



BRADFORD DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

STAGE E REPORT

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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BRADFORD DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN – STAGE E

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INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Stage E Review 2022 for City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (CBMDC) and its partners.

This report serves to identify key changes that have occurred, and actions undertaken, including any consequent change in strategic position, since the adoption of the Strategy & Action Plan in early 2019 and the previous Stage E Review in 2021.

The evidence base for the Strategy was initially produced through the Assessment Report dated November 2018 and was produced in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy. The purpose of this was to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

Whilst this review highlights and updates major demand changes, as well as known changes to quantity or quality of pitch supply, it does not represent a renewed capacity analysis.

The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into five distinct sections, with Stages A through to D constituting the undertaking of a new PPS. This PPS review forms part of the Stage E monitoring and evaluation process (Stage E - Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date) whereby the PPS should be regularly updated in order to maintain its validity as a robust evidence base. The Sport England guidance states:

'As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.'

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.'

As outlined within Stage E, this review seeks to identify the following:

- ◀ 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.

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SPORTS PITCHES INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

To fund the delivery plan of the PPS the Council put in place the Sports Pitches Investment Programme (SPIP) with an indicative capital spends of £15m.

The SPIP has been developed to deliver a hierarchy of outdoor playing pitch and ancillary facilities that meets current and future demand and seeks to address declining playing numbers within the key sports of football, cricket, rugby (both league and union), tennis, athletics and bowls. Currently the existing sports pitches and ancillary facilities in the District and the maintenance burden this carries are unsustainable and for a number of sports, fail to meet current and future projected demand.

The investment programme seeks to deliver the most sustainable sports pitches and ancillary facilities provision achievable over a 15-20 year period and beyond through the capital investment programme.

Key elements:

- ◀ Hub Model - the PPS Action Plan in order to generate investment towards creating better quality sports pitch and ancillary facilities, identifies the provision of 'District hub' sites as a key component to meet and deliver the objectives of the PPS and creates a hierarchy of hub provision consisting of:
 - ◀ Five local multi-sports hub sites, one in each of the five distinct District administrative areas of: Bradford South, Bradford West, Bradford East, Shipley and Keighley. Each site will have improved or replacement changing facilities with improved and where possible increased quality pitch (majority grass) provision.
 - ◀ Three District-wide multi-sports hub sites. Wyke Community Sports Village which will be completed by Spring 2022 with the grass pitches playable from September 2022, a new build facility with the remaining two sites at Myra Shay Recreation Ground and Marley Sports Centre consisting of both refurbishment and, where appropriate, extension to the existing facilities already present at each site. These hubs are now programmed for delivery within the next two years.
 - ◀ An as yet unconfirmed number of single pitch and individual pitch site improvement projects. These will consist, in the majority, of refurbishment and/or upgrading of both existing grass pitches and changing facilities or in a number of cases the provision of ancillary changing facilities. The actual sites for this tier of provision are directly identified by the outcomes of the new PPS analysis and recommendations in concert with the funding available from the NGBs' individual investment programmes.
 - ◀ Grant Funding - in order to deliver the Action Plan of the PPS it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought from Sport England and the individual sports' NGBs.
 - ◀ Sell to Invest - a key revenue component for the investment programme will identify either redundant/ and or surplus playing fields together with low value playing field sites (for example, one/two pitch sites with no changing provision and/or no car parking) and other recreational land holding which are not required to meet either current or future need for formal and informal recreation use.

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This will allow the Council to provide good quality sports facilities across the District which in turn will attract more users and contribute to the improving health agenda. This will allow the Council to provide good quality sports facilities across the District which in turn will attract more users and contribute to the improving health agenda. Initially one major pitch site (former school playing field site) is being disposed of with an estimated capital receipt of £1.6M and will form initial basis of the ‘Sale to Invest’ strategy.

Key aims:

- ◀ To protect the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs
- ◀ To enhance outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites
- ◀ To provide new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

Key benefits/ outcomes:

The overarching programme benefits will be measured as:

- ◀ To protect the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs as identified by the Districts PPS
- ◀ To enhance outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites
- ◀ To provide new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so
- ◀ Identify surplus sites for re-investment (Sale to Invest)
- ◀ Implement the multi-sports hub delivery model
- ◀ Generate further investment towards creating bigger, better quality sites
- ◀ Improving the quality of the Districts sports pitches and ancillary facilities (including changing rooms and car parking) to increase and maximise their level of use.
- ◀ Increasing both the quality and quantity of the existing offering enabling increased opportunities for both the delivery of the health and social initiatives identified in the programme to provide the opportunity for the residents of the district to live healthy and active lifestyles.

Key interdependencies for the programme:

- ◀ Supports Better Health, Better Lives
- ◀ Contributes to “Active Bradford”
- ◀ Supports the District’s Local Football Facilities Plan
- ◀ Supports the District’s Local Cycle Plan and British Cycling’s Places to Ride Initiative.
- ◀ Directly supports the Sports Facilities Investment Programme
- ◀ Directly supports the councils Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme.
- ◀ Green spaces strategy/ Council goals – by creating multi-sports sites which share ancillary facilities will replace existing outdated high energy use facilities. The proposed new-build sports hubs and where possible the refurbished hubs will be designed to include energy reduction systems and be more efficient reducing both fuel use and their carbon footprint in both build and operation

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Living Well programme¹

Another key initiative within Bradford which is key to ensure linkages are made with the PPS is the Living Well initiative. It was launched through a wide range of projects with partners across Bradford district coming together under the Living Well brand. It aims to make the healthy choice the easy choice for people in Bradford District.

Our health can be affected by choices we make and the communities where we live, work and play. Lots of people live with long term health conditions. It is the goal of the Living Well programme to lower the cases of these often preventable health conditions and to help people live longer, healthier lives.

The Local Plan for the Bradford District

The Council is preparing a new Local Plan which sets out how the District will grow sustainably over the next 15 to 20 years and what it means for local communities.

The plan features new sites for housing and employment and a range of policies which will help guide development and the determination of planning applications. It also sets out new information on open spaces, green infrastructure and places of ecological value across the District.

Delivering our net zero carbon ambition by 2038, tackling air pollution, supporting public transport, cycling and walking and making the District a more prosperous and greener place to live, work and enjoy are central to the plan.

The plan also sets out spatial strategies for local areas and settlements and how they may change over the plan period to 2038 with the growth in new housing and employment opportunities and the protection of key local assets and features.

The PPS will be a key evidence base document for the new Local Plan. It will ensure that existing facilities are the most appropriate in terms of quantity, quality and location and consider how best to meet the additional needs generated by the planned housing and economic growth.

Further to the above, the Local Infrastructure Plan (LIP) sets out the level of new or improved infrastructure that will be required to deliver the proposed growth set out in the Local Plan. The aim of the LIP is to establish the extent of current infrastructure provision and identify the costs, delivery agents and means of funding for the infrastructure needed to support future growth. The PPS also helps to provide the key evidence and information in relation to deficits in sports provision which should be fed into the LIP work.

¹ <https://mylivingwell.co.uk/>

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SPORT BY SPORT UPDATES

Following consultation with each of the NGBs, this section serves to evidence any significant changes to the supply and demand position for each sport and to highlight and any new opportunities and the need for updated recommendations/actions for the Strategy.

Football – grass pitches

2019 PPS position:

There are current and future shortfalls across Bradford District on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. However, there is spare capacity expressed on mini pitches.

Shortfalls are predominately as a result of overplayed pitches, particularly adult pitches.

It is likely that the overall supply and demand position in Bradford District has changed considerably since the Strategy in 2019. The impact of these changes (as identified below) will need to be analysed further in c12 months' time.

Supply changes

In addition to improvements made at Emsley Memorial Recreation Ground and at Harrogate Road in 2020, Wyke Manor will be completed by Spring 2022 with the grass pitches playable from September 2022 and will consist of three upgraded pitches, a new 3G pitch and new changing facilities.

The two other multi-sport hub sites at Myra Shay Recreation Ground and Marley Sports Centre consisting of both refurbishment and, where appropriate, extension to the existing facilities already present at each site are programmed for delivery within the next two years.

It is hoped that these improvements will have a positive impact on improving the quality of grass football pitches and therefore increasing the capacity of the current stock:

- ◀ Albion Sports Club's potential transfer to Woodhall Playing Fields is not progressing, however, other site options are to be explored.
- ◀ Peel Park is identified for improvements to the pitches and changing facilities in the next 18 months.
- ◀ Works and improvements are still required to pitches and changing facilities at Northcliffe.
- ◀ Progress is being made at Bronte Playing Fields which is identified for Football Foundation (FF) funding and there is also potential for the site to be considered for Asset Transfer.

In addition to the above, access to education sites in Bradford continues to be a challenge and the Council continues to consider options to ensure that where schools move over to Academy status that community use agreements will remain in place and usable.

Sites currently undertaking enhanced grass pitch maintenance supported with FF funding² include:

- ◀ Queensbury Celtic (also had Maintenance Equipment grant)
- ◀ Salts FC
- ◀ Bolton Woods JFC (also had Maintenance Equipment grant)

² <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

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Sites currently working up an application to be on the Enhanced Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund:

- ◀ Oakworth Juniors at Bronte Fields
- ◀ CFA/FF and Council in discussions with Burley Trojans which is looking to develop a changing pavilion and improve the grass pitches at Burley Rec Ground.

Other schemes developed and in receipt of FF funding or Football Stadia Improvement Fund include:

- ◀ Bradford Park Avenue: new two storey modular clubhouse and changing block, new site boundary fencing and pitch perimeter fencing.
- ◀ Thackley FC: refurbishment of clubhouse.
- ◀ Wibsey FC: goalposts, fencing, changing pavilion refurbishment and external works.
- ◀ BEAP Community Partnership: extension to existing building to provide two changing rooms, small-sided 3G pitch and sports hall refurbishment.
- ◀ Ilkley Town AFC: 50 capacity modular seated stand, pitch perimeter barriers, ball stop netting, refreshment kiosk.
- ◀ Steeton FC: to support move to Marley Stadium and ensuring Ground Grading criteria was met.

PitchPower Assessment Tool

The football funding partners (Premier League, The FA, Sport England, Football Foundation and Department for Culture, Media and Sport) 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.

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, such as through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund.

Given the District Council's acceptance on the FF's Local Authority Grass Pitch Programme and to identify further potential sites for improvements, the Council should consider using PitchPower to assess the current standard of pitches in the Authority.

Demand changes

The 2021/22 affiliation data for teams in Bradford concludes that 774 teams are currently playing in the District, broken down as follows:

- ◀ 208 Mini-Soccer teams
- ◀ 118 Youth 9v9 teams
- ◀ 202 Youth 11v11 teams
- ◀ 213 Adult teams
- ◀ 33 Disability teams

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For reference, the previous 2019 PPS identified 618 teams as playing on grass pitches within Bradford District, broken down as follows:

- ◀ 203 Mini-Soccer teams
- ◀ 101 Youth 9v9 teams
- ◀ 157 Youth 11v11 teams
- ◀ 157 Adult teams

Please note that although there is certainly an increase in demand since the previous Strategy (particularly in adult teams and youth 11v11 teams) only teams playing on grass pitches were captured in these figures and therefore disability teams were not captured in these figures. Regardless of this, there is a clear need moving forward to update the supply and demand data to understand the impact of the increase in demand for football and the improvements to pitches.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure that a sufficient level of grass pitch provision is retained to meet current and future demand.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to reduce the number of one pitch football sites which are unsustainable and reinvestment in the development of Hub and Key sites.
- ◀ Improve the quality of pitches at the priority sites to good quality; to increase capacity across the District.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and rated as standard or poor quality, review maintenance regimes in order to help address shortfalls.
- ◀ Carry out pitch reconfigurations to address remaining shortfalls, particularly at sites with unused mini pitches.
- ◀ Work with education providers to secure access to football pitches through establishing community use agreements.
- ◀ Seek to improve changing provision at Key and Hub sites, ensuring that each site has a sufficient number of changing rooms to service all pitches on site.
- ◀ Ensure clubs in the football pyramid can progress by being compliant to FA ground grading regulations.
- ◀ Use PitchPower to assess the current standard of pitches in the Authority.
- ◀ Determine the most economically advantageous grass pitches to maintain and invest in moving forward, subject to available funding.

3G pitches

2019 PPS position:
Supply and demand analysis highlight that Bradford District has insufficient supply of 3G pitches to meet current and future demand for football training, based on the FA training model.
This shortfall equates to three full size 3G pitches.

As identified last year (January 2021), there was one new 3G pitch (Horsfall Community Stadium) and one 3G pitch refurbishment (Marley Sports Centre) since the 2019 Strategy.

Tong School has advised that its 3G pitch was re-surfaced in 2019 (just outside of the Strategy) and as such should be encouraged to register its pitch on the FA Pitch Register to accommodate match-play at weekends.

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Wyke Manor new 3G pitch (with rugby league and union compliance), estimated to be operational by Spring 2022 will further reduce the shortfall of full size 3G pitches in the District. However, note that the pitch can only accommodate training demand due to the restrictions on size.

BEAP Community Partnership adjacent to Valley Parade new 3G pitch (converted on the current MUGA) is currently under construction and includes improvements to the community buildings (including changing rooms).

In addition to above, enquires regarding potential new 3G pitches now include Immanuel College.

Although not progressed further in the last 12 months, Titus Salt School previously raised ambitions to replace its current full-size, sand dressed AGP with a 3G pitch due to its poor quality. There would be a need to work with England Hockey to ensure the needs of hockey are met elsewhere if this scheme were to progress.

Based on an increase in the number of football teams playing in Bradford during the 2021/22 season an updated analysis of all available 3G pitches (including Wyke Manor) has been run (by West Riding CFA) by analysis area which concludes an updated shortfall of almost six full size pitches across the District as follows:

Analysis area	No. of Teams (A)	3G pitch requirement (A/38)	Current number of 3Gs	Shortfall
Bradford South	154	4.1	4.5	-0.4
Bradford West	141	3.7	4	-0.3
Bradford East	159	4.2	2	2.2
Shipley	185	4.9	1	3.9
Keighley	135	3.6	3	0.6
Total	774	20.4	14.5	5.9

The previous 2019 Strategy identified a shortfall of three full size pitches and taking on board an increase in provision of two in the above figures (Horsfall Stadium and Wyke Manor)³ this is a significant increase in the shortfall of 3G pitches. This further suggests the need for the supply and demand analysis to be fully updated to further validate the evidence base.

The following recommendations remain unchanged from the Strategy.

Recommendations

- ◀ Provide additional 3G pitches in Bradford aligned to identified shortfalls in football training.
- ◀ Retain all certified 3G pitches on the respective sporting registers and ensure certification of each is renewed through performance standard testing so to maintain the level of 3G capacity available to accommodate demand from different sports.
- ◀ Seek to maximise use of all existing 3G pitches at weekends to accommodate match play in order to accommodate all mini demand and additionally to reduce grass pitch shortfalls.

³ Please note figures exclude 3G pitches unavailable for football at Appleton Academy; Buttershaw BEC; Goals Hanson and Keighley RFC.

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- ◀ Should any new 3G pitches be built, ensure they are constructed to required specifications and to meet FA, RFL and RFU recommendations rather than minimum dimensions where land footprint allows, so to maximise opportunities for use for all formats of competitive play.
- ◀ Further to this, seek to secure access through usage agreements where possible as a condition of partnership investment or planning conditions.
- ◀ Seek to maximise use of the WR Compliant 3G pitch at the Keighley RFC site by Bradford District based rugby union clubs.
- ◀ Ensure that all rugby league activity currently taking place on 3G pitches is non-contact as none have RFL Community Standard certification.
- ◀ Encourage providers to have a mechanism in place which ensures the long term sustainability of provision, such as an adequate sinking fund for repairs or resurfacing formed over time.
- ◀ Through the creation of new full sized 3G pitches, consider options to deliver a wide variety of sporting opportunities, including new formats of competitive football such as central venue midweek flexi and vets leagues, as well as walking football and female development centres.
- ◀ Should any new 3G pitches be built, consider potential to certify for competitive use by sports additional to football as part of a shared scheme, for example, to reduce shortfalls for rugby union or rugby league.

Cricket

2019 PPS position:

Present and future demand for cricket cannot be sufficiently accommodated by existing supply of facilities.

Supply and demand analysis of natural turf cricket squares in Bradford District at peak times suggests there is a significant shortfall of provision.

The overall supply and demand balance for cricket in Bradford District remains unchanged to that identified in the Strategy, however, the introduction of a significant non turf pitch (NTP) scheme has been approved and funded by ECB. Although there have been delays to the scheme, it will be progressing from April 2022 and the impact of this new provision will need to be identified in c12 months' time.

In the main, all proposed NTP sites have been chosen to form new spaces to play in open access sites such as parks, recreation grounds and playing fields. The predicted and anticipated usage pattern for the sites is moderate to high usage.

Seven NTPs are proposed at the following locations:

- ◀ Highfield Lane Playing Field, Keighley
- ◀ King George V Sports Ground, Keighley
- ◀ Northcliffe Park, Shipley
- ◀ Peel Park
- ◀ Avenue Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Wibsey Park
- ◀ Horsfall Playing Fields

In addition, two enclosed practice net facilities are proposed at:

- ◀ Myra Shay Recreation Ground
- ◀ Marley Sports Centre

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All sites selected both support and deliver the outcomes of the PPS. They will provide South Asian Community, wider club and general recreational and informal cricketing opportunities in a non-traditional club environment. This will help to grow engagement and participation opportunities with groups currently underrepresented (e.g. women and girls and disability cricket).

All nine sites identified are able to provide both significant opportunities for the development of informal free to access recreational cricket and will provide free and accessible focused practice and some additional match provision to support clubs across the District. Further, new demand for programmes includes Core Cities/Wicketz and other user groups including, for example, Friends of Peel Park.

Other key issues/changes

Ongoing issues remain with the use/quality/maintenance of Council owned pitches in terms of condition and safety issues. The pitches are used almost wholly by teams playing in the Bradford Sunday Mutual and Quaid e Azam leagues, specific issues have been raised regards King George V Playing Fields.

Linked to the above, availability of grounds is also an ongoing issue for Quaid e Azam teams which rent from private clubs, in terms of both access at required times and the cost of access.

An increase in activity via Core Cities/Wicketz and women and girls' initiatives is likely to see more demand, however, some of this will be met by the installation of the new NTPs, but in the case specifically of new female activity, further consideration should be given to the availability of appropriate facilities.

Club sites

The following provides an update on the status at club sites across Bradford District:

Cross Flatts CC has an ongoing issue with a proposed building development which risks impacting upon its activities. Planning permission was granted then quashed on appeal, but it is believed will be resubmitted, the building accelerated significantly before being quashed. A further proposal to develop a building at the bottom end of the field has caused further issues, currently planning objected to by both ECB and Sport England.

Jer Lane CC continues to experience numerous ball strike issues and is considering options including potential relocation.

Steeton CC has outfield/drainage issues.

Baildon, Mayfield, Low Moor Holy Trinity and Cullingworth cricket clubs all have plans to upgrade facilities, some of these with ECB County Grant Fund support.

Bolton Villas CC no longer has junior teams playing.

ECB will continue to build upon its Inspiring Generations Strategy and investment is likely to focus on improving facilities for wider community inclusion. For example, where clubs can demonstrate a willingness to develop key target areas such as growth in women and girls, building on the success of the All Stars and Dynamos programmes.

The following recommendations have been slightly amended to reflect the changes highlighted above.

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Recommendations

- ◀ Existing quantity of cricket pitches to be protected (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy Exception E4).
- ◀ If clubs are required to relocate, ensure any newly developed site can adequately accommodate demand generated from each club (including current overplay).
- ◀ Improve quality of pavilion facilities with a priority for clubs seeking to meet wider community inclusion.
- ◀ Seek to secure tenure for clubs identified as having unsecure tenure arrangements.
- ◀ Maintain and improve pitch quality through rigorous and regular maintenance, remedial and preparatory work, ensuring that clubs have sufficient access to the required equipment in order to do so.
- ◀ Strong emphasis should be placed on improving pitches from poor to standard quality as this will have a greater impact.
- ◀ Continue to work with clubs and leagues towards permitting use of NTPs to make greater use of NTPs to help alleviate overplay at club sites.
- ◀ Continue to deliver All Stars/Dynamos cricket and develop more women & girls teams across Bradford District.
- ◀ Prioritise future investment in facilities to those clubs that demonstrate aspirations to increase women and girls’ participation.
- ◀ Monitor future growth and ensure outfielders are improved to help increase capacity to accommodate future growth from All Stars/Dynamos cricket.

Rugby union

2019 PPS position:
There is a current and future overall shortfall of senior rugby union pitches in Bradford District. However, there is sufficient supply of junior and mini pitches.
Clubs training on match pitches is contributing to the significant levels of overplay.

The overall position for rugby union remains unchanged to that identified in the Strategy. However, the 2021/22 season will be the first full rugby union season that has taken place since the Pandemic began and this is likely to result in clubs realising growth plans for future seasons.

The RFU identifies that the following remain key priorities for addressing:

Old Grovians RUFC remains a one team club. Maintenance at the site has improved and is ongoing. The action to secure a formal community use agreement for access to the WR compliant 3G pitch at Woodhouse Grove School for training demand has not yet been achieved due to the Pandemic but remains a key action.

Wibsey RUFC continues to look to secure long term use at Wibsey Rugby Pitch where land is also available for an additional pitch to be developed should it grow beyond its current one team. It’s likely that this will be in the form of a long term licence with the Council. There is also an opportunity for Wibsey to establish use of 3G pitch at Horsfall Stadium for training.

Bradford Salem RFC is in the process of securing funding to extend and refurbish the changing provision on site linked to its development outcomes including growth in junior and girls’ rugby. The project should progress and be complete during 2022.

The action for Ilkley RFC’s use of East Holmes Playing Field remains the same, although there could be an opportunity for the Club to assist with maintenance of the site linking to

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a use agreement with the Council. At the Club's main site, flooding remains an issue, however, some work has been done and there is an improved maintenance programme in place. There is now potential for a new drainage system to be considered at the site.

The recommendation for Keighley RFC remains to maximise use of the WR compliant 3G pitch by Bradford District based rugby union clubs to help reduce training on respective grass pitches and reduce overplay/shortfalls.

The joint scheme between Baildon rugby and cricket clubs to provide sufficient changing provision for both sports is progressing albeit slowly. It remains a high priority. Further the SHLAA allocation on the Rugby Club's other site, Jenny Lane, has been removed in the new Draft Local Plan and now provides an opportunity for the Club to improve existing provision. The Club will continue to explore options to develop an additional pitch thereby increasing its access to four pitches. This would help to future proof the Club which is also pro-actively seeking to increase women and girls' participation.

Bradford and Bingley RFC's home ground has been subject to some flooding and as such there remains a need for a long term plan to improve the facilities over the longer term to reduce the potential impact of the site flooding. The Club also requires changing room improvements to be made.

There is likely to be additional pressure on the District's pitch capacity on a temporary basis during the 2022/23 season due to imported demand from Otley RFC during development of its home ground in Leeds. This will most likely affect Ilkley RFC and Keighley RFC due to proximity.

The following recommendations remain unchanged from the Strategy except for an additional action for Ilkley RFC linked to potential new drainage.

Recommendations

- ◀ Existing quantity of rugby union pitches to be protected (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4).
- ◀ Seek to maximise use of the WR Compliant 3G pitch at the Keighley RFC site by Bradford District based clubs particularly for training to help address overplay. It is a key action for RFU to work with clubs to help realise this capacity.
- ◀ Improve pitch maintenance across the District through improved maintenance. Explore options for an equipment bank where clubs can share equipment.
- ◀ At Ilkley RFC, consider a new drainage system to further combat the flooding issues at the site.
- ◀ Work to ensure that all clubs have long term lease agreements to provide the clubs with security of tenure on all currently used pitches.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at Baildon, Bradford Salem, Wibsey and Old Grovians rugby clubs; ensuring that their changing provision is of sufficient quality and number to service all pitches simultaneously.
- ◀ Support Keighley RFC and Bradford Salem RFC to increase the number of ensuite changing rooms on site to increase participation.
- ◀ Working with partners including ECB, consider addressing whether the clubhouse facility at Bradford & Bingley Sports & Social Club is on a floodplain and if there is a need to improve the facilities over the longer term to reduce the potential impact of the site flooding.

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Rugby league

2019 PPS position:

Currently there is a significant level of overplay on senior rugby league pitches resulting in shortfalls (36.75 match equivalent sessions per week) in all areas except Bradford West Analysis Area which has minimal spare capacity.

This is predominantly a result of training and competitive demand taking place on pitches, several of which have limited capacity for use anyway due to poor quality.

The current picture for junior pitches across Bradford District indicates that the one pitch located in Keighley Analysis Area has capacity for additional demand.

The overall position for rugby league remains unchanged to that identified in the Strategy. However, a future increase in access to 3G pitches in the District is likely to reduce overplay on grass pitches with teams training and, in some instances, playing on 3G pitches. The impact of this should be realised over the 12 months and will require further analysis.

Although access to the Horsfall Stadium 3G is now increasing for rugby league clubs (following Rugby League World Cup investment) across the District to use it for training and/or matches, this has not yet been maximised. There remains a recognised need to ensure protection of grass rugby league pitches until such times that it is clear that clubs have adequately been able to transfer all demand to the 3G pitch.

The new Wyke Manor site will also consist of a new 3G pitch (with rugby league and union compliance) and be available for rugby league clubs to use. Established in 2019 Halifax Women's team play in the RFL women's competition League 1 and will import demand into Bradford to play at Wyke Manor.

A new purpose built changing facility recently opened at Albert Road Rec Ground which continues to establish the site as the primary home venue of Queensbury ALRFC. Provision of second grass pitch and improvements to the existing pitch are due to take place in Spring 2022.

Keighley Albion ARLFC still aspires to relocate from its existing site as it is unable to expand and is looking at options for relocating to a bigger site.

Bradford Bulls RLFC has now returned to play at Odsal Stadium and will now, through Bradford Bulls Foundation be able to build relationships with schools in the District and grow opportunities for women and girls and disability teams including wheelchair rugby, Physical Disability Rugby League (PDRL) and Learning Disability Rugby League (LDRL).

Further opportunities for funding through the Rugby League World Cup (RLWC) 2022 grant funding will be made available in March/April 2022.

RFL continues to promote opportunity for multi-sport partnerships at its sites which is seen as significant in Bradford and includes sites shared with football, archery, rugby union and cyclocross and is keen to identify sites which could benefit from future Government funding.

The following recommendations have been updated to reflect the above.

Recommendations

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- ◀ Existing quantity of rugby league pitches to be protected (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy Exception E4).
- ◀ Improve pitch quality where possible to increase capacity in the District and reduce overall shortfalls.
- ◀ Where possible, encourage teams to utilise areas off match pitches for training demand; on some sites this may mean installing floodlighting to encourage use during pre-season in the winter months.
- ◀ Maximise use of new 3G pitches in the District for rugby league training and matches (Horsfall Stadium and Wyke Manor) to help reduce shortfalls on grass pitches.
- ◀ Ensure any future provision/site improvements are created/undertaken to a satisfactory standard to accommodate community level rugby league in Bradford.
- ◀ Identify further opportunities for Rugby League World Cup (RLWC) 2022 grant funding and potential future multisport investment.
- ◀ Support Bradford Bulls Foundation to develop opportunities to grow women and girls and disability teams within the District.

Hockey

2019 PPS position:

The current supply of available hockey suitable AGPs is considered insufficient to accommodate the current and future level of hockey demand at peak time (Saturday) and midweek (for training) in Bradford District.

There is also a priority need to address long term security of tenure and the quality of AGP surfaces in Bradford to ensure their continued use to accommodate hockey.

Since the production of the Strategy, although the overall picture for hockey remains unchanged there have been some changes in the last 12 months and creation of opportunities which could positively impact on provision for the sport in Bradford.

Given some of the issues previously encountered with access to provision, Airedale HC and Bingley Bees HC have now merged to create Aire Valley HC, retaining their combined membership figures and producing 10 teams. The Club now uses the resurfaced AGP at Beckfoot Oakbank School. If future growth aspirations are realised, it’s likely that the Club will outgrow just one AGP and will need to seek access to a second AGP. However, the Club is continuing discussions for a full-size hockey AGP at/with Holy Family Catholic School (where planning permission was previously granted but has now expired).

As the only asset owning club, Ben Rhydding HC AGPs are being fully utilised and continue to accommodate other clubs/teams where it can. The second pitch has been subject to some flooding; the site is located in a flood zone and therefore any protective measures (including highways mitigation) that can be put in and around the site should be explored to ensure the continued use of the site. The only longer term solution for this site is to relocate Ben Rhydding Sports Club, however, should be considered as an option within the Local Plan.

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A previous opportunity highlighted for development of a new hockey suitable AGP by University of Bradford is now progressing. Further feasibility is required to determine whether the location identified (adjacent to the University at Dixons McMillan Academy) is suitable. This could present a real opportunity for partnership working between the University and clubs including Bradford HC to secure their longer term security of tenure.

Although not progressed in the last 12 months, Titus Salt School has ambitions to replace its current full-size, sand dressed AGP with a 3G pitch due to its poor quality. However, the pitch has previously been used for hockey and as such it would need to work with England Hockey to ensure the needs of hockey continue to be met elsewhere if this scheme were to progress.

Carlton Bolling College AGP remains poor quality, however, it is being used by Bradford HC. The action should remain to improve the quality of this pitch, although this should be done in the context of other longer term options for the Club and new opportunities that are emerging for new AGP provision in the Area. This includes a new AGP being provided at Leeds West Academy located just 13 minutes away.

The following recommendations have been updated to reflect the changes to the hockey landscape in Bradford since completion of the Strategy:

Recommendations

- ◀ Support feasibility study to determine whether the location identified for a new AGP by University of Bradford (adjacent to the University at Dixons McMillan Academy) is suitable.
- ◀ Continue to support development of a full size hockey AGP at Holy Family Catholic School in partnership with Aire Valley HC.
- ◀ Seek to secure formal community use agreements for all clubs playing in Bradford to ensure continued hockey usage.
- ◀ Further explore the feasibility of new hockey suitable provision at University of Bradford linking a number of clubs to use of the site.
- ◀ Further consider the future use of the AGP at Titus Salt School and Carlton Bolling for hockey if the long term security of tenure is achieved at other sites (including new provision).
- ◀ Secure increased access to midweek and non-peak time capacity to allow for both growth in training demand and development and delivery of alternative hockey formats, such as short format matches/leagues and less formal participation-based sessions.
- ◀ Ensure that future demand from new England Hockey initiative, Hockey Heroes (aimed at growing participation for under 10s) can be accommodated.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a mechanism for sustainability such as a sinking fund, (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface repair or replacement when required) in place to maintain AGP pitch quality in the long term.

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Tennis

2019 PPS position:

There is currently sufficient supply of tennis courts in Bradford District to meet current and future club demand expressed.

However, most Council managed courts in the District are of poor quality which is likely to result in the high levels of latent demand expressed.

The overall position for tennis remains unchanged to that identified in the Strategy. However, improvements which have been made over the last 12 months include the resurfacing of two courts (out of eight) at Northcliffe Park and Beckfoot & Bingley TC (Bingley Congregational Cricket Club) has added floodlights on two of its courts. Other changes to supply include at Brackenhill Park where two courts are being reduced to one, but quality is being improved on the remaining court.

Increasing quality and access to parks and publicly accessible tennis courts remains a strategic priority for the LTA.

In October 2021, the Government and the LTA announced a package of £30 million for investment and improvements for public tennis courts. The Government is to put £22 million whilst the LTA invest £8.4 million into the package. The investment is to be made into public tennis courts which are currently accessed as poor or unplayable quality, the investment will be to bring the courts back to a quality that will benefit the local community.

Coupled with an approach to the Council's Sports Pitches Investment Programme, there is now an opportunity to secure funding to improve the quality of Council managed courts throughout Bradford (linked to the high amount of latent demand) and to create sustainable provision and programmes.

The LTA provides support for local authorities to grow the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access, which are further detailed below.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◀ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ◀ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◀ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package.
- ◀ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◀ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.

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- ◀ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

RALLY

Rally is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Rally provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Gate Access

The LTA has developed two gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

Club tennis

The tennis club network in Bradford has generally remained static throughout 2021 and as such it is likely that Eldwick Tennis Club (not LTA registered) is still being overplayed. Floodlighting would still help to address this. As detailed earlier, Beckfoot & Bingley TC (Bingley Congregational Cricket Club) has now added floodlights on two of its courts.

The LTA reports that St Peters TC is struggling to sustain membership and would benefit from further improvement and subsequent promotion of its courts.

Padel

One of the LTA's key strategies is to find new ways to grow participation and padel is an innovative format of tennis that is fun, flexible, easy to play and extremely sociable. Padel is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities, as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

Padel has been integrated into the LTA and is recognised as a format of tennis. This has provided a platform to facilitate the growth of the sport, with tennis venues throughout the

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Country exploring the potential opportunities it can bring to a facility. The LTA plans to grow padel through:

- ◀ organic growth through tennis clubs, parks, LA's and education sites (70%)
- ◀ partnership growth through leisure operators, existing CITC's and new CITC's
- ◀ new growth through padel only operators and new sectors including squash, real tennis, football and golf

Ilkley LTC is actively developing Padel and its likely that there are further opportunities at other clubs in Bradford where this may be option to explore.

The recommendations have been updated to reflect the emerging opportunities for future investment in public tennis courts.

Recommendations

- ◀ Increase quality and access to parks and publicly accessible tennis courts as a priority.
- ◀ Pursue the strategic development of key tennis sites to achieve a network of sustainable, fit for purpose and accessible community courts across the District to help address latent demand.
- ◀ Improvements should include, resurfacing, floodlighting and implementation of the LTA Clubspark system.
- ◀ Explore opportunity to develop a recreational opportunities within Bradford; to coincide with the development of an online booking system.
- ◀ As required, improve tennis club sites and assist community clubs in accessing funding for the refurbishment of courts (as required).
- ◀ Explore options for floodlighting at Eldwick Tennis Club to address overplay at the site and provide future capacity.
- ◀ Support clubs (as required to improve ancillary facilities to ensure they remain fit for purpose.
- ◀ Identify opportunities for club links and engage with education sites to establish greater community use for access to tennis courts.

Athletics

2019 PPS position:

Key priority for formal athletics facilities should be to secure long-term tenure and management responsibility for Bradford athletics clubs through formal agreement, thus giving the Club confidence to invest in improving facilities and track quality onsite.

In addition, a requirement to resurface the track at Horsfall Stadium should be addressed in the shorter term to enable the track to continue to service demand in the south of the District.

The overall position for athletics remains unchanged to that identified in the Strategy.

The main issue highlighted was at the Horsfall Stadium Athletics Track, which is rated as poor quality. If this is bought back to NGB club training standards England Athletics (EA) considers that it allows athletics in the area to flourish by servicing clubs and communities in and around the Bradford City area.

Since completion of the Strategy, the Horsfall Community Stadium Development Project has seen provision of a new Stadia 3G pitch (including new site boundary security fencing around the Stadium area), with Bradford Park Avenue AFC taking on a 35-year lease from the Council. Having opened in September 2020, the Stadium will also continue to be the

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base for Bradford Airedale Athletics Club (current membership 55) with plans in place to invest in the athletics facilities too. This opportunity now needs to be realised and a plan put in place for improvements to occur. A total of 363 members use the track with additional use by Eccleshill Road Runners (67 members) and Halifax Harriers & AC (241 members).

It remains imperative that a sustainable business model is adopted to ensure that income generation from the track also helps to maintain (and further future improvements) the facility itself. Further to this, there is also a recognised need for Bradford Airedale Athletics Club to continue to increase its membership.

The shorter track facility at Bradford & Bingley Sports Club (rear of Beckfoot and Hazelbeck School) has a good set up with use by Bingley Harriers & AC and is operating with 242 members, indicating that this should be protected as it represents not only a well-used facility for track and field athletics but also for a variety of other users including for cycling and football. Inspection report now needed.

The facility at University Academy Keighley (UKA) in Keighley is a good multi-sport model and supports clubs and communities in the West/North West of the local authority area. That said, the venue does need to commence working towards UKAs TrackMark accreditation⁴ to ensure that facilities meet minimum governing body standards. There is also an opportunity to explore an extension for throwing disciplines. Usage by several clubs at this site totals 658. This includes use by Bradford Keighley & Skipton Disability Athletics which is dedicated to improving the access for sport & physical activity for all disabled people across Bradford.

EA identifies areas to the North of the District around the Ilkley area are outside the drivetime zones of both the above facilities and would benefit from an entry level compact/mini track facilities and/or synthetic running loop and EA would support any potential developments in this area.

Opportunities should also be explored for athletics/running to be introduced as part of major development schemes in the future such as at Myra Shay and Marley Sports Centre. This could include, for example, a compact facility or installation of active routes to encourage Active Travel as part of the scheme.

The following recommendations have been slightly updated to reflect the above changes.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect and enhance the 400m outdoor facilities at Horsfall Stadium and University Academy Keighley (UAK).
- ◀ Both facilities to achieve UKAs TrackMark standard.
- ◀ Look to carry out a full track resurface at Horsfall Stadium and engage with Bradford Park Avenue AFC to ensure this progresses.
- ◀ Ensure a sustainable business model is adopted to manage and maintain the track, including promotion of greater usage other than from the AC.
- ◀ Sustain the quality of the track at University Academy Keighley by continuing with the existing maintenance regime.
- ◀ Improve the ancillary facilities available to all clubs and respective home venues ensuring that they meet all health and safety compliance.
- ◀ Support all track and field clubs with plans to increase membership and community engagement, particularly Airedale AC which has the lowest membership figures.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for innovative facilities in the North of the local authority (Ilkley).

⁴<https://www.englandathletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/news/trackmark-supporting-clubs-by-improving-and-maintaining-standards/>

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- ◀ Explore establishing a second Junior Parkrun event within the District given that only one currently exists and that opportunities for junior is limited outside of traditional club settings.
- ◀ Support the running clubs and running events taking place as well as exploring the implementation of initiatives not currently serviced to increase participation in recreational running.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for greater provision for athletics and running as part of major future development schemes such as at Myra Shay and Marley Sports Centre.

Bowls

2019 PPS position:
Overall existing supply of bowling greens is sufficient for both current and future demand in Bradford.
Demand for bowls appears to be particularly high in Shipley Analysis Area with three greens being overplayed beyond their recommended capacity by a potential total of 86 members.

There have been some significant changes to the supply (and likely demand) of bowling greens in Bradford. This is likely to have had an impact on the overall position and requires further supply and demand analysis to be carried out.

In total, 12 Council greens have now closed. Changes which have occurred since the previous PPS include that Horton Park (three greens), Lister Park (three greens), Greengates (one green) and Whinswood (one green) have all closed. Further to this, Bowling and Peel parks now have only two active greens and Northcliffe has one.

The above has also impacted on demand with several clubs folding and its likely that there has been a further reduction in the number of active bowlers playing in the District. Five parks' clubs have folded: Harold Park, Horton Park, Lister Park and Whinswood and in 2021 season Greengates. Additionally, some clubs have reported a reduction in membership particularly parks clubs over the Covid-19 period coupled with vandalism at some sites and people finding alternative things to do. During 2021 season there were 10 clubs with under 20 members and it is unlikely that these clubs will be able to continue to sustain maintenance costs.

Green maintenance continues to be a significant issue and to provide some context albeit not a direct comparison with the previous PPS (as this data was not available at the time), in 2016 there were 39 clubs playing and paying towards maintaining Council greens. There are now 26 clubs under direct Council maintenance with eight having opted out to maintain their own either contracting the work out or doing it themselves. A further three clubs have been taken over by parish/town Councils. However, Queensbury and Brackenhill which are fully self-managed report that they need maintenance support from a contractor.

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Although it remains difficult to find alternative uses for the closed greens (with the exception of one green at Lister Park where a multi gym is being installed) several of the bowling pavilions are now being used including, for example, Horton Park pavilion which is being used by the Youth Service and Harold Park pavilion which is being used by the Friends of Group.

Although the following recommendations remain valid, there is a need to further analyse the impact of the reduction in the number of bowling greens and participation.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality at used greens as required, including at Silsden Park (as identified by the Club) and Northcliffe where fencing around the green is required.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities at Crossroads Park, Haworth Park, Victoria Park, Oxenhope CC and Mertle Park BC.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised to protect existing greens.
- ◀ Continue to seek alternative uses for closed greens and pavilions.

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CONCLUSIONS

- ◀ There have been (and will be over the next 12 months) considerable changes to both the supply and demand position for many outdoor sports in Bradford and it is likely that the supply and demand balance will need updating to realise the full impact of this.
- ◀ There has been an increase in demand for football, with significantly more teams playing in the District, one impact of this is an increase in the shortfall of 3G pitches across the District (even with provision of two new 3G pitches since 2019).
- ◀ Several capital projects are now progressing, most notable of these is the NTP scheme for cricket which will see nine park sites benefit from new provision in 2022. New facilities at Wyke Manor will be available from Spring 2022.
- ◀ Once new provision is implemented, there will be a need to fully update the supply and demand assessment for all pitch sports to assess the impact on the current/future supply and demand position.
- ◀ For rugby league, future increase in access to 3G pitches is likely to reduce overplay on grass pitches and the impact of this should be realised over the 12 months.
- ◀ New opportunities for hockey are being progressed at University of Bradford which could see development of new provision.
- ◀ Potential funding opportunities for tennis have been highlighted to secure funding to improve the quality of Council managed courts throughout Bradford.
- ◀ For bowls, there has likely been a decline in membership and coupled with a reduction in the number of Council bowling greens available, there is a need to fully assess the future supply and demand.
- ◀ A number of sites are highlighted as suffering from ongoing flooding issues and there is a need to consider long term solutions including in the context of exploring potential relocation options in the new Local Plan. These sites include Ben Rhydding Sports Club, Ilkley RFC and Bradford & Bingley Sports & Social Club.
- ◀ Linked to Government investment, there will be future investment opportunities linked to multi-sport provision and sports should seek to identify key sites which could benefit from future funding.
- ◀ A new PPS should also take account of growth set out in the Local Plan, both in terms of the demographic changes and locational implications.

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STRATEGIC CONTEXT UPDATED

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.
- ◀ 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:

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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 (updated 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.

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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 is presently in draft and is due for publication in 2018.

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 the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

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Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

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. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an 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: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)

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
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

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Grow and nurture the core

- ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
- ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
- ◀ Invest in club facilities
- ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
- ◀ Further invest in County Competitions

Inspire through elite teams

- ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
- ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
- ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
- ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans

Make cricket accessible

- ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
- ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
- ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
- ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
- ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition

Engage children and young people

- ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
- ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
- ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people

Transform women's and girls' cricket

- ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
- ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
- ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
- ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme

Support our communities

- ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
- ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
- ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
- ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2021)

The RFU has released its new strategic vision, which is to achieve 'a successful and thriving game across England'. The strategy can be found [here](#).

It identifies four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives', to form priority focuses for the strategy. It believes that these objectives will make the greatest substantive improvements to the game and investment will be aligned to these areas.

Game objectives

- ◀ **Enjoyment** – Enable positive player experiences on and off the field.
- ◀ **Winning England** – Create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby.
- ◀ **Welfare** – Enhance players welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players.

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- ◀ **Flourishing rugby communities** – Support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society.

Driving objectives

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

A number of aims, identified as key to the achievement of these main objectives, are particularly relevant to facilities. The provision of good quality and suitable rugby union facilities will help to achieve these aims and in turn objectives:

- ◀ **Enjoyment** – Improve accessibility for women and girls across the game.
- ◀ **Enjoyment** – Make the game inclusive and attractive for 14 to 18 year olds.
- ◀ **Flourishing rugby communities** – Provide support to help clubs maximise the benefit from their facilities and assets.
- ◀ **Diversity & Inclusion** – Improve the diversity of all facets of our game and continue to create an inclusive environment for all.

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 – 2017

Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2022' Legacy Programme

The Rugby League World Cup 2022 has a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport

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England, is part of RLWC 2022's ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

England Hockey Strategy

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

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.

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Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

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

Objectives

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

Strategies

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

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

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

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

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

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

British Crown Green Bowling Association

Please note there is no current facility guidance provided by British Crown Green Bowling Association responsible for crown green bowls in England. More information can be found on its website <https://www.bcgba.org.uk/>

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DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

Delivery

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

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

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach.

Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the steering group should not end with the completion of the PPS document

To help ensure the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved the steering group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

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

Monitoring and updating

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

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

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The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for outdoor sports facilities will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Discussion with the league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings which it may be useful to attend to pick up any specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.


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

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

Checklist

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

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

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?		

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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?		