied at the new rugby union site, the existing rugby union pitch at Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground may be able to be repurposed to accommodate a new cricket square (natural turf) or NTP. If this is to take place, the RFU should confirm this is a decision which will not impact on rugby union.

An alternate solution, if the rugby union pitch is to be retained, could be to reinstate the grass wicket squares provided at Avening and Cherington CC. The site is disused, however, of all the disused squares within the District it remains in a fairly good condition and is located just four miles from Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground. As such, this could offer an alternative venue for the Club. Whilst being in a better condition than the remaining disused squares, the site would likely require some investment to be brought back into use for Tetbury CC.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◆ Retain a supply of disused sites to serve as a strategic reserve for future demand.
- ◆ Improve quality at sites assessed as standard and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good through partnership working with Gloucester County Cricket Board.
- ◆ Address overplay via quality improvements, NTP installation and consideration of hybrid wickets in the future.
- ◆ Look to address the issues regarding the Flicx pitch at Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground, with the development of a new cricket square (in replacement of the existing rugby union pitch in 2025) or via reinstating the square at Avening and Cherington CC as two possible solutions.
- ◆ 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, with priorities placed at Cirencester CC, Fairford CC, Tetbury CC, Bibury CC, Williamstrip CC and Ampney Crucis CC through support from Poulton CC
- ◆ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities, as nine clubs raise this as an issue at their sites.
- ◆ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ◆ Ensure that any residential 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.
- ◆ Ensure that the applicant of any development adjacent to existing cricket grounds undertakes an appropriate ball-strike assessment to determine need for potential ball strike mitigation requirements.
- ◆ Look to enable community use access to the grass wicket square at Westonbirt College in line with the sites community use stipulation in the planning application for its full sized AGP.

Rugby union - grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Rugby union summary

- There is insufficient level of senior rugby union provision in Cotswold to accommodate current and future demand. Current shortfalls equate to 5.75 match equivalent sessions per week and future demand increases this to 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

Pitch supply:

- There is a total of 36 rugby union pitches in the Cotswolds across 11 sites. This consists of 27 senior pitches and nine mini (mixed aged grade) pitches. Of these, 21 pitches, located at education sites, are unavailable for community use.
- There are no WR compliant 3G pitches located within Cotswold, the nearest available provision is in either Cheltenham or Wiltshire.
- Tetbury RFC is working to develop new provision consisting of three pitches and accompanying ancillary provision at a new site (Pike Field) in Tetbury. It is expected this will be available for use from 2025.

Pitch quality:

- In terms of quality, of community use pitches, there are five good quality, one standard quality and four poor quality pitches which are available for community use. There are also five poor quality mixed age grade pitches which are also available for community use.
- From a community club perspective, poor quality pitch provision is an issue for Fairford and Tetbury rugby clubs.

Ancillary provision quality:

- Of the four clubs in the District, good quality provision is available to Cirencester and Stow-on-the-Wold rugby clubs. Poor quality provision is available to Tetbury and Fairford rugby clubs.
- Fairford RFC has aspirational plans to improve its ancillary offer through a partnership with Fairford CC.
- Tetbury RFC has planning permission to provide new ancillary provision, which is expected to be of a good quality at its new site at Pike Field.

Demand:

- There are four rugby union clubs in Cotswold which in total generate demand equating to 51 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of seven senior men's, three boy's colts, 11 junior boys, one junior girl and 24 mixed age grade teams.
- Future demand from team generation rates equates to one junior boys' team and two mini (mixed age grade) team.
- From an aspirational growth perspective, community clubs have highlighted growth equating to two senior men's teams, one senior women's team, two junior boys' teams and two junior girls' teams.

Supply and demand analysis:

- There is an overall insufficient supply of provision to cater for both current and future demand. Current shortfalls equate to 5.75 match equivalent sessions per week and future demand increases this to 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

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 several 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.

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

Table 4.12: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	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 below 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.

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Table 4.13: Improving maintenance on all sites/senior pitches by one increment (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lighting?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
23	Cirencester RFC	2	M2/D1	Good	No	4.5	6	1.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
		1	M1/D1	Standard		1.75	2	0.25	M2/D1	Good	1.25
36	Fairford RFC	1	M0/D1	Poor	No	1	1.5	0.5	M1/D1	Standard	1
105	Leafield Road (Fairford RFC)	1	M0/D0	Poor	No	1	0.5	0.5	M1/D0	Standard	0.5
68	Stow-on-the-Wold RFC	2	M2/D1	Good	Yes	9.25	6	3.25	N/A	N/A	N/A
		1	M2/D1	Good	No	2	3	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
72	Tetbury Memorial Ground	1	M0/D1	Poor	No	2.5	1.5	1	M1/D1	Standard	0.5
70	SWR Leisure (Tetbury RFC)	1	M0/D0	Poor	No	2	0.5	1.5	M1/D0	Standard	0.5

Improving the maintenance of senior pitches at all sites accessed by community clubs would have a theoretical capacity benefit for several clubs. For Cirencester RFC (two pitches) and Stow-on-the-Wold RFC, pitch maintenance is already at an M2 threshold and therefore there is no real opportunity to increase capacity through an increased/improved maintenance offer (based on the RFU capacity criteria). This is because it is considered that both clubs already undertake a good level of technical maintenance to their pitches.

For the remaining sites (including one pitch at Cirencester RFC) there will be a capacity benefit to pitch improvements via maintenance. Overplay at Leafield Road (Fairford RFC) would be alleviated and overplay at both Tetbury Memorial Ground and SWR Leisure (Tetbury RFCs secondary site) would both reduce to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week each.

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Table 4.14: Improving drainage on all sites/senior pitches by one increment (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lighting?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
23	Cirencester RFC	2	M2/D1	Good	No	4.5	6	1.5	M2/D2	N/A	1.75
		1	M1/D1	Standard		1.75	2	0.25	M1/D2	N/A	0.75
36	Fairford RFC	1	M0/D1	Poor	No	1	1.5	0.5	M0/D2	N/A	0.75
105	Leafield Road (Fairford RFC)	1	M0/D0	Poor	No	1	0.5	0.5	M0/D2	N/A	0.25
68	Stow-on-the-Wold RFC	2	M2/D1	Good	Yes	9.25	6	3.25	M2/D2	N/A	2.75
		1	M2/D1	Good	No	2	3	1	M2/D2	N/A	1.25
72	Tetbury Memorial Ground	1	M0/D1	Poor	No	2.5	1.5	1	M0/D2	N/A	0.75
70	SWR Leisure (Tetbury RFC)	1	M0/D0	Poor	No	2	0.5	1.5	M0/D1	N/A	1.25

A similar approach to improving maintenance has been undertaken here for drainage installation (through improvement to pitches by one increment on the RFU technical criteria). In this case, for both Cirencester RFC and Stow-on-the-Wold RFC, capacity benefits would be seen with additional spare capacity generated at Cirencester RFC and an overall reduction of overplay across two pitches at Stow-on-the-Wold RFC by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.

For the remaining sites, each would see a slight reduction in overplay, but this would remain higher than when compared to the maintenance improvement position. This shows that maintenance improvements should take priority over capital drainage solutions at sites associated with Fairford RFC and Tetbury RFC.

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Table 4.15: Improving both maintenance and drainage to M2/D3 at all sites/senior pitches (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
23	Cirencester RFC	2	M2/D1	Good	No	4.5	6	1.5	M2/D3	N/A	2.5
		1	M1/D1	Standard		1.75	2	0.25	M2/D3	Good	1.75
36	Fairford RFC	1	M0/D1	Poor	No	1	1.5	0.5	M2/D3	Good	2.5
105	Leafield Road (Fairford RFC)	1	M0/D0	Poor	No	1	0.5	0.5	M2/D3	Good	2.5
68	Stow-on-the-Wold RFC	2	M2/D1	Good	Yes	9.25	6	3.25	M2/D3	N/A	2.25
		1	M2/D1	Good	No	2	3	1	M2/D3	N/A	1.5
72	Tetbury Memorial Ground	1	M0/D1	Poor	No	2.5	1.5	1	M2/D3	Good	1
70	SWR Leisure (Tetbury RFC)	1	M0/D0	Poor	No	2	0.5	1.5	M2/D3	Good	1.5

This table illustrates the position if all senior pitches in the District which are accessed by community clubs were improved to an M2/D3 threshold. This is the highest threshold a pitch can score based on the RFU technical criteria. In all cases, overplay would be removed and a moderate amount of spare capacity generated on all sites, aside from the overplayed pitches at Stow-on-the-Wold RFC which would see overplay reduced.

Stow-on-the-Wold RFC

For Stow-on-the-Wold RFC, the impact of capital drainage solutions will not overcome its overplay issues. As such, other opportunities need to be considered, however, the shortfalls are not substantial enough to warrant the development of a dedicated 3G pitch (or likewise a shock pad to be installed on any forthcoming development of such provision).

On this basis, where, and if, opportunities present themselves in the future for land acquisition on an adjacent field to provide new senior pitches (or likewise, generic playing field with sports lighting for training purposes) then this should be explored further as an option to relieve capacity shortfalls. The RFU confirm the Club is working towards installing a fourth pitch in the adjacent field to its site.

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Improving sports lighting at Cirencester RFC

Consultation with Cirencester RFC confirms it has an ambition to increase the number of sports lit pitches at its site. The RFU confirm the Club has been in receipt of Section 106 funding to install sports lights on one of its senior pitches.

All training demand at the site currently takes place on a dedicated sports lit training area which is not of a sufficient size to accommodate continued demand for all its competitive teams which train midweek during autumn and winter months and as such require this sports lighting. As all pitches have a level of spare capacity there is scope to provide this on existing marked pitches without exacerbating or causing shortfalls to appear. On this basis, any proposal to develop sports lighting on the site should be supported.

Table 4.16: Current space capacity at Cirencester RFC

Site ID	Site name	Current number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lit?	Match equivalent sessions per week	Capacity rating
23	Cirencester RFC	2	M2/D1	Good	No	4.5	1.5
		1	M1/D1	Standard		1.75	0.25

Alleviating overplay at club specific sites

Leaffield Road (Fairford RFC)

Leaffield Road is a satellite site accessed by Fairford RFC for its mini (mixed age grade) and singular junior team. It is overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week. As evidenced in Table 4.13, this overplay can be alleviated through pitch maintenance improvements on the site (from M0 to M1).

Stow on the Wold RFC

Stow on the Wold RFC has a cumulative site overplay of 3.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Capital drainage solutions or maintenance improvements are not sufficient to alleviate this (as evidenced in Table 4.13 and 4.14). As such, other opportunities need to be considered.

The shortfall of 3.25 match equivalent sessions is not considered by the RFU to be sufficient to warrant the need for a WR22 compliant 3G pitch to be provided. On this basis, where, and if, opportunities present themselves in the future, land acquisition near or adjacent to the site to provide a new pitch (or floodlit training area) provided at an M2/D2 standard would fully alleviate shortfalls. The RFU confirm the Club is working towards installing a fourth pitch in the adjacent field to its site.

Tetbury Memorial Ground (Tetbury RFC)

Tetbury Memorial Ground has a shortfall of one match equivalent session per week. This can be alleviated through a combination of maintenance and drainage solutions as identified in Table 4.15.

It is however noted that Tetbury RFC will be relocating from its site to Pike Field in 2025. This is a new development which will provide two senior pitches and a junior pitch. Dependent on the quality provision is provided to, it is likely this will resolve capacity shortfalls identified. This will need to be monitored as part of Stage E.

SWR Leisure (Tetbury RFC)

SWR Leisure is a satellite site accessed by Tetbury RFC to accommodate its mini (mixed age grade) teams. Shortfalls on the site equate to 1.5 match sessions per week. This can be alleviated via maintenance and drainage solutions as identified in Table 4.15. The development of Pike Field may also provide a role in reducing this overplay. This will need to be monitored as part of Stage E.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect the existing quantity of rugby union pitches including those used for curricular and extra-curricular demand.
- ◆ Work to undertake targeted pitch improvements at sites associated with Fairford RFC and Cirencester RFC to alleviate shortfalls at these sites.
- ◆ Support clubs in taking part in the GMA pitch advisory service to explore technical requirements to improve pitch quality to address overplay.
- ◆ Explore land acquisition and potential to develop new pitch provision close to Stow-on-the-Wold RFC to alleviate overplay associated with the Club.
- ◆ Support Cirencester RFC in its aspirations to provide additional sports lighting.
- ◆ Work with clubs to improve their ancillary offer where this a need to do so.
- ◆ Ensure that any residential 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.

Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Assessment Report summary

Hockey summary

- There is sufficient supply of hockey suitable pitches in Cotswold from a programming perspective to accommodate current levels of peak time demand.
- Future demand of one senior ladies team and two junior teams can be accommodated on current provision from a programming perspective.
- With both AGP's provided at the Royal Agricultural University and The Cotswold School nearing end of life, there is the need to provide pitch replacements at both sites in order to accommodate existing and future hockey demand.

Pitch supply:

- There are five full size hockey suitable AGPs in Cotswold located across as many sites. Four of these pitches are open to community use with the AGP at Rendcombe College being the only provision with no formal community use agreement in place.
- Westonbirt School is scheduled to have an AGP and accompanying clubhouse with two changing rooms installed, with a proposed deadline of completion being 2023. The school state it does not know if the site shall be accompanied by sports lights or if a community use agreement shall be reached, however, it was acceptant to the idea if an arrangement that fits around curricular demand can be decided.

Pitch quality:

- The full-size pitch at Rendcombe College resembles the only good quality playing provision within the District, with the AGP receiving a carpet replacement in 2019. Provision found at Cirencester Deer Park School and Everyone Active Chipping Campden are both of a standard quality, with the former being five years of age and the latter seven years old.
- The AGPs provided at the Royal Agricultural University and The Cotswold School are both of a poor quality and in need of replacement surfaces before reaching condemnation. The Cotswold School does not have a sinking fund in place for its provision, whilst details regarding the Royal Agricultural University are unknown.

Affiliated demand:

- There are four hockey clubs within Cotswold, those being Cirencester HC, Chipping Campden HC, Blockley Ladies HC and Bourton and Sherbourne HC.
- Cirencester HC hosts five senior mens teams, four ladies teams and six junior teams. Chipping Campden HC has one ladies team, Blockley Ladies HC provide two ladies teams and a junior team, whilst Bourton and Sherbourne HC accommodate two senior ladies teams, one senior mens team and a junior team.
- Cirencester HC access both Deer Park School and Royal Agricultural University for home fixtures. Chipping Campden HC and Blockley Ladies HC both access Everyone Active Chipping Campden School, whilst Bourton and Sherbourne HC play at The Cotswold School.
- Future demand from Cirencester HC is to gain a fifth senior ladies team as of the 2022/23 season, whilst Blockley Ladies HC hope to gain a junior boys and a junior girls team. Future demand from Cirencester HC can be accommodated for from a programming perspective at Royal Agricultural University, however, given the age of provision the site should not be outlined for increasing in usage.

Supply and demand analysis conclusions:

- Based on current levels of demand, there is a sufficient supply of provision to accommodate existing demand, however, if necessary, pitch replacements are not undertaken at Royal Agricultural University and The Cotswold School, both pitches shall reach a point of condemnation during the lifespan of the PPS.
- Future demand can be accommodated with existing provision if replacement surfaces are provided at the Royal Agricultural University and The Cotswold School.

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Scenarios

Meeting demand for hockey suitable AGPs

The PPS Guidance suggests that a pitch with sports lighting can accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday. With teams playing on a home and away format, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).

The table below outlines the position for hockey usage across all the hockey suitable sites across the District. In the main, all pitches are operating at capacity. The only pitch to be considered as having spare capacity is at Everyone Active Chipping Camden School. The pitch at Rendcombe College is unavailable to the community and as such has not been allocated any capacity for use. Lastly, the pitches at Royal Agricultural College and the Cotswold School have had their capacities reduced due to the poor quality surfaces not being recommended to accommodate for an increase in demand.

Table 4.17: Hockey usage and spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Site user	Current use in peak period (MES)	Spare capacity?
18	Cirencester Deer Park School	Cirencester HC	4 MES	No
34	Everyone Active Chipping Camden School	Chipping Campden HC Blockley Ladies HC	2 MES	Yes
59	Rendcombe College	-	0 MES	No
60	Royal Agricultural University	Cirencester HC	3 MES	No
75	The Cotswold School	Bourton and Sherbourne HC	3 MES	No

Table 4.18: Quality of existing hockey suitable artificial grass pitches

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	User	Quality rating	Built/ resurfaced
18	Cirencester Deer Park School	Sand dressed	Cirencester HC	Standard	2003 / 2017
34	Everyone Active Chipping Camden School	Sand dressed	Chipping Campden HC -Blockley Ladies HC	Standard	2015
59	Rendcombe College	Sand dressed	-	Good	2010 / 2019
60	Royal Agricultural University	Sand filled	Cirencester HC	Poor	2003
75	The Cotswold School	Sand filled	Bourton and Sherbourne HC	Poor	2005

Based on the above, it can be determined that the quantity of provision for the District is sufficient, however, the quality of provision servicing clubs insufficient at two sites (those being the Royal Agricultural College and The Cotswold School).

As it stands, the pitch at Rendcombe College serves no role in servicing demand but if suitable relationships could be forged with the school, it could theoretically act as a strategic reserve site or alternatively a home site for one of the clubs accessing poor quality provision.

Likewise, as highlighted in the preceding assessment report, Westonbirt School has plans to build a new full size hockey suitable pitch in 2023 and is not opposed to allowing community bookings for an appropriate club. This could further be an option if the usability of existing sites comes to a position in which a club may need to relocate.

Conclusion

There is a sufficient quality of pitches in the District to accommodate current hockey demand. However, quality improvements are needed at existing sites to sustain current home venues for Cirencester HC and Bourton and Sherbourne HC.

Future opportunities to access provision at Rendcombe College and Westonbirt College may also present opportunities as strategic reserve sites if suitable relationships can be forged between clubs and providers. This may require England Hockey or the Active Partnership to support relationship management. In the case of Westonbirt College, the Gen 2 pitch development planning application has a community use agreement stipulation outlined.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a 3G pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred geographical area.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based AGPs are retained for the playing development of the sport. To that end, a change of surface should require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants should have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Opportunities to incorporate this into planning policy should therefore be explored, and advice from Sport England and EH should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing sports lighting to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

The 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Those proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance 'Selecting the Right Artificial Grass Surface'¹³.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect all sand based AGPs for continue hockey use.
- ✦ Improve quality of the AGP at the Royal Agricultural College and The Cotswold School.
- ✦ Ensure all hockey suitable AGPs have a sinking fund in place for their eventual refurbishment.
- ✦ Work to secure community access to provision which is planned for development in the future through a secure community use agreement.
- ✦ Ensure that any residential 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.

¹³[Link to Sport England Guidance for outdoor surfaces](#)

Polo

Assessment Report summary

Polo - summary

- ◀ There is a total of 25 polo pitches across five sites in Cotswold.
- ◀ There are four polo clubs identified within Cotswold, all of which, are located within the South Analysis Area.
- ◀ All provision provided across Cotswold is of a good quality.
- ◀ There is an adequate amount of polo pitches to meet the needs of both current and future demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the existing supply of provision as to ensure current and future demand for polo can be accommodated within the District.
- ◀ Sustain current quality of provision on existing pitches.

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 PPS, 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 PPS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPS 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 lapsed, 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 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

The PPS 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 PPS to help assess the planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

Policy Exception E1:

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

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with 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 currently 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.

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It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one/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.

Unlike some authorities nationally, there is not too much an overreliance for on the education sector to provide for most of the demand for playing pitch & outdoor sport facilities. However, where this is the case, particularly for the likes of hockey, 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. These clubs and the sport are detailed in the table below.

Table 5.1: Known use of education sites

School	Club	Sport
Royal Agricultural School	Forest Green Rovers Youth FC Cirencester HC	Football Hockey
Sir William Romney	Tetbury FC Juniors Tetbury RFC	Football Rugby Union
The Cotswold School	Bourton and Sherbourne HC	Hockey
Cirencester Deer Park School	Cirencester HC	Hockey

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 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.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review¹⁴ which announced significant public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council (including parish and town councils) 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.

¹⁴ [Link to Government website](#)

For example, club development should be support and clubs should be encouraged 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)¹⁵. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

Table 5.2: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

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

The Council (and likewise, Parish and Town Councils) could establish core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate are assigned sites. Outcomes may, for example, include:

- ✦ Increasing participation.
- ✦ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ✦ Commitment to quality standards.
- ✦ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or at 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.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain to improve security of tenure and aid the attraction of funding; clubs with fewer than 25 years remaining on a lease agreement are unlikely to be eligible for external funding.

¹⁵ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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

To maximise community use of education facilities more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train.

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

Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools 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.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, 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 for facility provision to be made within the developments, if appropriate. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 and/or youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as sports lit courts that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity.

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

AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities through improving 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 increase pitch quality and these are explored below.

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.

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 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.

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 Performance Quality Standard 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.

The tool across mobile 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, a second assessment was undertaken for grass football pitches in April 2021 at 16 local authority managed/publicly accessible sites using the Football Foundation PitchPower app. Consequently, technical recommendations have been established through the PPS process for the local authority to act upon in delivering any improvement, whilst this exists at some club managed sites already.

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 through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund¹⁶, 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.

All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, and charities. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, clubs, leagues and charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

The Council is not presently eligible to access the GPMF as an applicant, however, 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 CAT, both enabling the club/organisation to apply to the fund.

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a new 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.

¹⁶ [Link to grass pitch maintenance fund](#)

Addressing overplay

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

The FA, 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: Capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		
Hockey	Full size AGP	4 per day	4 per day	4 per day
Polo	Pitches	N/A	N/A	N/A

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 (or hybrid wickets when suitable) 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, most overplay can be resolved through improvements to pitch maintenance or via capital drainage solutions. Only Stow-on-the-Wold RFC has a need options outside of enhancing existing provision.

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 the District, these are generally centred at either club or parish/town council managed sites.

Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements, whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance.

The following sites are identified locally as ones where improvements are needed:

- ✦ Baunton Lane Playing Field
- ✦ Fairford RFC
- ✦ Ampney Crucis Cricket Club
- ✦ Horcott Road Playing Fields
- ✦ Barnsley Beeches Cricket Club
- ✦ Maurice Thornton Playing Fields
- ✦ Chedworth Cricket Club
- ✦ Mickleton Sports Club
- ✦ Cockrup Farm (Williamstrip CC)
- ✦ Naunton Recreation Ground
- ✦ Cowley Cricket Club
- ✦ North Cerney Cricket Club
- ✦ Duntisbourne Abbots Cricket Club
- ✦ Tarbarrow Cricket Club
- ✦ Everyone Active Chipping Camden
- ✦ Tetbury Town FC / Tetbury RFC
- ✦ Fairford Cricket Club
- ✦ Willersey Recreation Ground

In addition to the above, Cirencester CC has a purpose and vision strategy of enhancing its site, of which improving its existing clubhouse by 2025 is one of the main goals. This should be supported as by relevant partners to ensure it can continue to be one of the leading cricket clubs in the region.

Further to the above, King George's (Stow on the Wold), Sherbourne Playing Fields, Hatherop Playing Fields and Chipping Campden Recreation Ground each site has been excluded from Table 2.6 as they do not have any form of ancillary provision. In the case of Chipping Campden Recreation Ground, football users are not granted access to the Baden Powell Centre which is located on site.

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 for the proposed hierarchy.

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

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in 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 PPS Steering Group.

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 in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions

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

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council 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 PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity 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 PPS 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 PPS Steering Group meetings, which should take place regularly following adoption of the study 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), 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.
- ◀ 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.
- ✦ 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. The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities. However, it is important to note that these may be subject to change.

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 planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

The PPS 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 the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

However, the one exception to the above is at Stow-on-the-Wold RFC where there the club would benefit from land acquisition for the development of one additional senior rugby union pitch (or dedicated sports lit training area to the equivalent size of a senior pitch).

Notwithstanding the above, 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.

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 District-wide context i.e., they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

Table 6.1: Tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the district. 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, clubs and other providers such as town or parish councils
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.

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

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).

Priority

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a **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).

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.

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The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment 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 cost. The brackets are:

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

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:
[Link to Facility cost guidance Sport England](#)

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 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.**

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

MID ANALYSIS AREA

Summary pitch sports (Mid Area)

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2031) ¹⁷
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Mid	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Cotswold	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 5.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	At capacity
Football (Full size 3G pitches measuring minimum dimension of 91 x 55m)	Mid	Full size, sports lit	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
	Cotswold	Full size, sports lit	Shortfall of 2.75	Shortfall of 3.25
Cricket	Mid	Saturday	Spare capacity of 48	Spare capacity of 48
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 60	Spare capacity of 60
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 114	Spare capacity of 114
	Cotswold	Saturday	Spare capacity of 79	Shortfall of 5
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 127	Spare capacity of 115
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 277	Spare capacity of 247
Rugby union	Mid	Senior	Shortfall of 3.25	Shortfall of 3.25
	Cotswold	Senior	Shortfall of 5.75	Shortfall of 6.75
Hockey (Sand based AGP measuring a minimum of 97.4 x 55m)	Cotswold	Full size, sports lit	Sufficient supply if quality improvements are undertaken.	Sufficient supply if quality improvements are undertaken.
Polo	Cotswold	Pitches	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

¹⁷ Future demand (2031) is determined via ONS forecasts and club aspirations identified in PPS Assessment Report (2022).

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket).

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁸	Cost ¹⁹	Aim
3	Andoversford Sports and Social Club	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch which is use by Andoversford FC. The pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES.	Sustain quality to accommodate for existing demand.	Sports Club GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with a standard quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play.	Sustain quality of the square and consider options to maximise available spare capacity.	Sports Club ECB GCB		L	L	L	
10	Bourton on the Water Primary Academy	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches which are not available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
11	Bourton Rovers Football & Social Club	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch used by both Bourton Rovers FC and Bourton Rovers YFC. Site is overplayed by 0.5 MES. Adult pitch is overmarked to accommodate youth demand. It has ambitions to modernise the interior of its function room, install a new patio, extending its garage for additional storage and to install a ten metre ball striking net between the football pitch and cricket provision. Club received a £7,500 grant from Bourton Parish Council to fund its garage extension but requires an additional £5,000 for the enhancement.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Work with the Club towards its ancillary facility upgrades, such as a ball striking net, additional storage, modernising its function room and installing a patio.	Sports Club GFA FF	Local	M	M-H	M	Protect Enhance Provide
12	Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Football	Sports Club	One youth 11v11 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch all of standard quality and used by Bourton Rovers YFC. Overplay of 0.5 MES is present on youth 11v11 pitch which is overmarked by a 5v5 pitch. Site hosts Bourton and Sherbourne HC for its post-match teas.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate known overplay. Ensure the relationship between the cricket club and hockey club is sustained to allow for a social outlet to be maintained for the hockey club.	Sports Club GFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One good quality cricket square with a good quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional midweek play. Football pitches are marked on outfield of the cricket pitch. Ancillary provision supporting the site is good quality.	Sustain current maintenance regime as to preserve quality.	Sports Club ECB GCB		L	L	L	
13	Charlton Rovers AFC (Shipton Playing Fields)	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch, one youth 11v11 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch all of standard quality and used by Charlton Rovers YFC. Actual spare capacity of 1 MES is present on youth 11v11 pitch. However, youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 1 MES. Good quality clubhouse opened in 2022.	Work to improve the quality of pitches on site to enable a higher capacity of use.	Sports Club GFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
41	Great Rissington Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality cricket square with a good quality outfield. Site is overplayed by five sessions per season.	Sustain current maintenance regime as to preserve quality. Consider development of NTP or hybrid wicket	Sports Club ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide

¹⁸ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁸	Cost ¹⁹	Aim
					provision to enable a higher site capacity.						
46	King George V Playing Field (Northleach)	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch used by Northleach JFC. The site has actual spare capacity of one MES.	Maintain existing maintenance offer on the site accommodate existing levels of demand.	Parish Council GFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One poor quality cricket square with a good quality outfield. Site is overplayed by three sessions per season. Minety and Northleach CC state that Cricklade CC (Wiltshire) has a set of old roll on covers it is willing to gift to the Club if it can transport the equipment to the site.	Improve wicket quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Work with Cricklade CC to transport its old covers to the site, as to improve square quality.	Parish Council ECB GCB		M	S	L	
47	King Georges Field (Stow on the Wold)	Football	Town Council	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which is currently unused. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.	Consider opportunities to utilise provision, including reconfiguration to alternate pitch formats to accommodate local demand.	Town Council GFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
51	Longborough & Sezincote Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	One standard quality cricket square with a standard quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play.	Utilise actual spare capacity for Saturday, Sunday and midweek play.	Private ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
58	Naunton Recreation Ground	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality cricket square with a standard quality outfield. Site has no spare capacity.	Sustain quality of square and explore future options to improve the quality to enable a higher capacity to be generated.	Parish Council ECB, GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
61	Sherborne Playing Fields	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch with is used by Sherbourne Harriers FC.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Council GFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
67	Stow-On-the-Wold CC	Cricket	Council	Disused site that formerly provided a cricket square. Site now acts as a public park under the name of Queen Elizabeth II Field.	Consider the site as a strategic reserve site for cricket. The site will likely need modest investment (to be determined through an agronomy specialist) to reinstate of demand is established.	Council ECB GCB	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
68	Stow-on-the-Wold RFC	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Three good quality (M2/D1) senior grass pitches of which two are provided with sports lighting. The Club has ambitions of gaining a plot of land next to its site for the installation of a fourth pitch as to its junior and future demand. It also hopes to develop additional changing facilities for women's and girls' demand as well as a gym.	Support the club's aspiration to acquire adjacent land to increase its supply of senior pitches. Its existing provision cannot generate sufficient capacity to accommodate existing levels of demand for the site. Other options such as additional sports lighting for training areas should also be supported.	Sports Club RFU	Local	M-H	M-L	M-H	Protect Provide
69	Stow-on-the-Wold Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
75	The Cotswold School	Football	School	One poor quality adult pitch and two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches which are unavailable for community use. Bourton Rovers FC formerly accessed the sites pitches, however following Covid the provision is no longer community accessible.	Explore options to reinstate community use of grass pitches for the benefit of Bourton Rovers FC as to alleviate the clubs overplay at its home site. If reinstated, explore options to improve pitch quality to enable a higher capacity for use.	School GFA FF	Key Centre	M	S-M	L	Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁸	Cost ¹⁹	Aim
		Rugby Union		Three poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitches which are not open to community use.	Retain for curricular use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Cricket		One non community accessible square.	Retain for curricular use.	School ECB, GCB		L	L	L	
		AGP		One poor quality full sized, sports lit, sand filled AGP that was installed in 2005 and is available for community use. Site is accessed by Bourton and Sherbourne HC which do not have any form of tenure. The School confirm not having a sinking fund in place, with a bid to Sport England scheduled to be sent with the hope of securing funding for a replacement pitch.	Protect existing provision and work with relevant partners to secure sufficient funding for a carpet replacement.	School SE EH		H	S	H	
79	Withington Playing Field	Cricket	Parish Council	One poor quality cricket square with a standard quality outfield. The square sits on a slope and has weeds and dandelions growing on the square itself. Site is unused.	Consider using the un-used site as a second venue for larger clubs in the local area.	Council ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
91	Aldestop CC	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality cricket square with a good quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Sunday, and midweek play.	Sustain quality for current levels of use.	Sports Club ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
97	Slaughters CC	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality cricket square with a good quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play.	Sustain quality for current levels of use.	Sports Club ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Summary pitch sports (North Area)

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2031) ²⁰
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	North	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
	Cotswold	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 5.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	At capacity
Football (Full size 3G pitches measuring a minimum dimension of 91 x 55m)	North	Full size, sports lit	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
	Cotswold	Full size, sports lit	Shortfall of 2.75	Shortfall of 3.25
Cricket	North	Saturday	Spare capacity of 40	Spare capacity of 40
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 40	Spare capacity of 40
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 88	Spare capacity of 88
	Cotswold	Saturday	Spare capacity of 79	Shortfall of 5
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 127	Spare capacity of 155
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 277	Spare capacity of 247
Rugby union	North	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Cotswold	Senior	Shortfall of 5.75	Shortfall of 6.75
Hockey (Sand based AGP measuring a minimum of 97.4 x 55m)	Cotswold	Full size, sports lit	Sufficient supply if quality improvements are undertaken.	Sufficient supply if quality improvements are undertaken.
Polo	Cotswold	Pitches	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

²⁰ Future demand (2031) is determined via ONS forecasts and club aspirations identified in PPS Assessment Report (2022).

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²¹	Cost ²²	Aim
9	Blockley Sports & Social Club	Football	Sports Club	One poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club GFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		AGP		One 30 x 20 metre pitch which is accommodated with sports lighting and is available for community use.	Protect existing provision.	Sports Club EH GFA, FF		L	L	H	
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with a poor quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play. Blockley CC confirm it has re-scarified the top 15 inches of its square which has improved its quality. Club is trying to get a grant through Gloucester Cricket Board to fund new LED lighting in its clubhouse and a more energy efficient boiler as to reduce costs.	Utilise actual spare capacity for Saturday Cricket. Utilise actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek play. Improve outfield quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Work with the necessary stakeholders to enable the lighting and boiler improvements at the site.	Sports Club ECB GCB		M	L	M	
14	Chipping Campden Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality cricket square with good quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional midweek play. The Club installed a fixed practice lane in 2022 and hopes to add a second lane in the future.	Utilise actual spare capacity for midweek play. Maintain current maintenance regime to continue to accommodate demand.	Sports Club ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
15	Chipping Campden Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch which is used by Campden Town FC. The site has no actual spare capacity. Chipping Campden FC state the town council do not cut the pitch frequently enough over summer months.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Council GFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
30	Ebrington Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality cricket square with standard quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play.	Utilise actual spare capacity for Saturday Cricket. Utilise actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek play. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
34	Everyone Active Chipping Campden	Football	Commercial	Three adult pitches and one mini 5v5 pitch all of which are of poor quality and accessed by Campden Town YFC. The site capacity of 4.5 MES discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to improve pitch quality and user experience.	Commercial GFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
		AGP		One standard quality full sized, sports lit, sand filled AGP that was installed in 2015 and is available for community use. Site is accessed by Chipping Campden HC and Blockley Ladies HC for fixtures and training.	Protect existing provision. Ensure a sinking fund is in place to replace existing provision once it has passed its lifespan.	Commercial EH CFA FF		L	L	L	

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

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

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current Status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²¹	Cost ²²	Aim
		Cricket		One standalone NTP with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Commercial ECB GCB		L	L	L	
39	Fire Service College Leisure Club	Football	R.A.F	One youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch both of which are of a standard quality and not open to community use. Moreton Rangers FC raise frustrations with the site no longer being open to community use since 2021.	Sustain quality for existing use.	R.A.F GFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
54	Mickleton Sports Club	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch used by Mickleton Rangers FC, which has actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES.	Sustain quality for existing use.	Sports Club GFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with a good quality outfield, accommodating nine wickets. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play.	Sustain quality for existing use and consider opportunities	Sports Club ECB GCB		L	L	L	
55	Moreton Rangers FC	Football	Fields in Trust	One good quality adult pitch and two mini 5v5 pitches of standard quality. Mini 5v5 pitches has actual spare capacity of 1 MES. The site also features an extra sports lit training area which was levelled, and pipe drained in 2020. The Step 6 Club invested into its site in 2020 to install new LED sports lights, a 50-seater stand and a covered stand. In 2021 it then installed an additional building at the front of its site for additional toilets, a physio room and a second kitchen.	Ensure overall quality of the site is maintained and improved when possible. Support any ground development which will enable the Club to progress in the NLS.	Fields in Trust GFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
56	Moreton-In-Marsh Cricket Club	Football	Sports Club	One youth 9v9 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch all poor quality with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club GFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality cricket square with a good quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Sunday, and midweek play.	Utilise actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek play. Improve wicket quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB GCB		L	L	L	
78	Willersey Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to cater for more demand.	Parish Council GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA

Summary pitch sports (South Analysis Area)

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2031) ²³
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES ^[1]	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	South	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 5.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
	Cotswold	Adult	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 5.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	At capacity
Football (Full size 3G pitches measuring a minimum dimension of 91 x 55m)	South	Full size, sports lit	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 2
	Cotswold	Full size, sports lit	Shortfall of 2.75	Shortfall of 3.25
Cricket	South	Saturday	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 37
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 27	Spare capacity of 23
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 75	Spare capacity of 65
	Cotswold	Saturday	Spare capacity of 79	Shortfall of 5
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 127	Spare capacity of 115
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 277	Spare capacity of 247
Rugby union	South	Senior	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 4.25
	Cotswold	Senior	Shortfall of 5.75	Shortfall of 6.75
Hockey (Sand based AGP measuring a minimum of 97.4 x 55m)	Cotswold	Full size, sports lit	Sufficient supply if quality improvements are undertaken.	Sufficient supply if quality improvements are undertaken.
Polo	Cotswold	Pitches	Sufficient supply	Sufficient supply

²³ Future demand (2031) is determined via ONS forecasts and club aspirations identified in PPS Assessment Report (2022).

^[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
1	Aldsworth Road (Bibury AFC)	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch both of which are of a poor quality and used by Bibury FC. Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to accommodate more demand.	Sports Club GFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
2	Ampney Crucis Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality cricket square with a good quality outfield. Site is accessed by Swindon Nomads CC and Poulton CC as a second ground. Poulton CC are in the process of agreeing a five year lease to the site for which it shall gain maintenance responsibility of the playing and ancillary provision. Site has no actual spare capacity for additional Sunday or midweek play. Poulton CC is looking to replace the floorboard in the pavilion once granted a lease.	Support Poulton CC in developing the site into an adequate home venue for competitive cricket.	Sports Club ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
4	Ann Edwards Church of England Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
5	Avening & Cherington Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	Disused site that formerly provided a cricket square. Of all disused squares in the district, this is likely to be the most suitable to be re-established for cricket use.	Retain as a strategic reserve site for cricket.	Sports Club ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
6	Baunton Lane Playing Field	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch all of good quality and used by Stratton YFC which has a 25 year lease in place for the provision. No actual spare capacity at site.	Sustain current maintenance regime to preserve pitch quality. Explore the possibility of enhancing the ancillary provision offering.	Council GFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
7	Beauford Polo Club	Polo	Sports Club	Six good quality polo pitches which are available for community use.	Sustain current maintenance regime to preserve quality.	Sports Club HPA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
8	Bibury Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	One standard quality cricket square with a standard quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play. The Club confirm that its square has improved following the purchasing of a new roller and covers as well as appointing a new groundsman and installing sight screens. The Club is in the process of re-furbishing its showers, installing a new boiler and a new water pressure system. Finally, it is looking to secure funding for an NTP in 2023.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Work with the Club to support its work enhancing its ancillary provision. Support the Club in its efforts to install an NTP.	Private ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
16	Cirencester College	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
17	Cirencester Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	Two squares, one of which is of a good quality, the other assessed as standard. Both squares are overplayed by 20 sessions per season.	Work to improve the quality of both squares via quality enhancements and utilisation of hybrid wickets/non turf pitch offers where feasible.	Sports Club ECB GCB	Local	S-M	M	H	Protect Provide Enhance

²⁴ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

²⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
				The Club has a 25 year lease signed in 2009 with The Bathurst Estate and it is looking to extend this to enable it to secure grant funding opportunities. The Club raise frustrations with the quality of its main square with the West of England Division 2 league representatives deducting points due to its quality. The Club is considering a partially knitted (hybrid) wicket as to enhance its quality, as well as extending its boundary on the South side. The Club has a vision strategy of improving its existing clubhouse by 2025 which it estimates shall cost £200,000. It is looking to install a glass front wall, a new roof, re-tile its front patio and re-wire its electrics. It also hopes to develop a small second pavilion for its second square. The Club wishes to re-surface its existing fixed lane practice facility, as well as installing additional lanes to the site in an undetermined location.	Work with the Club and provide support where necessary/required to enable it to access grant funding and secure a longer term lease arrangement on suitable terms as to enable its aspirations for the site. Support its aspiration to develop its clubhouse as part of a multi-sport offer with hockey to allow it to be a focal point for cricket within the District. Work with the Club to explore the means of fulfilling the club's ambitions to develop its ancillary provision and training facility offerings. Given the clubs high performing first team, number of junior members attending ECB All Stars and Dynamos sessions and overall large demand identified, this should be seen as a priority for the area.						
18	Cirencester Deer Park School	Rugby Union	School	Two poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitches. Pitches are at capacity with curricular demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhance maintenance regime to better serve curricular demand.	School RFU	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Football		Two good quality adult pitches which are available for community use but not currently being used. Actual spare capacity on the site is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain current maintenance regime as to preserve quality.	School GFA FF		L	L	L	
		AGP		One standard quality full size, sports lit AGP that was installed in 2003, resurfaced in 2017 and is open to community use. The site is accessed by Cirencester HC for training and fixtures.	Protect existing provision. Look to replace the existing surface as to enhance quality and prevent the pitch from becoming disused.	School EH		H	M	H	
19	Cirencester Kingshill School	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches and two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches which are available for community use but currently unused.	Improve pitch quality from standard to good quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	School GFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby Union		Two poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitches with no community use. Pitches are at capacity with curricular demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to better serve curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Cricket		Site has one standalone NTP that is not open to community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School ECB, GCB		L	L	L	
20	Cirencester Park Polo Club	Polo	Sports Club	Eight good quality polo pitches which are available for community use. The Club states it struggles with junior members despite the neighbouring Cotswold Polo Academy (OKL Polo and Equestrians).	Sustain current maintenance regime to preserve quality. Look to form a partnership with a school as to increase junior membership rates.	Sports Club HPA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
				It does not have a partnership with a school but would be willing to do so as to increase membership rates.							
21	Cirencester Park Polo Club (Jackbarrow)	Polo	Sports Club	One polo good quality pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain current maintenance regime to preserve quality.	Sports Club HPA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
22	Cirencester Primary School	Football	School	Four poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	School GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
23	Cirencester RFC	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Two good quality (M2/D1) senior pitches and one standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch. Spare capacity across all pitches equating to 1.75 MES. None of the clubs' pitches are sports lit, with the site hosting a dedicated sports lit training area. The ancillary offer servicing the site is good quality with investment being driven into the site in 2022. The Club is hoping to install sports lights on one of its senior pitches in 2025, as well as raising the height of the sports lights on the dedicated sports lit training area.	Sustain current levels of provision as continue accommodating the current levels of demand on the site. The sports lit training area currently services most training demand, but further sports lighting of one senior pitch would also provide benefit to the rotation of training and abilities to host late night rugby matches.	Sports Club RFU	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
25	Corinium Stadium	Football	Sports Club	Two adult pitches, two youth 9v9 pitches and two mini 7v7 pitches all good quality. Site is showing a combined actual spare capacity of 3.5 MES.	Sustain current maintenance regime to preserve pitch quality.	Sports Club GFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G		One standard quality FIFA approved, full size, sports lit 3G that was installed in 2017. Stadia pitch. Sports lighting needs replacing to a more energy efficient offer. Turnstiles also in need of replacement for the stadia site.	Work with the Club to upgrade its outdated turnstiles and look to enhance the clubs' sports lights as to reduce energy costs. Sustain quality of 3G pitch and ensure sufficient capital is in place to resurface the pitch when required.	Sports Club GFA FF		M	M	M	
				One good quality small sided, (55m x 37m) domed sports lit 3G that was installed in 2003 and resurfaced in March 2023. Pitch is open to community use and used to capacity. Pitch has been accounted for as 0.25 of a full sized pitch in the total current supply given its smaller scale and programming which includes a midweek league running twice a week.	Protect existing provision.						
26	Didmarton Playing Fields	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch with standard ancillary provision. Pitch is currently unused and has actual spare capacity of one MES.	Sustain quality and maximise use.	Council GFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One poor quality cricket square with a poor-quality outfield. Site has no actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to accommodate more demand.	Council ECB GCB		L	L	L	
27	Down Ampney Football	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch used by Down Ampney FC. Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.	Sustain quality and maximise use.	Council GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
28	Duke of Gloucester Barracks	Football	M.O.D	One poor quality adult pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for military use.	M.O.D GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
32	Edgeworth Polo Club	Polo	Sports Club	Seven good quality polo pitches which are available for community use.	Sustain current maintenance regime to preserve quality.	Sports Club HPA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
33	England's Sports Ground	Football	Trust	One standard quality adult pitch which is used by Poulton FC. The site has actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES.	Sustain quality for existing use.	Trust GFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One good quality square with a good quality outfield that is accessed by Poulton CC which is currently trying to renew a longer-term agreement than its current rolling 12-month lease. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Sunday, and midweek play.	Sustain current maintenance regime to preserve quality.	Trust ECB GCB		L	L	L	
35	Fairford Cricket Club	Cricket	Trust	One standard quality cricket square with a good quality outfield. Site has no spare capacity. The Club is trying to negotiate a 25- or 50-year lease for the site, with its current lease expiring in 2025. The site has a poor-quality ancillary provision, with the Club hoping to develop a brand-new clubhouse given its small social space and poor changing rooms. The Club states having £70,000 in retained profits but estimates the total cost being much higher.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Work with the Club in its efforts to extend its existing lease. Following this support the Club in its work towards developing a new clubhouse.	Trust ECB GCB	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
36	Fairford RFC	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch and two poor quality youth 9v9 pitches used by Fairford YFC. Youth 11v11 is overplayed by 0.5 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Council GFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby Union		One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch used by Fairford RFC. Site has spare capacity of 0.5 MES. The site is set to be asset transferred from Gloucestershire CC to Fairford Town Council, which in return are expected to provide a long-term lease to Fairford RFC. The Club use a converted metal container with a basic shower offering as its changing rooms and Fairford CC for social activity. Both Fairford RFC and YFC confirm ambitions to develop a brand new ancillary provision at the site.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Work with the rugby and football clubs to enhance the existing ancillary provision offering.	Council RFU		M	M	H	
37	Fairford Town FC	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch and two standard quality adult pitches used by Fairford Town FC. The site has actual spare capacity of two MES. The Club highlights the need for a borehole to improve its irrigation offer in warmer months. It also stresses the need for additional changing facilities and parking to avoid using the grass near the pitch.	Where needed, support the Club through its need for an improved irrigation offer. Likewise, it should also be supported with developments relating to its ancillary provision and potential need for a small sided 3G pitch.	Sports Club GFA FF	Key Centre	M	M-L	M	Protect Enhance Provide

**COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
				Site identified through the LFFP for potential new small sided 3G to help accommodate demand.							
38	Farmor's School	Football	School	One poor quality adult pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	School GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby Union		Two poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitches that are not available for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
40	Four Acres (closed)	Football	Council	One disused football pitch. Site does not appear to be in an overgrown condition.	Protect provision from development in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as pitches currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls.	Council GFA FF	Local	H	L	H	Protect
43	Hatherop Playing Field	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is used by Hatherop FC. Pitch is played to capacity.	Sustain quality offer for current use.	Council GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
44	Horcott Road Playing Fields	Football	Sports Club	One youth 9v9 pitch, two mini 7v7 pitches and three mini 5v5 pitches all good quality and used by Fairford YFC. Actual spare capacity of one MES on the mini 7v7 pitch. The site offers four poor quality changing rooms and is outlined in the LFFP for improvements.	Sustain current maintenance regime to preserve pitch quality. Explore specific ancillary need for the users of the site, considering youth demographic.	Sports Club GFA FF	Local	H	L	H	Protect Enhance
48	Kingshill Sports Complex	Football	Council	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches and three youth 9v9 pitches used by four clubs. Youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 2 MES. However, youth 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity of one MES.	Utilise spare capacity of one MES on youth 9v9 pitch. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay on the youth 11v11 pitches. Consider the reconfiguration of pitch layout as to reduce overplay.	Council GFA FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
49	Lechlade Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	One standard quality cricket square with a good quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play.	Utilise spare capacity for Saturday, Sunday and midweek play. Improve wicket quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Private ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
50	Lechlade Memorial Hall & Pavilion	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is currently unused. Fratellos FC formerly accessed the pitch; however, the Club has recently folded. Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Try and utilise pitch for competitive use.	Council GFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		AGP		One small-size (33m x 18m), sports lit AGP that is available for community use.	Protect existing provision. Financially prepare for a sinking fund to replace existing provision once it has passed its lifespan.	Council EH		L	L	L	
52	Longdole Polo Club	Polo	Sports Club	Three good quality polo pitches which are available for community use.	Sustain current maintenance regime to preserve quality.	Sports Club HPA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
53	Meysey Hampton Playing Field	Cricket	Council	One poor quality cricket square with a poor quality outfield. The site has no spare capacity. The site has an issue with moles damaging outfield.	Improve pitch quality through enhance maintenance regime. Explore potential solutions to moles damaging the site in partnership with the appropriate partners.	Council ECB GCB	Local	M	L	M	Protect Enhance
57	National Star College	Football	School	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
59	Rendcomb College	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School GFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Provide
		Rugby Union		Six good quality (M2/D1) senior pitches which are not available for community use.	Sustain current maintenance regime to preserve pitch quality.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Cricket		Three non-community accessible squares	Protect for curricular use.	School ECB, GCB		L	L	L	
		AGP		One good quality full size, sports lit AGP that was installed in 2010, resurfaced in 2019 and is unavailable for community use.	Protect existing provision. If demand arises, consider opportunities to negotiate access with the provider to allow for a suitable and proportionate level of club demand.	School EH		H	L	H	
60	Royal Agricultural University	Football	University	Four adult pitches, one youth 11v11 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch all of good quality and used by Stratton Rovers. Formerly used by Forest Green Rovers YFC.	Ensure long term access for Stratton Rovers FC.	University GFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		AGP		One poor quality full size, sports lit AGP that was installed in 2003 and is open to community use. Site is used by Cirencester HC as its overspill pitch for Saturday fixtures. The site recently re-stitched some rips in its surface; however, Cirencester HC feel that given the age of provision a replacement surface is needed. If a replacement surface is not provided during the lifespan of the PPS, then the surface shall become unusable for competitive hockey.	Protect existing provision. Given the age of provision, explore the possibility of replacing the existing surface that is very near condemnation.	University SE EH		H	S	H	
62	Shipton Moyne Rec Ground	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch used by Avonvale United FC, Avonvale United YFC and Charlton Rovers YFC. Overplay of 4.5 MES is present at the site. Overplay caused by overmarking of pitches. New clubhouse opened in 2022.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club GFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
63	Siddington Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is used by Chesterton FC. Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Parish Council GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		Site formerly hosted a cricket square accessed by Siddington CC, however Siddington Parish Council deemed the site too small for cricket. The Club has since relocated to Meysey Hampton Playing Fields, however it aspires to relocate back into Siddington.	Consult with Siddington Parish Council as to explore the required steps to re-introduce the square if possible.	Parish Council ECB GCB		M	M	M	
64	Sinclair Field	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality cricket square with a standard quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Sunday, and midweek play. Site is accessed by Birdlip and Brimpsfield CC.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
65	St Lawrence Church of England Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
66	St Mary's Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
70	SWR Leisure	Football	School	One adult pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch all poor quality and used by Tetbury Town YFC. Youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES. The School has outlined aspirations to develop a full size 3G pitch on its site.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	School GFA, FF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby Union		One poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitch and several junior pitches (mixed age grade) which are used by Tetbury RFC.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	School RFU		L	L	L	
71	Tarbarrow Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard cricket square with a standard quality outfield. Site has no spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB, GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
72	Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground	Football	Trust	One youth 11v11 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch all standard quality and used by Tetbury Town YFC. Youth 9v9 pitch has spare capacity of one MES. Tetbury Town YFC is looking to gain a six-year lease from the Dolphins Recreation Centre which in return shall undertake all maintenance responsibility. The site is in the process of developing a brand-new clubhouse to service football and cricket demand. The Club state it has an issue with a bore hole and water storage for the building and confirm needing further funding towards bar furniture. The project has been financed through S106 funds, lottery funding and Sport England.	Improve pitch quality from standard to good quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Support the Club in its efforts to complete its ancillary provision development as to benefit a multi-sport offer.	Trust GFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G		The site is identified as a potential location for the development of a full sized 3G pitch. This pitch would be to service demand for both Tetbury and neighbouring Malmesbury (Wiltshire). Further feasibility work will be required if this site is the most appropriate for such a development.	Support on-going analysis being undertaken by football partners to determine what the current	Trust SE GFA FF		H	S	H	
		Rugby Union		One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch which is used by Tetbury RFC. The Club are looking to relocate to a new site 'Pike Field' within Tetbury. The Club has freehold ownership and hope to install two senior pitches and a junior pitch with ancillary provision. The goal is for the site to become operational by 2025.	Support Tetbury RFC in its relocation to Pike Field. Consider strategic need through Stage – E process about requirement to retain rugby union provision at this site following the Clubs' relocation to Pike Field.	Trust RFU		H	M	H	
		Cricket		One good quality cricket square with a good quality outfield. Site has spare capacity for midweek play. The Club roll out a Flicx pitch onto the rugby pitch as to enable two matches to take place on a Saturday simultaneously.	Sustain quality of existing provision. Consider utilisation of a local disused site (i.e. Avening & Cherington Cricket Club) to allow the Club to adequately accommodate its demand on a more appropriate facility offer than a Flicx pitch.	Trust ECB GCB		L	L	L	

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73	Tetbury Town FC	Football	Sports Club	Two standard quality adult pitches used by Tetbury Town FC. The Club are re-designing its layout to increase the number of pitches provided whilst also excavating and flattening sloped land to create additional playing field on the site.	Support creation of additional plying field	Sports Club GFA, FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
74	The Chedworth Village Hall	Football	Council	One poor quality community accessible adult pitch which is currently unused.	Use as a strategic reserve site for competitive football.	Council GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
76	Upper Up Playing Fields	Football	Council	One adult pitch, one youth 11v11 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch all of standard quality and used by South Cerney FC and South Cerney YFC. Adult pitch is overplayed by one MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Council GFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One poor quality cricket square with standard quality outfield. Site is accessed by South Cerney CC and is overplayed by 4 MES.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Council ECB GCB		L	L	L	
77	Westonbirt School and Leisure Centre	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches which are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to better service curricular demand.	School GFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby Union		Two standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch which are not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to better serve curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Cricket		One non community accessible square.	Protect for curricular use.	School ECB GCB		L	L	L	
		AGP		Site is scheduled for the installation of a full sized AGP and accompanying clubhouse with a proposed deadline of completion within 2023. The School does is uncertain around the community use availability of the pitch on it is operational.	If a hockey specific need arises, work with England Hockey and local clubs to engage appropriately with the School to allow for a level of secured access for either midweek training or competitive match play. If possible, promote the development of a Gen2 surface and secure community access through a secured community use agreement.	School EH SE		L	L	H	
87	Kempsford Church of England Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
88	North Cerney C of E Primary Academy	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School GFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
89	Powells C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality adult pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
90	Siddington C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School GFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
92	Barnsley Beeches CC	Cricket	Council	One poor quality cricket square with poor quality outfield. The site is overplayed by three sessions per season. The Club describe wanting a fixed lane practice lane and an NTP at its site as to better support training demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhance maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Work with the Club to improve the training facilities provided at the site.	Council ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
94	Cockrup Farm (Williamstrip CC)	Cricket	Private	One poor quality cricket square with standard quality outfield. Site played at capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Private ECB, GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
95	Cowley CC	Cricket	Private	One poor quality cricket square with a poor quality outfield. Site has no spare capacity. The Clubhouse is a damaged wooden building with missing tiles and a smashed window. The Club has a one year usage agreement on the site and aspires for a long term offer to access grant funding opportunities.	Support the Club with its aspiration in securing a long term agreement on the site as to enable potential grant funding opportunities.	Private ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
96	North Cerney CC	Cricket	Private	One standard quality cricket square with standard quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play.	Utilise spare capacity for Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Private ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
98	Stowell Park CC	Cricket	Private	One standard quality cricket square with a good quality outfield. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play. Club installed a new roof in June 2022 as to address water damage. The Club is looking into getting a new sight screen.	Utilise spare capacity for Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play. Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Private ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
99	Chedworth CC	Cricket	Private	One poor quality cricket square with a standard quality outfield. The Club state its playing provision has a moss issue, something it is actively trying to address. It also has a malfunctioning mower, causing the Club to use Stowell Park CC for fixtures in the early stages of the 2022 season.	Support the Club with acquiring any sufficient investment it requires to tackle issues with moss and maintenance equipment to enable to it adequately look after its site.	Private ECB GCB	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
100	Kempsford CC	Cricket	Sports Club	Disused site that formerly provided a cricket square. Site is in an overgrown state with long reeds and lots of grass across both the square itself and the outfield.	Retain as a strategic reserve site for cricket.	Sports Club ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
101	Notgrove CC	Cricket	Sports Club	Disused site that formerly provided a cricket square. Notgrove CC has since been re-purposed to be used as a camp site hosting prefabricated buildings and an open grass space.	Site likely to require high amounts of capital investment if it was to be reinstated and also likely to be at the detriment of existing camping use. Keep as a strategic reserve.	Sports Club ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
102	Guiting Power Village Hall	Cricket	Parish Council	Disused site that formerly provided a cricket square. Site no longer hosts any grass wicket squares and its open space now shows grid markings for children's games.	Retain as a strategic reserve site for cricket.	Parish Council ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
103	Windrush Valley Field	Cricket	Council	Disused site that formerly provided a cricket square. Site is in a very overgrown condition with long dry grass on its square and outfield.	Explore the possibility of reinstating provision as to increase total supply of pitches for cricket.	Council ECB GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
104	Duntisbourne Abbots CC	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality cricket square with poor quality outfield.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club ECB, GCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁴	Cost ²⁵	Aim
105	Leaffield Road (Fairford RFC)	Rugby Union	Council	One poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitch which is used by Fairford RFC. Site slightly overplayed by 0.5 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay on the site and to generate an additional small amount of spare capacity.	Council RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

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

In accordance with National Planning Policy Guidance, contributions should not be sought from developments of 10 units or less, and which have a maximum combined gross floor space of no more than 1,000 square metres (gross internal area). However, where over this threshold, it is recommended that the Council utilise the Playing Pitch Calculator.

Experience shows that housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For such large scale developments, 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 provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). If this is not the case, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

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 Cotswold, thus showing how the calculator works and what it provides. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on sports lit grass pitches (rugby).

Two example scenarios are explored below to give an indicative position on what growth may equate to for developments of similar size. The Council is still working on its specific growth requirements as part of its Local Plan Review and as such will refine numbers utilised in this scenario, for its own purposes, in the future.

- ◀ **Scenario One** – 100 dwelling development
- ◀ **Scenario Two** – 500 dwelling development

For reference, the indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.4²⁶ per dwelling.

²⁶ The occupancy rate of 2.4 is in line with figures used in the 2021 Census.

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Scenario One – 100 dwellings

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 100 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.4 per household is 2,400 people. This population increase equates to 0.08 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.01 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP and 1.05 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 0.17 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.03 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 100 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 100 dwellings	
	Match demand per week ²⁷	Training demand ²⁸
Adult football	0.02	0.17 hours
Youth football	0.04	
Mini soccer	0.03	
Rugby union	0.02	0.02 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.01	0.02 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.00	0.01 hours
Cricket	1.05	-

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²⁹	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ³⁰	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.02	£2,018	£426	0.04	£7,255
Youth football	0.04	£3,411	£716	0.05	£9,558
Mini soccer	0.03	£806	£169	0.00	£0
Rugby union	0.02	£2,660	£569	0.03	£6,276
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	0.02	£8,091	£1,634	0.05	£9,256
Sand based AGPs	0.00	£2,216	£69	0.00	£973
3G	0.00	£4,878	£174	0.01	£1,713
Total	0.13	£24,081	£3,757	0.18	£35,031

Overall, an additional 0.13 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from a 100 dwelling development. This consist of 0.13 grass pitches and a residual amount of access to artificial pitches, albeit not enough to warrant a figure within the above table. This would require an expected capital cost of £24,081 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £3,757.

²⁷ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

²⁸ Hours equate to access to a full size sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

²⁹ Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2022 – [Facility cost guidance | Sport England](#)

³⁰ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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To facilitate the increased provision, 0.18 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £35,031.

As none of these figures represent full pitch or changing room developments, contributions to improve existing facilities within the vicinity of the development should be sought.

Scenario Two – 500 dwellings

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 500 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.4 per household is 1,200 people. This population increase equates to 0.41 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.06 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP and 5.27 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 0.83 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.17 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 500 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 500 dwellings	
	Match demand per week ³¹	Training demand ³²
Adult football	0.09	0.83 hours
Youth football	0.19	
Mini soccer	0.13	
Rugby union	0.08	0.10
Rugby league	0.00	0.00
Adult hockey	0.04	0.12
Junior & mixed hockey	0.02	0.05
Cricket	5.27	-

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ³³	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ³⁴	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.09	£10,097	£2,130	0.18	£36,300
Youth football	0.19	£17,031	£3,577	0.24	£47,679
Mini soccer	0.13	£4,038	£848	0.00	£0
Rugby union	0.08	£13,291	£2,844	0.16	£31,358
Rugby league	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	0.12	£40,467	£8,174	0.24	£46,291
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£11,086	£344	0.02	£4,866
3G	0.02	£24,393	£868	0.04	£8,566
Total	0.65	£120,403	£18,785	0.89	£175,061

³¹ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

³² Hours equate to access to a full size sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

³³ Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2022 – [Facility cost guidance | Sport England](#)

³⁴ 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)

Overall, an additional 0.65 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from a 100-dwelling development. This consist of 0.61 grass pitches and 0.03 artificial grass pitches.

This would require an expected capital cost of £120,403 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £18,785. To facilitate the increased provision, 0.89 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £175,061.

As none of these figures represent full pitch or changing room developments, contributions to improve existing facilities within the vicinity of the development should be sought.

Conclusion

For the example scenarios above, the tables show, that through housing growth relating to the developments, some demand will be generated for football, rugby union, hockey and cricket. However, the level of demand generated for each sport, will not require new provision to be provided. As such any new housing developments should look to support existing playing pitches within the District.

As the demand generated from the housing growth does not equate to a whole pitch for any of the sports, contributions for these size of developments would be better focused on improving existing sites in the locality to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g., to select suitable sites).

To provide the greatest impact, contributions from housing developments could be pooled together to improve key sites. The action plan identifies high priority sites which would likely provide the most benefit from investment. Key sites which would benefit from capacity and ancillary improvements are provided below, by analysis area.

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

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

Delivery

The PPS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across the Cotswolds. 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 District can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and recommends how best to resolve this in the future.

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

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

To help ensure the PPS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch 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. For this to be achieved, the Steering Group needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

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

Monitoring and updating

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

It is agreed that the Council (potentially via consultants e.g., KKP) 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 PPS 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).
- ◀ How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g., the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

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.

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

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Checklists

In order for this Strategy to be signed off by the steering group, a Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy, is signed off.

Stage D <u>Checklist</u> : Develop the Strategy	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan		
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?		
Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy		
1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?		

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

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

For more information, see:

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>

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

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

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

Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

Recover and reinvent: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

Connecting communities: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

Positive experiences for children and young people: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

Connecting with health and wellbeing: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

Active environments: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National 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.

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has now been produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League, DCMS, Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP will build upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP will also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This could include those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

LFFPs will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: Survive .Revive. Thrive (2020-2024)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ◆ Win a major tournament
- ◆ Service > two million through a transformed media platform
- ◆ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ◆ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ◆ A game free of discrimination
- ◆ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and BFAWSL

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ◆ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◆ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◆ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◆ Maximum investment into the game
- ◆ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture
- ◆ World class venues and events
- ◆ Technology enabled and insight driven

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2019-2024)

“Inspiring Generations” is the new ECB participation strategy which was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women's and girls' cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

- ◀ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◀ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◀ Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- ◀ Investing in girls' county age group cricket.
- ◀ Delivering a girls' secondary school programme.

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan 2021 onwards

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+Strategy).
<http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+Strategy>

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

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

- The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

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

The intention is to:

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

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APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

In order to deliver much of the Action Plan it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought. Below is a list of current funding bodies and relevant website links; further detail is not available at this stage as the funding streams are regularly changing.

Awarding body	Website link
The National Lottery Community Fund	http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/
Sport England	https://www.sportengland.org/funding/
Football Foundation	https://footballfoundation.org.uk/what-we-do
Premier League	Premier League LED Floodlight Fund Premier League Stadium Fund
Rugby Football Union	RFU (englandrugby.com)
The England and Wales Cricket Trust	https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/73112/club-funding
National Hockey Foundation	http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/

Funder's requirements

Below is a list of funding requirements that can typically be expected to be provided as part of a funding bid, some of which will fall directly out of the Playing Pitch Strategy:

- Identify need (i.e., why the Project is needed) and how the Project will address it.
- Articulate what difference the Project will make.
- Identify benefits, value for money and/or added value.
- Provide baseline information (i.e., the current situation).
- Articulate how the Project is consistent with local, regional and national policy.
- Financial need and project cost.
- Funding profile (i.e., Who's providing what? Unit and overall costs).
- Technical information and requirements (e.g., planning permission).
- Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e., the situation after the Project/what the Project will achieve)
- Evidence of support from partners and stakeholders.
- Background/essential documentation (e.g., community use agreement).
- Assessment of risk.

Indicative costs

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan can be found on the Sport England website: <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/facility-cost-guidance>

The costs are for the development of community sports facilities and are based on providing good quality sports facility based on the last quarter. The Facilities Costs are updated on the Sport England website every quarter.

These rounded costs are based on schemes most recently funded through the Lottery (and therefore based on economies of scale), updated to reflect current forecast price indices provided by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), prepared by Technical Team Lead of Sport England.