



# DACORUM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

2015 - 2025

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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# DACORUM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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# DACORUM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Dacorum building upon the preceding Outdoor Leisure Facilities Study Assessment Report (September 2014).

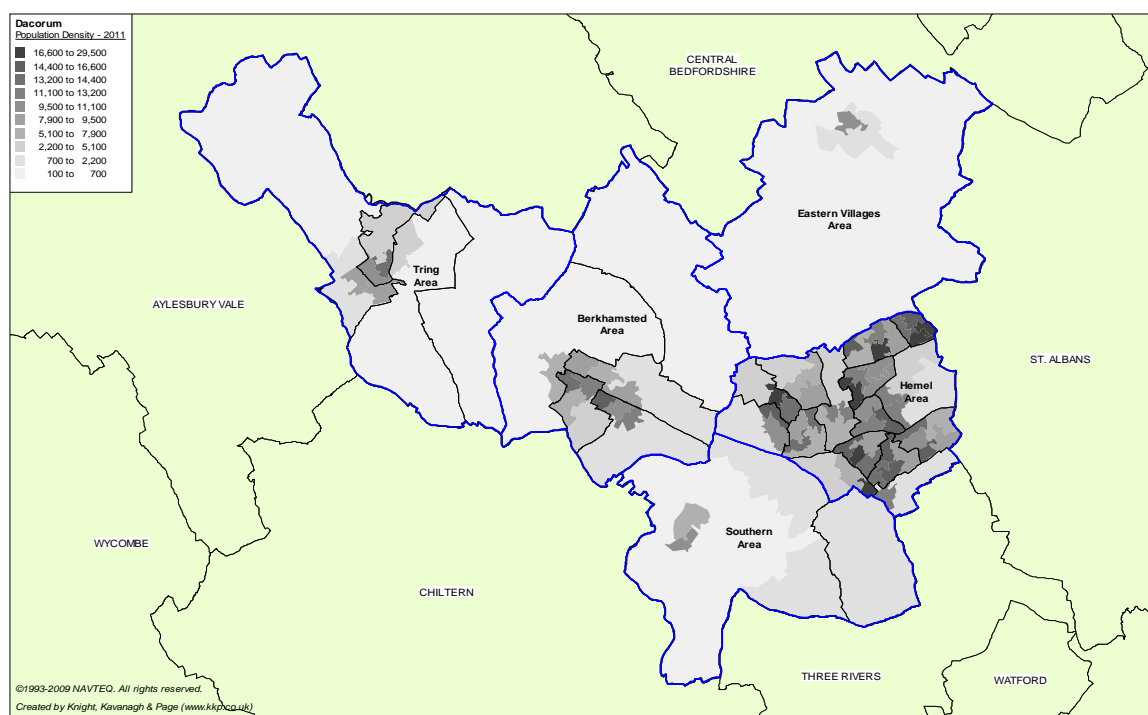
The PPS provides a clear, strategic framework for the improvement of existing playing pitches/ancillary facilities and provision of new pitches/facilities over the next ten years from 2015-2025<sup>1</sup>. It covers the following playing pitches and outdoor pitch sports:

- ▶ Football pitches (grass and third generation turf (3G))
- ▶ Cricket pitches
- ▶ Rugby union pitches
- ▶ Hockey pitches (artificial grass pitches (AGPs))
- ▶ Bowling greens
- ▶ Tennis courts
- ▶ Bowling greens
- ▶ Netball courts
- ▶ Athletics tracks
- ▶ Golf courses

### Study area

As agreed with the Steering Group, the study area across Dacorum is sub divided into five analysis areas: Berkhamsted, Eastern Villages, Hemel Hempstead, Southern and Tring. Analysis areas allow more localised assessment of provision and examination of facility surplus and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

Figure 1.1 Map of analysis areas



<sup>1</sup> (S) - Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

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## Structure

This PPS has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within Dacorum to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of sites containing outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development of outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan (where action is deemed necessary).

The PPS recommends a number of priority projects for Dacorum, which should be implemented from 2015 to 2025. These are outlined to provide a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding will be identified.

The recommendations that come out of the PPS may inform local planning policy and can support the local planning evidence base so there is a policy mechanism to support delivery and secure provision/investment where the opportunity arises.

There is a need to build key partnerships between the Council, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Sport England, schools, further education providers, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of Section 106 Agreements/Community Infrastructure Levy)<sup>2</sup>. This document will provide clarity about the way forward, and allow key organisations to focus on the key issues that they can directly influence and achieve.

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<sup>2</sup> *Dacorum Borough Council's CIL charging schedule was adopted on 25th February and will be implemented as of 1st July 2015.*

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## PART 2: SPORT BY SPORT KEY ISSUES

This section summarises the key issues identified from the Assessment Report. The PPS has been developed in recognition of the consultation findings whilst drawing upon a core series of objectives which should be applied across the board and should not be attributed to any one particular type of facility or sport. This includes the need to understand any change in circumstances since completion of the Assessment Report in 2014. A glossary of terms is available in Appendix Three to define terms used in the following section.

### Football (grass pitches)

The tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions.

#### *Spare capacity of adult pitches (match equivalent sessions per week)*

| Analysis area    | Actual spare capacity (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions) |               |               |                    |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
|                  |  | Overplay                | Latent demand | Future demand | Total <sup>3</sup> |
| Berkhamsted      | 6.5                                    | 1                       | 4             | 1.5           | 0                  |
| Eastern Villages | 3.5                                    | -                       | -             | 0.5           | 3                  |
| Hemel            | 29.5                                   | 2                       | 6             | 5.5           | 16                 |
| Southern Area    | 4.5                                    | 6                       | 1             | 0.5           | -3                 |
| Tring            | 17                                     | 0.5                     | -             | 1.5           | 15                 |
| <b>DACORUM</b>   | <b>61</b>                              | <b>9.5</b>              | <b>11</b>     | <b>9.5</b>    | <b>31</b>          |

The table highlights that overall in Dacorum there are sufficient adult pitches available. However, in terms of concentration of demand, there is a need for additional pitches in the Southern Area (3 match sessions equals 1.5 additional pitches<sup>4</sup>).

Although some spare capacity should be retained to rest and rotate pitches in order to maintain pitch quality, there remains spare capacity of at least 20 match sessions per week or 10 adult pitches. Spare capacity of adult pitches could also be used to meet shortfalls for youth and mini football pitches in the first instance.

#### *Spare capacity of youth pitches (match equivalent sessions per week)*

| Analysis area    | Actual spare capacity (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions) |               |               |          |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
|                  |  | Overplay                | Latent demand | Future demand | Total    |
| Berkhamsted      | 8                                      | 1                       | 2             | 2             | 3        |
| Eastern Villages | 2.5                                    | -                       | -             | 0.5           | 2        |
| Hemel            | 13.5                                   | 0.5                     | 4             | 3             | 6        |
| Southern Area    | 2                                      | 2.5                     | 4             | 1.5           | -6       |
| Tring            | 2                                      | 3                       | 1             | 2             | -4       |
| <b>DACORUM</b>   | <b>28</b>                              | <b>7</b>                | <b>11</b>     | <b>9</b>      | <b>1</b> |

<sup>3</sup> Totals are calculated by taking the demand figures (overplay, latent and future) away from actual spare capacity and are rounded up. Figures are taken from the Assessment Report (Table 2.11 and Table 2.12 for football).

<sup>4</sup> Based on one pitch accommodating two match sessions per week with one team playing on a home and away basis at peak time.

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The table highlights that overall in Dacorum there are just about sufficient youth pitches available. Some spare capacity should be retained to rest and rotate pitches in order to maintain pitch quality. There is a need for additional pitches in Southern Area (3 pitches) and Tring (2 pitches).

*Spare capacity of mini pitches (match equivalent sessions per week)*

| Analysis area    | Actual spare capacity<br>(match sessions) | Demand (match sessions) |               |               |           |
|------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
|                  |   | Overplay                | Latent demand | Future demand | Total     |
| Berkhamsted      | 13  | -                       | -             | 2             | 11        |
| Eastern Villages | 1   | -                       | -             | 0             | 1         |
| Hemel            | 12.5                                      | 7                       | -             | 2.5           | 3         |
| Southern Area    | 2   | 3                       | 2             | 2             | -5        |
| Tring            | 1   | -                       | -             | 1             | 0         |
| <b>DACORUM</b>   | <b>29.5</b>                               | <b>10</b>               | <b>2</b>      | <b>7.5</b>    | <b>10</b> |

The table highlights that overall in Dacorum there are sufficient mini pitches available. There is a need for additional pitches in Southern Area (2.5 pitches<sup>5</sup>). The spare capacity expressed should be retained to rest and rotate pitches in order to maintain pitch quality.

### Summary

- ✦ The audit identifies 65 sites providing grass football pitches currently available for community use in Dacorum, providing a total of 155 pitches.
- ✦ Seven sites are highlighted as available for community use, but currently have no registered regular competitive play. Three quarters of these sites are education owned.
- ✦ It is felt by the local sports community that it is not realistic to rely on more access to school facilities due to a range of issues such as care takers, pitch quality, availability of ancillary facilities and health and safety concerns.
- ✦ Almost three quarters (72%) of grass football pitches in Dacorum, that are available for community use are rating as standard quality, with only 4% rated as poor. Users generally agree that pitch quality is either standard or good.
- ✦ 16 clubs playing in Dacorum identify that they could produce more teams if they had access to better quality ancillary facilities. Changing provision at Council sites are most often reported by clubs to be poor quality with Grovehill Playing Fields commonly referred to.
- ✦ There are 371 football teams playing in Dacorum in the 2013/14 season with most playing in Hemel Analysis Area.
- ✦ Eleven clubs playing in Dacorum express latent demand for a total of ten pitches.
- ✦ A further ten clubs play fixtures outside of Dacorum with Bovingdon Juniors FC being most affected. This equates to a further requirement of 12.5 pitches.
- ✦ 95 pitches are available for use within the peak period. Most of these pitches are senior sized (51). Warners End Valley expresses most spare capacity at peak time (seven pitches).
- ✦ Existing demand i.e. overplay, latent and displaced demand can be met through existing stock (dependent upon the ability to improve the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities).

<sup>5</sup> Based on one pitch accommodating two match sessions per week with one team playing on a home and away basis at peak time.

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- Future demand would then need to be met through the provision of new pitches. Additional future teams equates to the need for five senior, five youth and four mini pitches.

### Football (3G pitches)

#### Summary

- There are three full size AGPs in Dacorum that are available for community use. Two of which are 3G and suitable to accommodate football (although the sand based AGP is also used for football training). There is no 3G currently servicing Tring.
- The FA model suggests a need for four more full size floodlit 3G pitch to service current football training demand in Dacorum. This is further reiterated through local demand, although pricing is also a key factor for clubs.
- Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) suggests that there is a need for at least one more AGP to service football.
- In summary, there is current demand for at least one additional full size floodlit 3G pitch in Dacorum. However, if demand increases to play competitive fixtures on 3G pitches and the quality of grass pitches deteriorates further, there will be a need for more 3G pitches (up to three).

### Cricket

The table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for cricket pitches. The number match sessions from the Assessment Report has been converted into pitch equivalent based on the ECB guidance of 5 matches per season per grass wicket and the average of ten wickets per pitch.

#### Capacity of cricket pitches

| Analysis area    | Actual spare capacity (pitches) | Demand (pitches)      |               |               |           |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
|                  |                                 | Overplay <sup>6</sup> | Latent demand | Future demand | Total     |
| Berkhamsted      | 2                               | 3                     | -             | 1             | -2        |
| Eastern Villages | 2                               | 0                     | -             | -             | 2         |
| Hemel            | 2                               | 3                     | -             | 1             | -2        |
| Southern Area    | 0                               | 1                     | -             | 1             | -2        |
| Tring            | 1                               | 1                     | -             | 1             | -1        |
| <b>DACORUM</b>   | <b>7</b>                        | <b>8</b>              | <b>-</b>      | <b>4</b>      | <b>-5</b> |

The table above shows that there is a borough wide shortage of 5 cricket pitches (based on an average pitch containing 10 wickets) taking into account overplay and future demand.

In addition displaced demand in Dacorum equates to the need for a further 2.5 cricket pitches to be provided. However, the quality of some existing pitches and associated ancillary facilities may be affecting clubs willingness to use them.

<sup>6</sup> Matches per season overplay is converted to pitches on the basis of 5 matches per season being the capacity of a grass wicket and there being on average 10 wickets per pitch. Figures are rounded up/down to the nearest full pitch.

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## Summary

- ◀ There are 40 cricket pitches available for community use in Dacorum, accommodating 208 teams (including senior men, women and juniors).
- ◀ Non-technical site assessments generally score the quality of available cricket pitches as poor (46%) or standard (49%) quality.
- ◀ The majority of clubs have security of tenure on the site they are based. Bourne End CC is currently renegotiating the lease on its ground. Flamstead Cricket Club indicate no lease on the facility, however, this will be crucial to attract funding for the planned developments.
- ◀ Education sites offer a significant supply of cricket pitches within Dacorum, most of which are available for community use. However, most are artificial wickets of poor quality and in addition, artificial pitches limits usability for adult cricket.
- ◀ In order to accommodate displaced and future demand, improving pitch quality at school and local authority sites might help meet the expressed demand.
- ◀ Furthermore, education sites are not always accessible in practice to clubs, due to school policy, lack of ancillary facilities or logistical arrangements, so are not a realistic solution to the lack of provision.
- ◀ Nine sites are being overplayed to accommodate the amount of teams and matches. The capacity at Hemel Hempstead Cricket Club is due to increase next season when the new pitch becomes available. The quality of these overplayed pitches is likely to be affected.
- ◀ After taking into account actual spare capacity (albeit quality issues need to be addressed), there is still a need to provide 7.5 cricket pitches in Dacorum to meet overplay and displaced demand.

## Rugby union

The tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions.

### Capacity of senior pitches (match equivalent sessions per week)

| Analysis area    | Actual spare capacity (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions) |               |               |                    |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
|                  |  | Overplay                | Latent demand | Future demand | Total <sup>7</sup> |
| Berkhamsted      | -                                      | -                       | -             | -             | -                  |
| Eastern Villages | -                                      | -                       | -             | -             | -                  |
| Hemel            | -                                      | 2.5                     | -             | 0.5           | -3                 |
| Southern Area    | -                                      | -                       | -             | -             | -                  |
| Tring            | -                                      | 3                       | -             | 1             | -4                 |
| <b>DACORUM</b>   | -                                      | <b>5.5</b>              | -             | <b>1.5</b>    | <b>-7</b>          |

Overplay identified can be attributed to training sessions taking place on match pitches. Overall there is a need for 3.5 adult rugby pitches to meet current and future demand in Dacorum (2 in Tring and 1.5 in Hemel) – based on one pitch accommodating two match sessions per week with one team playing on a home and away basis at peak time.

<sup>7</sup> Figures rounded up/down to the nearest pitch



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This is due to both clubs needing significant investment to either source further pitches or invest in current pitches to increase the standard therefore increase the capacity of the pitches

Berkhamsted RFC is a relatively new club with major potential to grow in the medium term. The Club will require a site to be able to develop to cater for this predicted growth.

Although some pitches are identified as having spare capacity, there is no actual spare capacity for these pitches to be used within the peak period. Improving pitch quality may go some way towards increasing capacity. However, in the longer term new pitches will be required to meet demand expressed. A 3G pitch would accommodate a large proportion of training sessions.

In addition, although latent demand is not quantified as such, Tring RFC is short of pitches to accommodate both current and future demand and has actively been pursuing land options to be able to create more pitches, including converting nearby agricultural land into pitches.

*Capacity of mini/midi pitches (match equivalent sessions per week)*

| Analysis area    | Actual spare capacity (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions) |               |               |                    |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
|                  |  | Overplay                | Latent demand | Future demand | Total <sup>8</sup> |
| Berkhamsted      | -                                      | -                       | -             | -             | -                  |
| Eastern Villages | -                                      | -                       | -             | -             | -                  |
| Hemel            | -                                      | -                       | -             | 2             | -2                 |
| Southern Area    | -                                      | -                       | -             | -             | -                  |
| Tring            | -                                      | 11                      | -             | 3             | -14                |
| <b>DACORUM</b>   | -                                      | <b>11</b>               | -             | <b>5</b>      | <b>-16</b>         |

Primarily due to significant overplay at Tring RFC, there is a need to provide 7 mini/midi pitches<sup>9</sup> to meet current and future demand and a further one pitch in Hemel to meet future demand. A separate training facility may contribute to solving this over play issue in the area.

### Summary

- ◀ There are 37 grass rugby union pitches in Dacorum located across 13 sites in Dacorum. These are all available for community use and 20 are used. The remaining 17 pitches are all located on education sites and are available but unused for community use according to the providers.
- ◀ The three clubs playing in Dacorum provide a total of 80 teams. In addition to this, Hemel RFC also has a women's team.
- ◀ Berkhamsted is a new club with the potential to grow into a large club and will need a site to support this.
- ◀ Although some improvements may be required to drainage systems, the quality of club pitches across Dacorum is generally good.

<sup>8</sup> Figures rounded up/down to the nearest pitch

<sup>9</sup> Based on one pitch accommodating two match sessions per week with one team playing on a home and away basis at peak time.

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- ◀ The poor quality of school sites relates to a lack of usage by rugby clubs i.e. Tring School and Berkhamsted School. According to rugby clubs, education sites are also unused because they do not have changing rooms or toilets open at the weekend and are substandard for club usage.
- ◀ It should be recognised for rugby, as a sport that is almost entirely based around club sites that use off-site school rugby pitches to meet needs is not usually a desirable long term option due to the potential club fragmentation issues that this creates.
- ◀ Tring RFC is short of pitches to accommodate both current and future demand and has actively been pursuing land options to be able to create more pitches, including converting nearby agricultural land into pitches.
- ◀ There is no peak time spare capacity within the existing used stock of rugby union pitches to accommodate further usage.
- ◀ Overplay expressed on pitches in Dacorum is predominately due to training sessions being held on match pitches.
- ◀ The provision of a rugby AGP for training sessions in particular would help reduce the demand on current over played pitches. Located in Tring this would receive significant demand for rugby activity. Potential partners include Hemel RFC and Tring Athletic FC.

### Rugby league

- ◀ There is one rugby league club in Dacorum, Hemel Stags RLFC, providing rugby league activity for the whole area. The ground has a first team pitch which has floodlights and seating to meet league requirements.
- ◀ The second and third pitches are essential for all other club and school based rugby league.
- ◀ The Club provides ancillary facilities for teams playing at Pennine Way which has an impact on the Club and is not a sustainable situation.
- ◀ There is no planned expansion and the Club currently has playing facilities to meet the requirements of the sport in Dacorum.
- ◀ The ancillary facilities need investment to support club activity
- ◀ There is no demand for additional pitches. However, should a 3G pitch be developed for rugby union, then both codes would work together to benefit from the development.
- ◀ It will be important to keep the pitches to a useable standard to ensure the sport continues in Dacorum.

### Hockey

- ◀ There is one full size sand based AGP at Tring Secondary School which is suitable to accommodate competitive hockey. The pitch is assessed as good quality. There are also two small sized AGPs suitable for hockey training (at Berkhamsted School and the Hemel Hempstead School).
- ◀ The Berkhamsted School is available for hockey training in the evenings but cannot be used due to a lack of floodlighting.
- ◀ In total, two clubs play competitive fixtures in Dacorum, fielding a total of 24 teams.
- ◀ Both clubs access facilities outside of Dacorum for training and competitive fixtures because there is no spare capacity on the AGP in Dacorum.
- ◀ Travelling to access provision for both training and competitive opportunities is limiting the potential of both clubs.
- ◀ Sport England modelling suggests there is insufficient pitch space in Dacorum to meet demand from hockey. Unmet and displaced demand would need to be met through provision of one additional full size AGP.

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### Tennis

- ◀ There are 94 courts across 24 sites in Dacorum that are available for community use.
- ◀ The quality at private tennis clubs tends to be better than local authority provision.
- ◀ Membership in clubs has generally increased this season, which could be due to the Wimbledon effect.
- ◀ Clubs are generally operating at capacity and additional courts at facilities will be necessary to increase membership figures further, particularly at Tring and Langley clubs.
- ◀ Increasing floodlighting and indoor provision would help to sustain participation.
- ◀ Leverstock Green Tennis Club currently has an adequate number of courts, with growing membership. It is investigating how to further develop tennis for the community, which may include a move to a larger facility. The Club has identified indoor courts as a priority for future growth; however, this is unlikely on the current site.
- ◀ Langley Tennis Club is not able to secure any funds for facility development unless the lease they are granted from Abbots Hill School is lengthened. Alternatively, the club will move to another site, preferably within the area. The Club also need additional court access (floodlit/indoors) to continue to grow.
- ◀ Tring Park Tennis Club also wish to improve facilities (which may include indoor courts) and expand community programmes).
- ◀ Research also suggests that more people would participate in tennis (pay and play opportunities in particular) if there were better awareness and promotion of where and how to play.
- ◀ The LTA's new participation strategy aims to increase tennis participation across community, club and education environments. On the community side the LTA is working with a growing number of Local Authorities, including St. Albans, to increase tennis participation on community sites, especially parks. In the club sector, we are supporting progressive venues to maximise the opportunities to grow their membership and programme numbers, including supporting with facility developments. Leverstock Green, Langley, Tring and Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club all offer significant opportunities in this area.

### Bowls

- ◀ There are ten bowling greens in Dacorum, located across a range of sites including parks and private clubs.
- ◀ Site assessments and users rate all bowling greens in Dacorum as good quality.
- ◀ Clubs all agree that investment in maintenance would increase the quality of greens further.
- ◀ There has been an increase in the number of teams participating in the previous three years in half of the clubs.
- ◀ Only two clubs cite a decline in membership and both have plans to reverse this trend.
- ◀ It is not thought likely that current and future demand for bowls will result in the need for new provision.

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### Netball

- ◀ In total 71 outdoor netball courts are identified across 37 sites in Dacorum.
- ◀ There are seven sites with four or more courts.
- ◀ Local leagues are centrally located venues and use multi court venues with 4+ courts.
- ◀ The cost of hire is an issue for clubs that are charged up to £28 per court per hour for Sport Space courts.
- ◀ There are enough netball courts in Dacorum to service current demand. However, there is a significant deficiency in the quality of the courts, with very few meeting EN Category 2 classification standard. In addition, a number of teams are accessing competition out of the Borough.
- ◀ Potential Dacorum venues for local leagues do not provide quality courts or adequate ancillary facilities such as changing, toilets and parking to an acceptable level.
- ◀ The development work taking place, especially in Tring, will increase the demand on courts in the future.
- ◀ There is demand in Dacorum for improved quality in the current provision of outdoor netball multi court venues, with access to indoor courts for training.

### Athletics

- ◀ Dacorum athletics track is located at Jarmans Park in Hemel and services the whole of the Borough and also into neighbouring St Albans.
- ◀ It contains an eight lane fully floodlit 400m track that was resurfaced two years ago and has seating for over 200 people.
- ◀ The stadium/track is well used and is home to Dacorum & Tring Athletic Club. However, it operates as a standalone facility and concerns have been raised over the long term sustainability of the facility.

### Golf

- ◀ There are four golf courses in Dacorum, Ashridge, Berkhamsted, Little Hay and Shendish. All provide 18 hole courses with Shendish providing an additional separate 9 hole course. Little Hay Golf Complex is the only public golf course.
- ◀ As is now generally the case at golf clubs, there is no waiting list to join and demand has remained static over the past three years and is not expected to significantly increase.
- ◀ Catchment based mapping also shows that there are no significant gaps in demand for golf provision.

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## PART 3: CONTEXT

This PPS is intended to follow on from the completion of the Outdoor Leisure Facilities Study Assessment Report (September 2014) and to form part of the evidence base for an Early Partial Review of the Core Strategy, which was adopted in September 2013. It will also inform a more detailed consideration of leisure needs for both the Site Allocations Development Plan Document ('DPD') in terms of strategic planning and, more broadly, to assist in the delivery of the Council's other corporate objectives relating to leisure and sports provisions.

### **Planning policy context:**

In preparation of the PPS, consideration will be given to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), the development plan for Dacorum and relevant standards and guidance in relation to leisure and sport facilities within England.

#### *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):*

The NPPF recommends that planning policies should be based on robust up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provisions (paragraph 73). Additionally, paragraph 74 of the NPPF emphasises that existing open space, sports and recreational facilities and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

#### *Dacorum's Local Planning Framework Core Strategy (2006-2031):*

The Core Strategy is the principal document within the Council's Local Planning Framework (as illustrated below) and sets out the planning policy framework which guides the local level and type of development within the Borough. Of particular importance to this study is Core Strategy Policy CS23 which states the following:

#### *POLICY CS23: Social Infrastructure*

Social infrastructure providing services and facilities to the community will be encouraged.

New infrastructure will be:

- ◀ located to aid accessibility; and
- ◀ designed to allow for different activities

The dual use of new and existing facilities will be encouraged wherever possible.

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The provision of new school facilities will be supported on Open Land and in defined zones in the Green Belt. Zones will be defined in the Green Belt where there is clear evidence of need: the effect of new building and activity on the Green Belt must, however, be minimised.

Existing social infrastructure will be protected unless appropriate alternative provision is made, or satisfactory evidence is provided to prove the facility is no longer viable. The re-use of a building for an alternative social or community service or facility is preferred.

All new development will be expected to contribute towards the provision of social infrastructure. For larger developments this may include land and/or buildings.

### *Dacorum Borough Local Plan 1991-2011:*

Following adoption of the Core Strategy a number of Local Plan policies were superseded and these are set out within Appendix 1 to the adopted Core Strategy. Particular attention should be given to the 'saved' policies within the Leisure and Tourism chapter.

### *Pre-submission Site Allocations DPD:*

The Council has recently completed consultation on the Pre-submission Site Allocations DPD, which ran from 24th September to 5th November 2014. This document sets out the Council's detailed proposals and requirements for particular sites, areas and development types. This includes the provision of new open spaces and possible playing pitches through a number of key housing and leisure allocations.

### *Previous Studies & Background Information:*

The PPS will also be seen in the context of the Council's Sports Policy Statement. This Statement sets out the Council's commitment to supporting sports provision and participation in the Borough and to work with key partners to deliver these aims.

Other additional background information includes:

- ◀ Core Strategy Supplementary Issues and Options Paper – Issue 8: Meeting Community Needs (September 2012);
- ◀ Dacorum Borough Council Town Stadium Study Phase 1 (June 2009);
- ◀ Dacorum Borough Council Town Stadium Study Phase 2 (June 2010);
- ◀ Retail Leisure Study (January 2006);
- ◀ Dacorum Borough Council Sports Facilities Audit (2011); and
- ◀ Dacorum Borough Council Outdoor Leisure Facilities Study Assessment Report (September 2014).

Please refer to Appendix One for the full national strategic context for the PPS, including Sport England and NGB strategies.

# DACORUM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## PART 4: VISION AND AIMS

### PPS vision

Reflecting the Council's wider ambitions and the ambitions of its partners in delivering outdoor leisure and recreational provisions, the vision for the PPS is:

*"To ensure the maintenance of current provision as well as future development to provide the right outdoor sports facilities in the right places to meet identified needs and to plan for future provisions of such infrastructure to meet the needs of the population within Dacorum".*

This PPS will help in identification, and prioritisation, of outdoor sports that are of local and Borough-wide significance and guide the Council and its partners to work collaboratively (i.e., reduce duplication and competition), identify and use limited resources to optimum effect.

### PPS aims

It is recommended that the following aims are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of PPS:

#### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs

#### AIM 2

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

#### AIM 3

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

The three main themes of the PPS also reflect NPPF, Dacorum Local Plan policies and Sport England's planning aim and objectives for sport.



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### PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations for the PPS have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis. They reflect key areas to be addressed over its lifetime. However, implementation must be considered in the context of financial and resource implications and the need for some proposals to also meet planning requirements.

#### **AIM 1**

To **protect** the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs

#### **Recommendations:**

- A. Protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so through local planning policy.
- B. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- C. Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so.

#### **Recommendation A – Protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so through local planning policy**

Based on the outcomes of the PPS, enhance local planning policy and emphasise the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 73) and highlight Sport England’s statutory consultee role on planning applications that affect playing field land.

NPPF paragraph 74 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

Future local plan policies should seek to protect facilities and the scope to legally safeguard long term use of strategically important sites to the community, such as the strategic sites and key centres, should be considered. For example, through the Fields in Trust programme ([www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org)).

**Lapsed and disused** – pitches that were formerly playing pitches but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use within the last five years (lapsed) or longer (disused).



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It is important to understand that where a pitch is identified as being lapsed, underused or of poor quality this does not necessarily mean that the facility is surplus to requirements. Equally where proposed development is located within access of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvements to existing pitches. The PPS may, if appropriate, be used to inform a Development Management decision. However, all applications are assessed by the Council on a case by case basis.

Sport England's playing field policy only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPS shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all sports, the site concerned has no special significance to sport and the development involves measures to address any deficiencies in terms of quality or accessibility identified by the PPS. Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013) similarly states that loss of such sites without appropriate replacement should not be considered except in very limited circumstances where the assessment has clearly shown:

1. That there is an excess of accessible provision with secured community use in the study area to meet both current and future demand;
2. The particular provision at a site is surplus to requirements and not of special interest to sport;
3. Equivalent or better replacement provision will be secured.

Where there is no need to protect facilities and the assessment shows scope for rationalisation, the following should be considered as a first stage when making any decisions about disposal:

- ◀ Is the facility surplus to requirements not only now but also in the future?
- ◀ Could the facility be used for another type of sport for which there is a deficit?
- ◀ Can current users be sufficiently accommodated at another appropriate site taking into consideration access, cost and locality?
- ◀ Consideration as to the quality of the facilities (including ancillary facilities).
- ◀ The long term sustainability of the facility.
- ◀ The level of current use and the impact on the spatial distribution of facilities across Dacorum of closing a facility.

It may be appropriate to dispose of some existing playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Strategic Sites) in order to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e).

The following criteria should be established as the basis for negotiations to mitigate the loss of playing field provision:

- ◀ Ensure that where playing fields are lost through alternative development or closure, that the type of provision of the same or improved standard is provided to meet demand identified.
- ◀ Where pitches are lost due to redevelopment of the site, compensatory re-provision or an equivalent or better contribution for re-investment into new pitches will be sought as appropriate in an alternative accessible location.
- ◀ Where opportunities exist to additionally increase pitch quality (and therefore pitch capacity to accommodate more matches) this should be a priority (please refer to the action plan to identify quality deficiencies in the appropriate area).

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- ◀ All negotiations and mitigation packages should be raised and discussed in partnership with the relevant NGB and Sport England through the PPS Steering Group.

For further information please refer to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy - 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' Policy Exception E4 which can be found at:

<http://www.sportengland.org/media/123579/policy-exception-4.pdf>

In terms of mitigation it is important, where possible and appropriate for a particular sport, that this takes place in an area that is accessible to the playing field that is lost to avoid a scenario where a redundant playing field is lost in an area which has deficiencies and is replaced on the other side of the authority/study area.

Furthermore any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the PPS may offer potential for meeting community needs on a localised basis. Where schools are closed their playing fields may be dedicated to community use to help address any unmet community needs. Closed school playing fields should be considered in the first instance for becoming community playing fields for meeting the needs identified in the PPS before being considered for other uses.

The following should be considered when assessing the suitability of conversion of former school playing fields for community use:

- ◀ Location and willingness of LA/club or other party to take on ownership/lease /maintenance
- ◀ Size
- ◀ Quality
- ◀ Physical accessibility
- ◀ History of community access
- ◀ Availability of ancillary facilities

### **Recommendation B – Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through a range of solutions and partnership agreements**

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

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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As well as improving the quality of well-used, local authority sites, there are a number of sites which have poor quality (or no) ancillary facilities. It is recommended that security of tenure should be granted to the clubs playing on these sites (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so the clubs are in a position to apply for external funding to improve the ancillary facilities.

There are some sites in Dacorum where security of tenure for the club/user needs to be secured (on private or industrial playing fields for example). This also often refers to education sites where formal community use agreements are not in place. NGBs can often help to negotiate and engage with schools, particularly academies where the local authority may not have direct influence.

In addition there are a number of examples where long term leases could be put into place for the continued use of a site. Each club should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered, which takes into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations in order that they may be able to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds to allow this.

### *Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations*

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

The Council can further recognise the value of Clubmark/Charter Standard by adopting a policy of prioritising the clubs that are to have access to these better quality facilities. This may be achieved by inviting clubs to apply for season long leases on a particular site as an initial trial.

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

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

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields.

It should be noted that there are a number of sites in Dacorum that are designated public open spaces and therefore it is not possible to provide exclusive possession or use to clubs.

### ***Community asset transfer***

The Council should continue to work towards adopting a policy which supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and national governing bodies with opportunities to take ownership of their own facilities; it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building.

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process: [http://www.sportengland.org/support\\_\\_advice/asset\\_transfer.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/support__advice/asset_transfer.aspx)

### **Recommendation C – Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so**

#### ***Education sites***

In order to maximise community use of educational facilities it is recommended to establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. Pricing policies at facilities can be barrier to access at some of the education sites but physical access and resistance from schools, especially academies, to open up 3G provision is also an issue.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and the local clubs. The Council and other key partners must work with schools and colleges to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address underlying problems. Consideration should be given to a centralised booking system for community use of schools and colleges to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.

It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to grass pitches for community use is limited.

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The Assessment Report identified several issues relating to the use of school facilities:

- ◀ Many sites are underutilised, especially for competitive play for football.
- ◀ Community use is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs.
- ◀ There is no strategic guidance as to which clubs are allocated the use of playing pitch facilities (i.e. in accordance with a strategic need).
- ◀ There are a number of school sites where a community use agreement is in place but it is not clear whether the agreement is being upheld.
- ◀ There are management issues inherent in developing, implementing and managing community use agreements. Advice and guidance can be obtained from Sport England's Schools toolkit and Sports organisations toolkit.  
([www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning))

Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use. This need to be examined against these issues:

- ◀ The analysis provides a clear indication of the future pitch requirements and provides a basis for partners to negotiate.
- ◀ Community use should not impact on the needs of schools to deliver curricular and extracurricular activities

Sport England has also produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use and can be found at:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/accessing-schools/>

It is recommended that a working group, led by a partner from the education sector but supported by a range of other sectors including sport and leisure is established to implement the strategic direction in relation to the increased/better use of school facilities. Broadly speaking, its role should be to:

- ◀ To better understand current community use, practices and issues by 'auditing' schools.
- ◀ Ensure community use agreements are upheld
- ◀ Identify and pilot one school/club formal community use agreement with a view to rolling out the model across the area.
- ◀ Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
- ◀ As part of any agreement secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not rely on existing school staff structures.
- ◀ Ensure that pitch provision at schools is sufficient in quality and quantity to be able to deliver its curriculum. Once this has been achieved provision could contribute to overcoming deficiencies in the area.

Although there are a growing number of academies and college sites, which the Council has no control over the running of, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, the relevant NGB has a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver the PPS and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision, particularly for football pitches.

### AIM 2

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

#### Recommendation:

- D. Improve quality
- E. Adopt a hierarchy of provision for the management and improvement of sites.
- F. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

### Recommendation D – Improve pitch quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality, including for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. These are explored in more detail below.

#### *Addressing quality issues*

Priority in the short term (given limited resources) should be directed to overplayed, poor quality sites.

This standard, based on an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, should be used to identify deficiencies and hence investment should be prioritised to those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database, provided in electronic format). The PPS approach to these outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

For the purposes of the Quality Assessments, this PPS will refer to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as Good, Standard or Poor quality. In Dacorum, for example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements i.e. changing rooms or a specific pitch.

**Good quality** refers to pitches that have, for example, a good maintenance regime coupled with good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking. For rugby union, a good pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained.

**Standard quality** refers to pitches that have, for example, an adequate maintenance regime coupled with adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear, goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets. For rugby union, drainage is natural and adequate.



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**Poor quality** refers to pitches that have, for example, poor levels of maintenance coupled with inadequate grass cover, uneven surface and damage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old dated interior. For rugby union, drainage is natural and inadequate. Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this.

For further information please refer to the Sport England/NGB quality assessments.

For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football and Rugby' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces:

[www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/)

### **Addressing overplay**

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitches stock; it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing pitch quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a weekly match limit to each. Each NGB recommends a number of matches that a good quality pitch should take:

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

*\* Please note that the RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme afforded to a site.*

There are also a number of sites that are poor quality but are not overplayed. These sites should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than other sites but demand could increase if the quality was to increase. Improving pitch quality should not be considered in isolation from maintenance regimes.

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There is also a need to balance pitch improvements alongside the transfer of play to alternative pitch sites. Therefore, it is recommended that the Council and NGBs work with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity.

#### ***Increasing pitch maintenance***

Standard or poor grass pitch quality may not just be a result of poor drainage. In some instances ensuring there is an appropriate maintenance for the level/standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase pitch capacity. Each NGB can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes.

For example, the FA has recently introduced a Pitch Advisor Scheme and has been working in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a Grass Pitch Maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots football clubs with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide football clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas, with the simple aim of improving the club's playing surface.

In relation to cricket, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards that are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. Please note that PQS assessments are also available for other sports.

#### **Recommendation E – Adopt a hierarchy of provision for the management and improvement of sites**

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council and its partners should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 7: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

#### **Recommendation F – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitch facilities.

In order to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Playing Pitch Steering Group.

Some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important, however, that the Council therefore seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision.



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Please refer to Appendix Two for further funding information which includes details of the current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs.

Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence. However, one of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health through, for example, NHS England and the Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group.

### **AIM 3**

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

#### **Recommendations:**

- G. Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock.
- H. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

### **Recommendation G - Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock**

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations.

It is important that the current levels of grass pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports the future demand for provision identified in Dacorum can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- ◀ Improving pitch quality in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.
- ◀ The re-designation of pitches for which there is an oversupply.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

While maximising the use of existing pitches offers scope to address the quantitative deficiencies for most sports, new or additional cricket squares on public or private fields, as well as improving existing wickets is required to meet the levels of demand identified for cricket both now and in the future.

There may be a requirement to protect some senior football pitches as this provides the flexibility to provide senior, junior or mini pitches (through different line markings/coning areas of the pitch). However, further work should be undertaken on this as an action for the Council/NGBs. Furthermore the re-designation of adult pitches that are not currently used may lead to a deficiency of adult pitches in the medium to longer term as younger players move up the ages. It is likely that for some sports, particularly football, that the provision of new pitches and facilities will be required in the future to support the predicted future demand.

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

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

### *Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends*

| Sport    | Future development trend   | PPS impact   |
|----------|--|--|
| Football | The needs of the game will change significantly from the 2013/14 season with the implementation of the FA Youth Development Review. As a result, pitch demands will change. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).  | Consider re-allocating leases to Community Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams.<br>Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities.<br>Work with clubs in relation to their pitch demands as a result of the FA Youth Development Review.   |
|          | Demand for senior football is likely to be sustained based on current trends and the move to small sided football. County FA focus to maintain growth of youth football through to adults.   | Sustain current stock but consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required.  |
|          | An increase in women and girls football following £2.4m investment over the next two years (2014-2016) from Sport England to increase the number of women and girls taking part in football sessions.  | A need to provide segregated ancillary facilities and the potential need for more pitches.   |
|          | 3G pitches in Dacorum are operating at capacity for football training.<br>Demand for 3G pitches for competitive football will increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches to service competitive football, particularly mini and youth will result in some reduced demand for grass pitches. | Ensure that existing AGP provision across the Borough is maximised and that community use agreements are in place.<br>Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface:<br><a href="http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf">http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf</a> |

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| Sport        | Future development trend   | PPS impact   |
|--------------|--|--|
| Cricket      | Significant club demand particularly juniors which continue to grow.   | To consider greater use of artificial wickets for junior matches/training in order to reduce overplay whilst recognising the need to improve the quality of existing provision.  |
|              | Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.  | Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.   |
| Rugby union  | The Rugby World Cup (2015) is predicted to see a further increase in the demand for rugby provision.   | Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate.                                |
| Rugby league | There is no planned expansion and the Club currently has facilities to meet the requirements of the sport in Dacorum. There is no demand for additional pitches.   | Continued support of the Club and provision/quality of pitches to ensure the sport is played in Dacorum.   |
| Hockey       | Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead has aspirations to build an AGP, however, planning permission was not granted. All hockey clubs are operating at capacity and use a large number of facilities outside of Dacorum.   | Ensure that the only sand based AGP at Tring Secondary School is protected and plans to develop new AGP hockey provision is supported.   |
| Bowls        | General trend of demand for bowling greens remaining static or slightly decreasing. Locally bowls appears to be declining in terms of club membership.   | Current demand for bowling greens is being met by provision in Dacorum.<br>It is evident that there is some spare capacity across greens which could accommodate more play. However, further site by site capacity analysis is required to fully determine the extent of this. |
| Tennis       | The LTA's new participation strategy aims to increase weekly adult tennis participation (14+) over the next few years. Currently, St. Albans has been identified as one of the first 4 areas within the region to receive additional support to increase community tennis participation. | Future growth in Dacorum is likely to result in the need for more tennis courts at club sites with Langley, Leverstock Green and Northchurch tennis clubs being the priority sites for this.   |
| Netball      | EN aim to increase netball participation by 10,000 per year, through a range of programmes and initiatives.  | To ensure availability of EN Category 2 classification standard courts to meet future demand.  |
| Athletics    | Increase in participation if facilities are relocated to a more inclusive, accessible site.  | Support facility development/improvement.  |

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| Sport | Future development trend  | PPS impact  |
|-------|---|---|
| Golf  | <p>There is no waiting list to join clubs in Dacorum and demand has remained static over the past three years and is not expected to significantly increase.</p> <p>Catchment based mapping also shows that there are no significant gaps in demand for golf provision.</p> | Continue to ensure that there is sufficient golf provision in Dacorum to meet demand. |

### **Recommendation H - Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both current and future demand**

The Council should use, and regularly update, the action plan within this PPS for improvements to its own pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Furthermore any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the PPS may offer potential for meeting community needs on a localised basis. Where schools are closed their playing fields may be converted to dedicated community use to help address any unmet community needs.

Some sites in Dacorum also have the potential to accommodate more football pitches which may be a solution to meeting shortfalls identified as is further explored within the action plan.

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### PART 6: SPORT BY SPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Site specific actions falling out of the sport by sport recommendations outlined below are detailed further within the action plan.

#### ***Football grass pitches***

- ◀ Improve quality to cater for overplay i.e. Grovehill Playing Fields, Pound Meadow and Tring Secondary School.
- ◀ Protect the current level of playing pitches (with some spare capacity retained as strategic reserve).
- ◀ Local authority and leagues to work together to consider reconfiguration of pitches to meet shortfalls.
- ◀ Local authority and leagues to work together to consider reallocation of fixtures to use existing pitches more efficiently.
- ◀ Work with schools to maximise access to secondary schools and to improve pitch quality in partnership with clubs.
- ◀ Encourage community use agreements to be established for the use of school pitches.
- ◀ Look to create dedicated youth football sites (particularly for 9v9) and consolidate pitches to release poor quality one/two pitch sites with poor or no changing facilities.
- ◀ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms (in line with The FA standards).
- ◀ Where possible, develop lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded (i.e. FA Charter Standard Community) clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development (as detailed in the management objectives).

#### **3G AGPs**

- ◀ Investigate opportunities/funding for provision of at least one full size floodlit 3G pitch in Dacorum. Demand currently exists in Berkhamsted, Hemel and Tring.
- ◀ In partnership with The FA, seek to establish, in a phased approach, a strategic spread of 3G pitches which will increase training slots and support back to back modified games on Saturdays and Sundays.

#### ***Cricket***

- ◀ As a priority, maximise the use of existing pitches and associated facilities and improve quality (and therefore capacity) in order to help address the shortfall of pitches.
- ◀ Protect current levels of provision and seek to provide two new pitches to meet shortfalls identified. These are likely to be Leverstock Green and Northchurch cricket clubs
- ◀ In partnership with Hertfordshire Cricket Board work with schools to overcome issues relating to community use. Also seek advice from Sport England on its Access to Schools Programme. <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/accessing-schools/>
- ◀ In partnership with clubs, support provision of pitches at school sites to help meet identified deficiencies in provision.
- ◀ Ensure that any facilities developed support opportunities for senior women's and junior girl's competitive cricket.

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### ***Rugby union***

- ◀ Protect current levels of provision and work to alleviate overplay on competitive grass pitches to help accommodate current and future growth, at Tring RFC in particular.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality/maintenance to help alleviate overplay at Tring and Hemel (Camelot).
- ◀ Ensure clubs have access to, where required, designated grass floodlit training facilities (on club sites) and/or investigate provision of A World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, preferably in Tring, to providing training facilities for the rugby clubs (of both codes if appropriate) in Dacorum. Tring Athletic FC should also be consulted as a potential partner.
- ◀ Identify new site as home of Berkhamsted RFC in medium term to cater for predicted growth of club.

### ***Rugby league***

- ◀ Protect current levels of provision to ensure that rugby league continues to be played in Dacorum.
- ◀ Investment to improve quality of changing/toilet facilities and match official accommodation
- ◀ Ensure the quality of pitches is sustained.
- ◀ Work in partnership with Hemel Staggs RFC to consider options for access to a rugby AGP.

### ***Hockey***

- ◀ Protect the future of the existing sand based AGP in Tring.
- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds<sup>11</sup> are in place to maintain existing AGP quality in the long term.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to meet unmet and displaced demand through the provision of one new full size, floodlit sand based AGP.
- ◀ Although Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club has aspirations to build an AGP on its club site the identification of the most appropriate location for any new development is critical in securing potential growth. A partnership approach with the local authority, schools sector partners and clubs is required within the decision making process.

### ***Tennis***

- ◀ When demand exists, support Langley, Leverstock Green, Tring and Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis and Squash clubs to improve court quantity/quality and/or install floodlighting (in order to increase the capacity) of existing tennis court provision. Also, seek and support opportunities to increase the number of indoor tennis courts within the district. This may be in the form of an airhall/bubble/fabric frame structure.
- ◀ Continue to support and encourage junior development and opportunities for adults in order to increase participation levels in the sport.
- ◀ Where possible the Council would upgrade parks tennis courts to meet requirements for tennis and netball.

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<sup>11</sup> A sinking fund is a fund established by an economic entity by setting aside revenue over a period of time to fund a future capital expense.

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### ***Bowls***

- ◀ Work in partnership with clubs to identify additional maintenance requirements to help improve pitch quality.
- ◀ Support clubs to increase membership levels.

### ***Netball***

- ◀ Work to increase the number and availability of EN Category 2 classification netball courts.
- ◀ Work with DBC to explore the potential of tennis court usage to provide appropriate facilities for netball activity.
- ◀ Sport Space to reconsider pricing policy for outdoor courts.
- ◀ Identify priority sites (multi court venues) and in a phased approach, support the improvement of court quality and ensure the appropriate levels of ancillary facilities are provided.
- ◀ For any new and/or improved courts, ensure quality meets EN Category 2 classification standard.

### ***Athletics***

- ◀ Continue to maintain and provide a good standard track to service athletics in Dacorum.
- ◀ Sport Space to consider alternative long term viable options for the facility, potentially relocating the track/stadium to a school and/or leisure facility.

### ***Golf***

- ◀ Continue to ensure that there is sufficient golf provision in Dacorum to meet demand.

### ***Lacrosse/baseball***

- ◀ Continue to provide and maintain appropriate pitches to service demand in Dacorum

### PART 7: ACTION PLAN

#### Introduction

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address surpluses and deficiencies, together with key issues identified in the accompanying Assessment Report. It provides recommendations for each site, based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

It is a list developed by KKP and the Council and should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers may make, although this cannot be guaranteed. Recommendation E below explains the hierarchy of priorities on the list. It is imperative that action plans for priority projects should be developed through the implementation of the PPS.

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to establish a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding.

#### Justification of sites within the action plan

The list details policy options relating to individual sites and the need to enhance and develop new sporting provision. The following criteria have been used to identify priorities and justify the inclusion of sites within the list. Just one of the following may apply:

- ◀ A project is currently underway to enhance the existing site and/or funding has been secured.
- ◀ An evaluation of site use is required as it is of poor quality and is reportedly underused.
- ◀ The desired action is small scale, short term and will enhance the quality of current provision, whilst aiding community use.
- ◀ The importance of the site is identified in other strategies.

Sites included within the action plan have been tiered based on criteria set out in Recommendation E.

#### **Recommendation E – Adopt a hierarchy of provision to the management and improvement of sites**

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.



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Dacorum has a number of 'key centres', which are sites that are considered to be the most popular and therefore need to be of a high standard in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week. This applies mostly to football pitch hire. However, the Council should extend this provision model to recognise the supply and demand issues identified throughout the Assessment Report (i.e. current levels of overplay) and the investment necessary to improve sites based on current levels of usage. The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition to this, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both senior and junior matches, sometimes concurrently.

Not only could such sites require a mixture of mini, youth and senior pitches, but they also require split-level ancillary facilities, in order to maximise their usage at all times.

In the context of developing a tiered model approach to the management of sports facilities, Dacorum has a large number of multi-team junior clubs which place a great demand on the pitch stock. There are therefore a number of sites which are still owned and maintained by the local authority, but are actually booked by the clubs for the entire season. The sites are then recognised as the 'home ground' of the club. Such sites are fundamentally different from those which can be hired on a regular basis because they are in effect, 'allocated' to a certain club and management responsibility, in terms of allocating teams to pitches, is transferred to the individual club.

### *Site hierarchy*

| <b>Strategic sites</b>  | <b>Key centres</b>  | <b>Club or education sites</b>   | <b>Strategic reserve sites</b>   |
|---|---|--|--|
| Strategically placed in the Borough.  | Strategically placed in the local authority context.  | Strategically placed in the local context.   | Strategically placed in the local context.                               |
| Accommodates five or more grass pitches. May include provision of an AGP.   | Accommodates three or more grass pitches.   | Accommodates more than one pitch.  | Likely to be single-pitch site with limited demand.                      |
| Single or multi-sport provision.<br>Could also operate as a central venue.  | Single or multi-sport provision.<br>Could also operate as a central venue.                                | Single or multi-sport provision.   | Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.                           |
| Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned. | Management control remains within the local authority or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement. | Club either has long-term lease/hires the pitch for the entire season or owns the site.<br>Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned. | Management control remains with the Council or existing management body. |

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| Strategic sites   | Key centres   | Club or education sites   | Strategic reserve sites   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.  | Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.  | Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.                  | Basic level of maintenance i.e. grass cutting and line marking as required. |
| Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches. | Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches. | Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required). | No requirement for access changing to accommodation.                        |

**Strategic Sites** such as Tring Secondary School already seek to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for both senior and junior (especially mini-soccer) matches. Strategic Sites can also have a borough wide impact of which is explained in section 5.3 below. The conditions recommended for mini and youth football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for mini and youth football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both youth and mini-football matches could be played on these sites. Initial investment could be required in the short term and identified in the Action Plan.

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of such sites at:

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/planning\\_tools\\_and\\_guidance/sports\\_hubs.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/sports_hubs.aspx)

**Key Centres** are important within the local context and service the local community (often analysis area) and are identified as local priorities, however in some instance they can be strategic priorities on broader levels.

It is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both Strategic sites and Key Centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

**Club/Education Sites** are also important within the local context and service the local community (often analysis area) and are identified as local priorities, however in some instance they can be strategic priorities on broader levels. However, these sites are more often leased to clubs on a long-term basis. Primarily they are sites with more than one pitch. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the pitches or ancillary facilities, and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the facilities.

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Pitch quality improvements in most causes relate to installation and/or improving drainage works on sites. The continuing issue of teams training on pitches used by other teams for match play is also significant. This unofficial use of pitches is viewed as having a detrimental impact on quality of provision; ensuring a sufficient level of drainage on pitches as well as provision of artificial grass facilities in order to accommodate training needs is vital.

**Strategic Reserve Sites** could be used for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They could be single-pitch sites with limited usage, or have no recognised current usage.

### Priority level

Within the action plan the projects have been grouped into high, medium and low priorities. A small number of projects are considered to be a high priority as they have Borough wide importance. The priorities have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment. For example The Meadow (which is identified as a key centre and of high priority, in the Berkhamsted Area) would have a high impact on addressing overplay and quality deficiencies for both football and cricket, therefore fulfilling a need at a strategic level in the central sub-area of Dacorum and at a Borough wide level.

There are nine high priority sites identified in Dacorum:

| ID     | Site                                     | Area        |
|--------|--|-------------|
| ID 1   | Hemel (Camelot) RFC                      | Hemel       |
| ID 6   | Grovehill Playing Fields                 | Hemel       |
| ID 21  | The Meadow                               | Berkhamsted |
| ID 30  | Pendley Sports Centre                    | Tring       |
| ID 40  | Tring Secondary School                   | Tring       |
| ID 45  | Astley Cooper School                     | Hemel       |
| ID 60  | Leverstock Green Tennis and Cricket Club | Hemel       |
| ID 77  | Little Gaddesden Playing Fields          | Berkhamsted |
| ID 139 | Langley Tennis Club                      | Hemel       |

Although there is a deficit of football and cricket pitches in the Southern area, there is no mention of either the Southern or Eastern Villages area on the priority list. This is because the population is larger and demand is greater in other areas of the authority, so these take priority.

### Management and development

The following issues should be considered when undertaking sports related site development or enhancement:

- Financial viability.
- Security of tenure.
- Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.

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- ◀ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified. The possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.
- ◀ NGB and SE investment programmes.

### **Area by area specific action plan**

The action plan has been created to be delivered over a ten year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur with the intention that the Action Plan priorities can roll forward beyond the long-term timeframe. The timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based.

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

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

(L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above. These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at [www.sportengland.org/media/198443/facility-costs-4q13.pdf](http://www.sportengland.org/media/198443/facility-costs-4q13.pdf)

### ***Potential new developments***

A number of potential sites for new facility developments have been highlighted as part of this action plan. This detail is derived from the Dacorum Borough Council's Site Allocations DPD and Local Allocation master plans. These include the following proposed site and local allocations:

- ◀ Land at Durrants Lane and Shootersway, Berkhamsted;
- ◀ Bunkers Park/Bunkers Lane, Hemel Hempstead;
- ◀ LA5 Icknield Way, West Tring; and
- ◀ Tring Secondary School and associated detached playing fields at Dunsley Farm off London Road.

# DACORUM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## BERKHAMSTED SUMMARY AND ACTION PLAN

### Football – grass pitches

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand (match equivalent per week)

| Pitch type    | Actual spare capacity <sup>12</sup><br>(match sessions) | Demand (match sessions) |               |               |                     |
|---------------|---|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
|               |   | Overplay                | Latent demand | Future demand | Total <sup>13</sup> |
| Adult pitches | 6.5   | 1                       | 4             | 1.5           | 0                   |
| Youth pitches | 8   | 1                       | 2             | 2             | 3                   |
| Mini pitches  | 13  | -                       | -             | 2             | 11                  |

- ◀ Spare capacity expressed should be retained for future Borough wide demand.

### Football – 3G pitches

- ◀ There is current demand for one additional full size floodlit 3G pitch in Dacorum. However, if demand increases to play competitive fixtures on 3G pitches and the quality of grass pitches deteriorates further, there will be a need for more 3G pitches (up to three).
- ◀ Investigate opportunities/funding for provision of a full size floodlit 3G pitch in Berkhamsted as a second priority.

### Cricket

Capacity of cricket pitches (match equivalents per season)

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity<br>(pitches) | Demand (pitches)       |               |               |       |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
|               |                                    | Overplay <sup>14</sup> | Latent demand | Future demand | Total |
| Berkhamsted   | 2                                  | 3                      | -             | 1             | -2    |

- ◀ Overplay on club sites, and poor quality artificial wicket school sites.
- ◀ Formally agreed access to Kitcheners Field would reduce overplay by Berkhamsted Cricket Club.

### Rugby league

- ◀ There are no pitches in this analysis area and no reported demand.

<sup>12</sup> In match equivalent sessions.

<sup>13</sup> Totals are calculated by taking the demand figures (overplay, latent and future) away from actual spare capacity and are rounded up. Figures are taken from the Assessment Report (Table 2.11 and Table 2.12 for football).

<sup>14</sup> Matches per season overplay is converted to pitches on the basis of 5 matches per season being the capacity of a grass wicket and there being on average 10 wickets per pitch. Figures are rounded up/down to the nearest full pitch.

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### Rugby union

- ◀ No current club demand for pitches in the Area. Some school provision but generally poor quality.

### Hockey

- ◀ Berkhamsted School AGP is available for hockey training in the evenings but cannot be used due to a lack of floodlighting.
- ◀ There are no other hockey facilities in Berkhamsted.
- ◀ Sport England modelling suggests there is insufficient pitch space in Dacorum to meet demand from hockey. Unmet and displaced demand would need to be met through provision of one additional full size AGP.

### Tennis

- ◀ Northchurch Tennis Club is being played to capacity and unable to accept more members due to lack of courts. Club reports latent demand for access to more courts at the site.

### Bowls

- ◀ Adequate provision to service current demand. Most bowling greens are being played to capacity or slightly overplayed. However, it is not anticipated that future demand will result in the need for more greens.

### Netball

- ◀ Adequate provision of courts for schools activity, although majority do not meet England Netball Category 2 standard.
- ◀ Provision of courts for potential development leagues should demand increase.
- ◀ Ensure netball/tennis partners and DBC work together to identify potential tennis courts that could be appropriate for netball use.

### Athletics

- ◀ There are no facilities in this analysis area and no reported demand

### Golf

- ◀ Adequate provision to service current demand

### Lacrosse and baseball

- ◀ No baseball pitches in this area and no reported demand
- ◀ Lacrosse pitches at Chesham Fields for Berkhamsted School use and no other demand reported.

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### Potential for new sites

#### *Land at Durrants Lane and Shootersway*

There is an opportunity at this site for the creation of new recreational space/community facilities, which could include sports facilities. The land to the west of Durrants Lane is controlled by a consortium and is available for community playing fields. The land is currently in agricultural use and lies within the Green Belt. The provision of playing fields is, however, compatible with its Green Belt status.

The scheme must ensure additional areas of informal and formal leisure space and ensure their long term management. All formal leisure space should be made available for public use. Public consultation identified that traffic calming and safe crossing points should be provided, especially to sports pitches and recreational land.

In addition, the existing school playing fields are to be relocated to the south of the school. The playing fields shall be established and available to the school prior to the release of the existing playing fields and available for use by the wider community.

Berkhamsted has been assessed to be short of two cricket pitches and a hockey pitch (AGP). The growth of Berkhamsted RFC, currently in the Tring area, could move to Berkhamsted should a suitable site become available. Green Belt restrictions may mean that this site is not appropriate for a new AGP, however, the provision of a cricket pitch or a rugby union club and pitches could be an option, although the floodlight restriction may be an issue for rugby union.



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| ID | Site                            | Sport    | Management/<br>ownership        | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners             | Hierarchy<br>(priority)     | Time-<br>scale | Cost | Aim                |                       |
|----|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|---|--|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2  | Butts Meadow                    | Football | Council                         | One standard quality adult pitch with spare capacity. Used by Gossoms End FC. Standard quality pavilion on site.  | Retain spare capacity and ensure maintenance is appropriate to sustain/improve quality. Consider lease to Gossoms End FC.      | DBC                  | Club<br><b>Low</b>          | S              | L    | Enhance            |                       |
| 15 | Velvet Lawn                     | Football | Council                         | Two poor quality adult pitches. Litter/dog foul on the pitches is also frequently reported. Used to capacity. Standard quality pavilion on site.  | Seek options to improve pitch quality and measures to reduce litter/dog foul. Consider lease to BRFC.                          | DBC<br>FA            | Club<br><b>Medium</b>       | S              | M    | Protect<br>Enhance |                       |
| 22 | Potten End Recreation Ground    | Football | Potten End Cricket Club         | One poor quality adult pitch overplayed by one match session per week. Rented by Potten End FC. Club reports poor drainage and uneven pitch which results in several cancelled matches.                             | Improve quality of pitch in order to accommodate overplay.   | Club<br>FA           | Key Centre<br><b>Medium</b> | M              | M    | Protect<br>Enhance |                       |
|    |                                 | Cricket  |                                 | One good quality pitch with eight grass wickets, heavily overused, overplayed by 23 sessions per season. Home to Potten End CC.   | Consider using Little Gaddesden Playing Fields as second home ground and to accommodate overplay if pitch quality is improved. |                      |                             |                |      |                    | Club<br>ECB           |
| 34 | Berkhamsted FC                  | Football | Club                            | Semi-pro football ground with one good quality adult pitch played to capacity. No wider community use as protected for club use. Use pitch for training.<br>Would run more teams if more pitches were available.    | Retain quality in order to accommodate existing usage. Investigate alternative training facilities to protect pitch.           | Club                 | Club<br><b>Medium</b>       | S              | L    | Protect            |                       |
| 63 | Northchurch Recreation Ground   | Football | Northchurch Parish Council      | One standard quality adult pitch, minimal spare capacity. Poor quality porta cabin with no running water, toilets or showers. However, users also use changing on adjacent site, The Meadow but can be problematic. | Retain spare capacity in order to protect/improve quality. Secure use to appropriate changing accommodation.                   | Parish Council<br>FA | Key Centre<br><b>Low</b>    | S              | L    | Enhance            |                       |
| 77 | Little Gaddesden Playing Fields | Football | Little Gaddesden Parish Council | One adult, six mini and one youth pitch. All standard quality with spare capacity as underused by Little Gaddesden Rangers FC due to drainage issues. The Clubhouse was vandalised and is no longer usable.         | Support the Club applying for external funding to improve pitch and changing facilities.                                       | Parish Council<br>FA | Strategic<br><b>High</b>    | S              | H    | Enhance            |                       |
|    |                                 | Cricket  |                                 | One poor quality pitch with 12 grass wickets. Used by Little Gaddesden Cricket Club which has one adult team.   | Consider joint funding bid with the football club in order to make improvements to the site as a whole.                        |                      |                             |                |      |                    | Parish Council<br>ECB |
|    |                                 | Bowls    |                                 | One good quality green. Club has plans to increase membership and to upgrade changing facilities and storage.   | Maximise usage and explore external funding options to develop changing facilities and storage linked to above.                |                      |                             |                |      |                    | Parish Council        |
| 8  | Lagley Meadow                   | Football | Council                         | One poor quality adult pitch with minimal spare capacity. Storage facilities only. Pavilion boarded up.   | Transfer play to Velvet Lawn once pitch quality/capacity is improved. Retain pitch in reserve for future demand.               | DBC                  | Reserve                     | M              | L    | -                  |                       |



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| ID  | Site                       | Sport    | Management/<br>ownership | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners  | Hierarchy<br>(priority)                   | Time-<br>scale | Cost | Aim                |
|-----|----------------------------|----------|--------------------------|--|---|---|---|----------------|------|--------------------|
| 117 | St Marys C of E School     | Football |                          | Two standard quality mini pitches with spare capacity. Used by 2 teams from West Herts Youth League Sunday morning.  | Retain spare capacity and seek to formalise community use.  | School<br>FA  | Education<br><b>Low</b>                   | S              | L    | Protect            |
|     |                            | Netball  |                          | One netball court, standard quality, EN Category 1   | Retain quality for school use.  | School  |   |                |      |                    |
| 56  | Bridgewater Middle School  | Football | School                   | Two poor quality mini pitches and one standard quality youth pitch. Used by Berkhamsted Raiders FC to capacity but no access to changing.  | Consider improvements to maintenance regime in order to increase football and cricket pitch quality. Seek to formalise community use.<br>Consider addressing changing room issue to improve attractiveness of site. | School<br>FA<br>ECB   | Education<br><b>Medium</b>                | M              | M    | Enhance            |
|     |                            | Cricket  |                          | One poor quality pitch with one artificial wicket, no community use. Unused due to its poor quality and lack of access to changing rooms.  | Improve pitch quality. Develop relationship with Northchurch Cricket Club to allow use of improved pitch and changing.  |   |   |                |      |                    |
|     |                            | Netball  |                          |  | Four netball courts, standard quality, EN Category 1  | Retain quality for school use.  |   |                |      |                    |
| 57  | Thomas Coram Middle School | Football | School                   | One standard quality mini pitch and two standard quality youth pitches. Used to capacity by Berkhamsted Raiders FC. Car parking is unavailable.  | Consider improvements to maintenance regime in order to increase pitch quality. Seek to formalise community use and resolve car parking issues.   | School  | Education<br><b>Medium</b>                | M              | L    | Enhance            |
|     |                            | Tennis   |                          | Two good quality tennis courts, not available for community use.   | Retain quality for school use.  |   |   |                |      |                    |
|     |                            | Netball  |                          | Two netball courts, standard quality, EN Category 1  | Retain quality for school use.  |   |   |                |      |                    |
| 134 | Ashridge College           | Football | School                   | One good quality adult pitch with minimal spare capacity. Used by teams from West Herts Youth League Sunday morning.   | Retain spare capacity in order to protect quality.  | School  | Education<br><b>Low</b>                   | S              | L    | Protect            |
| 82  | St Thomas More RC School   | Football |                          | One standard quality mini pitch. Has capacity to accommodate community use if it were available. No parking or changing.   | Retain for school use.  | School  | Education<br><b>Low</b>                   | S              | L    | Enhance            |
|     |                            | Netball  |                          | One netball court, standard quality, EN Category 1   | Retain quality for school use.  |   |   |                |      |                    |
| 41  | Ashlyns School             | Football | School                   | Two adult pitches, one mini pitch and three youth pitches, all standard quality with some overplay. In addition to school usage pitches are well used by Berkhamsted Raiders FC. Watford FC also use pitches to train. | Retain any spare capacity and ensure maintenance is appropriate to sustain/improve quality to accommodate overplay.   | School<br>FA  | Education/<br>Key Centre<br><b>Medium</b> | M              | M    | Protect<br>Enhance |
|     |                            | 3G AGP   |                          | Full size 3G pitch used to capacity. Built in 2010 and good quality. Heavily used by partner club Berkhamsted Raiders FC.  | Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment. Consider site to accommodate competitive football fixtures and need to be FA Pitch registered.  |   |   |                |      |                    |
|     |                            | Cricket  |                          |  | One poor quality pitch with one artificial wicket. Unused due to its poor quality. School plays its matches   | Seek options to improve pitch quality and maximise use to accommodate overplay from |   |                |      |                    |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID | Site                     | Sport       | Management/<br>ownership       | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners                      | Hierarchy<br>(priority)                   | Time-<br>scale | Cost | Aim            |
|----|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|---|----------------|------|----------------|
|    |                          | Rugby union |                                | at Berkhamsted Cricket Club.   | Berkhamsted Cricket Club.  | School                        |   |                |      |                |
|    |                          | Tennis      |                                | One poor quality senior pitch. No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs.   | Improve quality and retain for school use.   |                               |   |                |      |                |
|    |                          | Netball     |                                | Six average quality tennis courts, available for community use. No club based here.  | Retain for school use. Consider future community use should demand arise.  |                               |   |                |      |                |
|    |                          |             |                                | Four netball courts, good quality, EN Category 1. Very slippery when wet.  | Consideration should be given to resurfacing courts to cater for future increased demand.  |                               |   |                |      |                |
| 86 | Greenway School          | Football    | School                         | Two good quality mini pitches with spare capacity. Used by BRFC but no changing available.   | Maintain quality of pitches and retain community use as required.  | School                        | Education<br><b>Low</b>                   | S              | L    | Protect        |
|    |                          | Netball     |                                | One netball court, poor quality, EN Category 1   | Retain quality for school use.   |                               |   |                |      |                |
| 25 | Kitcheners Field         | Football    | Berkhamsted School             | Five mini pitches and two youth pitches all standard quality with spare capacity. Only used by Berkhamsted Raiders FC.   | Retain spare capacity in order to improve/sustain quality. Formalise community use with Berkhamsted Raiders FC and seek to maximise use of the site. | School<br>FA                  | Key Centre/<br>Education<br><b>Medium</b> | M              | L    | Retain/enhance |
|    |                          | Cricket     |                                | One good quality pitch with 13 grass wickets and one standard quality pitch with 13 grass wickets. Used by Berkhamsted CC occasionally. However, not formally available for community use.         | Consider formal access to site for Berkhamsted Cricket Club in order to reduce overplay.   | School<br>ECB                 |   |                |      | Retain         |
|    |                          | Tennis      |                                | Three good quality tennis courts with occasional community use by Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis Club.  | Retain quality for school use and use by tennis club.  | School<br>LTA<br>Club         |   |                |      | Retain         |
|    |                          | Bowls       |                                | One good quality green. Club lease facility from Berkhamsted School and has aspirations to extend club house.  | Sustain quality and maximise use. Explore options of external funding to develop clubhouse.  | Club                          |   |                |      | Enhance        |
| 21 | The Meadow               | Cricket     | Northchurch Sports Association | Northchurch Cricket Club. One standard quality pitch with 16 grass wickets, overplayed by 13 sessions per season. Clubhouse/ pavilion also services adjacent site.                                 | Improve pitch quality in order to help sustain overplay. Consider use of Bridgewater Middle School.  | Parish Council<br>ECB         | Key Centre<br><b>High</b>                 | S              | M    | Enhance        |
|    |                          | Tennis      |                                | One tennis court. Northchurch Tennis Club is being played to capacity and unable to accept more members due to lack of courts. Club reports latent demand for access to more courts.               | Improve court quantity/quality and/or install floodlighting in order to increase the capacity.   | Club<br>LTA<br>Parish Council |   |                |      | Retain         |
| 58 | Berkhamsted Cricket Club | Cricket     | Club                           | Two good quality pitches, one with 13 grass wickets and one with nine grass wickets. Overplayed by 97 sessions per season. Plans to build a second pavilion to be used as storage and a score box. | Explore option of seeking formalised access to Kitcheners Field to accommodate overplay. Consider external funding opportunities.                    | ECB<br>Berkhamsted School     | Club<br><b>Medium</b>                     | S              | L    | Enhance        |
| 96 | Upper Bourne End Lane    | Cricket     | Grand Union Investments Ltd    | One poor quality pitch with eight grass wickets. Bourne End Cricket Club recently reached the end of its lease   | Support the Club in renewing its lease and then in seeking options for funding to make improvements  | ECB                           | Club<br><b>Medium</b>                     | S              | M    | Protect        |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site                                  | Sport          | Management/ownership    | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners | Hierarchy (priority)        | Time-scale | Cost | Aim     |
|-----|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--|---|----------|-----------------------------|------------|------|---------|
|     |                                       |                |                         | and is currently in negotiations to renew it.  | in order to maximise capacity/usage.  |          |                             |            |      |         |
| 110 | Haslam Playing Fields                 | Cricket        | Berkhamsted School      | One standard quality pitch with two grass wickets. Unavailable for community use. Site has a new pavilion.   | Retain/improve pitch quality. Consider access for community use in the future.  | School   | Education<br><b>Low</b>     | S          | L    | Enhance |
| 111 | Chesham Fields                        | Cricket        | Berkhamsted School      | Four standard quality pitches with four grass wickets and one artificial wicket. Two pitches overlap so capacity is limited. Unavailable for community use.  | Retain/improve pitch quality. Consider access for community activity in the future.   | School   | Education<br><b>Low</b>     | M          | M    | Enhance |
|     |                                       | Rugby union    |                         | Six mini pitches and one senior pitch. Part of the school development plans includes installing drainage so that winter usage is not restricted. Six pitches are undersized.   | Improve pitch quality. Consider access for community activity in the future.  |          |                             |            |      |         |
|     |                                       | Lacrosse       |                         | One full size and five smaller pitches. Used solely by school.   | Maintain current quality for school use.  |          |                             |            |      |         |
| 112 | Castle Campus (Berkhamsted School)    | AGP            | Berkhamsted School      | One standard quality half size sand based AGP (L shaped) which can only be used for training. Available for community use in the evenings but cannot be used due to a lack of floodlighting.   | Investigate options to increase to a full size pitch with floodlighting to meet shortfall in full size AGP in consultation with the hockey clubs if community access for its use could be formalised. | School   | Key Centre<br><b>Medium</b> | L          | M-H  | Provide |
|     |                                       | Tennis         |                         | Four tennis courts, not available for community use  | Retain for school use.  |          |                             |            |      |         |
| 132 | Berkhamsted Prep School               | Tennis/Netball | School                  | One tennis court and one netball court, good quality. EN Category 1.   | Retain for school use.  | School   | Education<br><b>Low</b>     | S          | L    | Protect |
| 59  | Berkhamsted Racquets Club             | Tennis         | Club                    | Good quality tennis courts, nine artificial turf, one clay and one tarmac. Improved quality since resurfacing plan in progress. Club aspires to build further facilities but requires more land. Club aim to increase membership. Parking is an issue. | Consider options for extension of facilities or relocation and external funding to finance. Consider solutions to address parking issues.   | LTA Club | Club<br><b>Medium</b>       | M          | M-H  | Enhance |
| 54  | Berkhamsted School                    | Tennis         | School                  | Six good quality tennis courts, available for community use.   | Maintain quality for current usage.   | School   | Education<br><b>Medium</b>  | S          | L    | Protect |
|     |                                       | Netball        |                         | Three netball courts, good quality, EN Category 2  | Retain for school use. Consideration of hiring for community activity should demand increase.   |          |                             |            |      |         |
| 76  | Little Gaddesden Tennis Club          | Tennis         | Club                    | Three excellent quality tarmac courts. Club operates socially.   | Retain quality to accommodate Club activity.  | LTA      | Club<br><b>Low</b>          | L          | L    | Protect |
| 133 | Berkhamsted School - Haresfoot        | Netball        | School                  | One netball court, standard quality, EN Category 1   | Retain quality for school use   | School   | Education<br><b>Low</b>     | L          | L    | Protect |
| 124 | Little Gaddesden CE VA Primary School | Netball        | School                  | One netball court, good quality, EN category 1.  | Retain quality for school use   | School   | Education<br><b>Low</b>     | L          | L    | Protect |
| 29  | Berkhamsted Bowls Club, Canal Fields  | Bowls          | Leased to Club from DBC | One green, leased to Club with approx. 120 members. Reliant on public car park with limitations on parking.  | Maintain and improve quality of green. Negotiate parking terms with DBC for members and visitors to Club.   | Club DBC | Club<br><b>Low</b>          | S          | L    | Enhance |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site                  | Sport | Management/<br>ownership | Current status  | Recommended actions                                 | Partners | Hierarchy<br>(priority) | Time-<br>scale | Cost | Aim     |
|-----|-----------------------|-------|--------------------------|---|---|----------|-------------------------|----------------|------|---------|
| 103 | Potten End Bowls Club | Bowls | Club                     | One high quality floodlit green, hosts County Team and London and Southern Counties matches.<br>Issue with use of floodlights due to local residents limits usage to two rinks. | Retain high quality of green for current provision. | Club     | Club<br><b>Low</b>      | L              | L    | Enhance |

# DACORUM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## HEMEL SUMMARY AND ACTION PLAN

### Football – grass pitches

*Summary of football pitches required to meet current and future demand*

| Pitch type    | Actual spare capacity (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions) |               |               |                     |
|---------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
|               |  | Overplay                | Latent demand | Future demand | Total <sup>15</sup> |
| Adult pitches | 29.5                                   | 2                       | 6             | 5.5           | 16                  |
| Youth pitches | 13.5                                   | 0.5                     | 4             | 3             | 6                   |
| Mini pitches  | 12.5                                   | 7                       | -             | 2.5           | 3                   |

- ◀ No demand for additional football pitches.
- ◀ Spare capacity expressed should be retained for future Borough wide demand.

### Football – 3G pitches

- ◀ There is current demand for one additional full size floodlit 3G pitch in Dacorum. However, if demand increases to play competitive fixtures on 3G pitches and the quality of grass pitches deteriorates further, there will be a need for more 3G pitches (up to three).
- ◀ Investigate opportunities/funding for provision of a full size floodlit 3G pitch in Hemel as a joint priority with Tring.

### Cricket

*Capacity of cricket pitches*

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity (pitches) | Demand (pitches) |               |               |       |
|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
|               |                                 | Overplay         | Latent demand | Future demand | Total |
| Hemel         | 2                               | 3                | -             | 1             | -2    |

- ◀ Shortfall of two pitches in the Area predominately due to overplay at Hemel Hempstead Town (poor quality), Boxmoor (standard quality) and Leverstock Green (standard quality) cricket clubs.
- ◀ Spare capacity expressed is not ideally situated to meet shortfall.

### Rugby league

- ◀ There is no demand for additional pitches. However, there is a need to ensure quality of existing provision is sustained to meet league requirements.
- ◀ There is a need to improve the quality of the changing and toilet facilities at the Club site.

<sup>15</sup> Totals are calculated by taking the demand figures (overplay, latent and future) away from actual spare capacity and are rounded up. Figures are taken from the Assessment Report (Table 2.11 and Table 2.12 for football).

# DACORUM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## Hockey

- Sport England modelling suggests there is insufficient pitch space in Dacorum to meet demand from hockey. Unmet and displaced demand would need to be met through provision of one additional full size AGP.

## Rugby union

*Capacity of senior rugby union pitches (match equivalent sessions per week)*

| Pitch type | Actual spare capacity (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions) |               |               |       |
|------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
|            |  | Overplay                | Latent demand | Future demand | Total |
| Senior     | -                                      | 2.5                     | -             | 0.5           | -3    |
| Mini/midi  | -                                      | -                       | -             | 2             | -2    |

- Shortfall of 1.5 more senior rugby pitches and one mini/midi pitch in Hemel as a result of overplay and training on match pitches.

## Tennis

- Future growth in Dacorum is likely to result in the need for more tennis courts at club sites with Langley LTC, Leverstock Green LTC and Tring LTC being the priority sites for this.
- There is a shortfall in the quality parks tennis courts such as Reith Fields, Cupid Green and Coronation Fields.

## Bowls

- Adequate provision to service current demand. Most bowling greens are being played to capacity or slightly overplayed. However, it is not anticipated that future demand will result in the need for more greens.
- There is a shortfall in the quality of the green at Gadebridge Park.

## Netball

- The Cavendish School, John F Kennedy School and Astley Cooper School all provide venues or potential venues for league activity. JKF also has suitable indoor training facilities, Astley Cooper and Cavendish schools do not have adequate indoor training facilities.
- Investment to maintain/improve quality will ensure long term provision of central venue sites for Hemel and the wider area.
- Ensure netball/tennis partners and DBC work together to identify potential tennis courts that could be appropriate for netball use.

## Athletics

- Adequate provision to service current and future demand.
- Consideration to be given to the feasibility of site operation in current location.

# DACORUM

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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### Golf

- ◀ There are no facilities in this analysis area and no reported demand

### Lacrosse and baseball

- ◀ Adequate baseball provision to service current demand.
- ◀ Lacrosse pitches available at Abbot's Hill School should community demand arise.

### Potential for new sites

#### *Bunkers Park/Bunkers Lane*

The planning requirements for Bunkers Park include masterplan requirements to coordinate use across the site. There is potential to accommodate the relocation of existing local tennis facilities to allow housing allocation H/7 to proceed, subject to further technical work to assess whether an exception to normal policy can be fully justified in the light of Bunker's Park location in the Green Belt, the facility's current siting in Open Land, and that there are no other suitable alternative sites available within the settlement boundary. Leisure space is to include public and private sport pitches. Any buildings and car parking to be separated from adjacent residential properties by an effective landscape screen and well screened from adjacent open areas. Existing trees and hedgerows to be retained and enhanced and further planting carried out as appropriate.

Taking the above requirements into account, this site has potential to be considered as appropriate for developing a cricket pitch to alleviate the current overplay in Hemel.

Restrictions at this stage do not rule out the possibility of a floodlit AGP on this site. Priority should be given to a suitable hockey surface at this stage, however, demand for a second AGP suitable for football and rugby also exists.

There is also interest from local football, cricket and tennis clubs to develop club facilities on this site which could be taken forward as a multi-sport site.



**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site                    | Sport     | Management/<br>Ownership                          | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners                      | Hierarchy<br>(priority)     | Timescale | Cost | Aim     |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------|---|---|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|------|---------|
| 136 | Jarmans Park            | Football  | Sportspace/<br>Council                            | One standard quality adult pitch located in the centre of the track. Minimal spare capacity.  | Retain spare capacity in order to improve/sustain quality.   | DBC<br>FA                     | Strategic<br><b>Medium</b>  | M         | L-H  | Enhance |
|     |                         | Athletics |   | The stadium has an eight lane fully floodlit 400m track that was resurfaced two years ago and has good underfoot grip. There is seating for up to 230 spectators and the venue has adequate toilets and changing facilities. Home to Dacorum & Tring Athletic Club. | Consider long term feasibility of operating site as standalone facility. A long term viable option maybe to consider the athletics track/stadium relocating to a school and/or leisure facility.   | DBC<br>England Athletics (EA) |                             |           |      |         |
| 105 | Coronation Fields       | Football  | Council   | Two standard quality adult pitches used to capacity. Good quality changing but underused.   | Ensure pitch quality can sustain current levels of use. Consider options for greater use of the changing.  | DBC                           | Key Centre<br><b>Medium</b> | S         | L    | Enhance |
|     |                         | Tennis    |   | Two average quality tarmac courts available for community use, not used by any clubs.   | Ensure quality of courts is adequate to encourage/sustain informal usage.  |                               |                             |           |      |         |
| 12  | Pennine Way             | Football  | Council   | Four standard quality adult pitches with minimal spare capacity. Changing rooms and showers provided by Hemel Stags RLFC.   | Retain spare capacity and improve pitch quality through investment in drainage.  | DBC                           | Key Centre<br><b>Low</b>    | M         | M    | Enhance |
| 14  | Reith Fields            | Football  | Council   | One standard quality adult pitch with minimal spare capacity. Used solely by Hemel Hempstead Rovers FC which also manage the pitch. Ancillary facilities leased to the Club.  | Maintain or improve quality of pitch. Consider formal lease agreement with Hemel Hempstead Rovers FC to include the pitches.   | DBC<br>FA                     | Key Centre<br><b>Medium</b> | S         | L    | Enhance |
|     |                         | Tennis    |   | Two good quality tarmac tennis courts, available for community use. No club based at this facility.   | Ensure quality of courts is adequate to encourage/sustain informal usage.  | DBC                           |                             |           |      |         |
| 16  | Warners End Valley      | Football  | Council   | Eight standard quality adult pitches, two standard quality mini pitches, one standard quality youth pitch. All with spare capacity. Some of the adult pitches are sloped which may be affecting usage. Poor changing facility, heavily used and prone to vandalism. | Look to reduce the number of adult pitches provided and reinvest in remaining pitches. Explore funding options to improve ancillary facilities and security at site.   | DBC                           | Strategic<br><b>Medium</b>  | M         | M-H  | Enhance |
|     |                         | Cricket   |   | One poor quality pitch with 9 grass wickets. Has spare capacity but is unused due to poor quality. 10 match equivalent sessions per season have been added to account for casual/unofficial use.  | Retain site to accommodate casual play and future formal demand. Investigate potential usage by Hemel Hempstead CC, Boxmoor CC and the ECB's Last Man Stands programme. Improve marketing and awareness of facility with NGB too increase usage. | Council<br>ECB                |                             |           |      |         |
| 32  | Hemel Hempstead Town FC | Football  | Club  | One good quality adult pitch. Step 7 Club. Used exclusively by the Club, almost to capacity.  | Retain quality in order to accommodate existing usage.   | Club                          | Club<br><b>Low</b>          | L         | L    | Protect |
| 36  | Pancake Lane            | Football  | Leverstock Green FC/<br>Home & Communities Agency | Leased to Leverstock Green FC on 25yr lease. One good quality adult pitch used to capacity<br>Pitch with floodlighting, perimeter fencing and dugouts. Club plays and trains on the pitch.  | Retain quality in order to accommodate existing usage.   | Club                          | Club<br><b>Low</b>          | L         | L    | Protect |



**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID | Site                     | Sport       | Management/<br>Ownership | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners   | Hierarchy<br>(priority)       | Timescale | Cost | Aim                |
|----|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---|---|------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------|--------------------|
| 4  | Cupid Green              | Football    | Council                  | Two adult pitches, two mini pitches and one youth pitch. All standard quality. Clubs report vandalism to goal posts.<br>Newly built pavilion following a fire, now condemned and unused due to a severe leak damage.  | Improve pitch quality and address pavilion issues in order to maximise use of the site.   | DBC<br>FA  | Key Centre<br><b>Medium</b>   | S         | L    | Enhance            |
|    |                          | Tennis      |                          | Four average quality tarmac tennis courts available for community use. No club is based at this facility.   | Ensure quality of courts is adequate to encourage/sustain informal usage.   |            |                               |           |      |                    |
| 6  | Grovehill Playing Fields | Football    | Council                  | Six standard quality adult pitches, two standard quality mini pitches. Overall, pitches overplayed by nine matches per week.<br>Poor quality changing rooms. Reported regular pitch damage by motorcycles and quad bikes. Litter and dog fouling also reported. | Improve quality of pitches through maintenance regime and controls to protect the pitch in order to accommodate overplay. Seek options for funding to improve the quality of the changing to ensure appropriate access for clubs. | DBC<br>FA  | Strategic site<br><b>High</b> | S         | M    | Enhance            |
|    |                          | Baseball    |                          | One pitch, home to Herts Baseball Club. Perimeter fence around diamond.   | Retain/improve quality of pitch to accommodate club activity.   |            |                               |           |      |                    |
| 7  | High Street Green        | Football    | Council                  | Three standard quality adult pitches, capacity for additional play. Grass coverage in goal mouth poor.<br>Changing rooms and showers in a poor state of repair.   | Retain spare capacity in order to improve/protect quality. Seek options for funding to improve the quality of the changing to ensure appropriate access for clubs.  | DBC<br>FA  | Key Centre<br><b>Medium</b>   | M         | M    | Enhance            |
|    |                          | Cricket     |                          | One poor quality pitch with 10 grass wickets. Has spare capacity but is unused due to poor quality.<br>10 match equivalent sessions per season have been added to account for casual/unofficial use.  | Retain pitch to accommodate casual activity and future demand. Market facility and work with NGB to raise awareness and increase usage of site.   |            |                               |           |      |                    |
| 80 | Gadebridge Lane          | Football    | Council                  | Comets FC based here. Three mini pitches and three youth pitches, all standard quality. Youth pitches played to capacity. Mini pitches have spare capacity. Site has no changing facilities.  | Improve quality of pitches through maintenance regime. Seek options for securing access to appropriate ancillary facilities for the site.   | DBC<br>FA  | Key Centre<br><b>Medium</b>   | S         | L    | Enhance            |
| 9  | Leverstock Green         | Football    | Council                  | One good quality adult pitch. No spare capacity at peak times.  | Ensure pitch quality can sustain current levels of use.   | DBC        | Club<br><b>Low</b>            | L         | L    | Protect            |
| 3  | Chaulden Playing Fields  | Football    | Council                  | One standard quality adult pitch. No spare capacity at peak times.  | Ensure pitch quality can sustain current levels of use.   | DBC        | Key Centre<br><b>Low</b>      | M         | L    | Enhance<br>Provide |
|    |                          | Rugby union |                          | One standard senior quality pitch and six standard quality mini pitches used to capacity. Used by Hemel RFC in addition to adjacent homeground. Pavilion rated as standard on site.   | Improve quality of pitches through maintenance regime. Consider provision of dedicated training area to alleviate overplay.   | DBC<br>RFU |                               |           |      |                    |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site                           | Sport       | Management/<br>Ownership | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners      | Hierarchy<br>(priority) | Timescale | Cost | Aim     |
|-----|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--|---|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|------|---------|
| 1   | Hemel (Camelot) RFC            | Rugby union | Club/<br>Boxmoor Trust   | Leased to the Club from the Boxmoor Trust. Three good (M2 / D1) quality senior pitches, overplayed by 2.5 matches per week.  | Support the Club in exploring opportunities for a land swap with Boxmoor Trust which owns adjoining land. This would allow for consolidation of all pitches and bring them all closer together. This should include development of a dedicated training area in order to reduce overplay and/or improvements to pitch drainage on existing pitches. | RFU           | Club<br><b>High</b>     | S         | H    | Enhance |
| 115 | Hammond Academy                | Football    | School                   | One standard quality mini pitch. Has spare capacity, not currently offered for community use.  | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school use. Consider allowing community use if future demand arises.   | School        | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Protect |
| 116 | Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School | Football    | School                   | Two standard quality mini pitches. No current regular competitive community use.   | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school use. Consider allowing community use if future demand arises.   | School        | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Protect |
|     |                                | Netball     |                          | Two netball courts, standard quality, EN Category 1  | Retain for school use.  |               |                         |           |      |         |
| 118 | Hobletts Manor Junior School   | Football    | School                   | One standard quality mini pitch. No community use offered.   | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school use. Consider allowing community use if future demand arises.   | School        | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Protect |
|     |                                | Netball     |                          | One netball court, good quality, EN Category 1.  | Retain for school use.  |               |                         |           |      |         |
| 120 | Chaulden Junior School         | Football    | School                   | One good quality adult pitch. Used by neighbouring church and community centre. Played to capacity.  | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school use.  | School        | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Protect |
|     |                                | Netball     |                          | One netball court, good quality, EN Category 1.  | Retain for school use.  |               |                         |           |      |         |
| 125 | Maple Grove Primary            | Football    | School                   | One standard quality youth pitch. Capacity for one additional match per week. Reported parking and access issues. Site not opened at weekends due to lack of demand in the area. | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school use. Consider allowing community use if future demand arises.   | School<br>ECB | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Protect |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site                                      | Sport       | Management/<br>Ownership | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners                        | Hierarchy<br>(priority)                   | Timescale | Cost | Aim                |
|-----|---|-------------|--------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|---|-----------|------|--------------------|
| 129 | St. Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Junior School | Football    | School                   | One poor quality youth pitch. Reported access issues inhibit availability of community use.   | Retain and improve quality for school use. Consider allowing community use if future demand arises.  | School                          | Education<br><b>Low</b>                   | L         | L    | Protect            |
|     |   | Netball     |                          | Two netball courts, standard quality, EN Category 1.  | Retain for school use.   |                                 |   |           |      |                    |
| 48  | The Cavendish School                      | Football    | School                   | One good quality adult pitch and one good quality youth pitch. Available to the community but unused.   | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school use. Consider future potential community use.  | School                          | Education/<br>Key Centre<br><b>Medium</b> | M         | M    | Protect<br>Enhance |
|     |   | 3G AGP      |                          | Full sized standard quality floodlit 3G AGP. High demand for bookings.  | Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment. Consider site to accommodate competitive football fixtures and need to be FA Pitch registered.           |                                 |   |           |      |                    |
|     |   | Cricket     |                          | One poor quality pitch with one artificial wicket. Unused due to poor quality.  | Consider improvements to maintenance regime in order to increase pitch quality to make accessible for junior training for local clubs, such as Hemel Hempstead CC. |                                 |   |           |      |                    |
|     |   | Rugby union |                          | One senior pitch, unused by community. No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs   | Retain for school use.   |                                 |   |           |      |                    |
|     |   | Tennis      |                          | Six good quality concrete tennis courts, available for community use.   | Retain for school use and promote for community use if demand increases.   |                                 |   |           |      |                    |
|     |   | Netball     |                          | Four netball courts, good quality, EN Category 1. Not used in league currently. Needs resurfacing and socketed posts for league use.  | Retain for school use. Explore opportunities for use by local league for future developments.  |                                 |   |           |      |                    |
| 55  | John F Kennedy School                     | Football    | School                   | One standard quality adult pitch and one standard quality mini pitch. Venue previously used by Hemel Stag Aces FC but no longer offer community use to retain quality for school. | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school use.<br>Consider increasing quality and allowing community use if future demand arises.                            | School                          | Education<br><b>Low</b>                   | M         | L    | Enhance            |
|     |   | Rugby union |                          | One mini pitch, unused by community. No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs   | Maintain/improve quality and retain for school use.  | School                          |   |           |      |                    |
|     |   | Netball     |                          | Four netball courts, good quality. EN Category 2. Used by Hemel Hempstead (Shelley) Summer Development League.  | Retain quality for school and league use.  | School<br>Dacorum Netball Forum |   |           |      |                    |
| 68  | South Hill Primary School                 | Football    | School                   | One good quality youth pitch. Used by Hemel Youth FC for matches. Not available during the week. Has spare capacity.  | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school use.   | School                          | Education<br><b>Low</b>                   | L         | L    | Protect            |
|     |   | Netball     |                          | One netball court, poor quality, EN Category 1.   | Retain quality for school use  |                                 |   |           |      |                    |
| 72  | Nash Mills C of E Primary School          | Football    | School                   | One standard quality mini pitch. Not available for community use.   | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school use. Consider allowing community use if future demand arises.  | School                          | Education<br><b>Low</b>                   | L         | L    | Protect            |
| 93  | Micklem School                            | Football    | School                   | One standard quality youth pitch. Available to the community but unused. Has spare capacity.  | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school use. Consider allowing community use if future demand arises.  | School                          | Education<br><b>Low</b>                   | L         | L    | Protect            |
| 130 | Chambersbury Primary School               | Football    | School                   | One standard quality youth pitch. Used by Hemel Spartans FC on a Sunday. Minimal spare capacity.  | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school and community use.   | School                          | Education<br><b>Low</b>                   | L         | L    | Protect            |
| 131 | Yewtree Primary School                    | Football    | School                   | One standard quality mini pitch. Used on  | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for   | School                          | Education                                 | L         | L    | Protect            |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site  | Sport       | Management/<br>Ownership | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners                        | Hierarchy<br>(priority)    | Timescale | Cost | Aim                |
|-----|---|-------------|--------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|------|--------------------|
|     |   |             |                          | Sundays by Hemel Stag Aces FC.   | school and community use.   |                                 | <b>Low</b>                 |           |      |                    |
| 133 | Belswains Primary School                          | Football    | School                   | One standard quality youth pitch. Used on Sundays by Hemel Stag Aces FC.   | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school and community use.  | School                          | Education<br><b>Low</b>    | L         | L    | Protect            |
| 135 | Pixies Hill School , Pixies Hill, Hemel Hempstead | Football    | School                   | One standard quality mini pitch. Restricted community use policy, currently used by Hemel Stag Aces FC.  | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school and community use.  | School                          | Education<br><b>Low</b>    | L         | L    | Protect            |
| 42  | Longdean School                                   | Football    | School                   | Three standard quality adult pitches and three standard quality youth pitches. Usage limited to Comets Sports Club FC Youth.                             | Ensure quality is appropriate to sustain current levels of usage.   | School                          | Education<br><b>Medium</b> | S         | L    | Protect<br>Enhance |
|     |   | Cricket     |                          | One poor quality pitch with one artificial wicket. Unused due to poor quality.   | Consider improvements to maintenance regime in order to increase pitch quality to make accessible for junior training for local clubs, such as Leverstock Green CC. | ECB                             |                            |           |      |                    |
|     |   | Rugby union |                          | One senior pitch, unused. No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs.  | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school use.<br>Consideration to improving access to ancillary facilities to encourage community use.                       | School                          |                            |           |      |                    |
|     |   | Netball     |                          | Two netball courts, poor quality, do not meet EN Category 1, largely unplayable.   | If opportunity arises upgrade to meet at least EN Category 1 standard.  | School<br>Dacorum Netball Forum |                            |           |      |                    |
| 43  | Hemel Hempstead School                            | Football    | School                   | Two standard quality adult pitches. Some spare capacity at site. Currently used by Hemel Stag Aces FC  | Maintain quality of pitch and retain for school and community use.  | School                          | Education<br><b>Low</b>    | S         | M    | Protect            |
|     |   | Cricket     |                          | One poor quality pitch with one artificial wicket. Used by Boxmoor Cricket Club 3 <sup>rd</sup> team   | Improve maintenance regime in order to increase pitch quality to make accessible for junior training for local clubs. Formalise community use.                      | ECB                             |                            |           |      |                    |
|     |   | Rugby union |                          | One senior pitch, unused. No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs.  | Retain for school use.  | School                          |                            |           |      |                    |
|     |   | AGP         |                          | One standard quality half size sand based pitch. No floodlights.   | Maintain quality of pitch. Consider suitability of site for floodlighting. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment.                                | School                          |                            |           |      |                    |
|     |   | Netball     |                          | Two netball courts, standard quality, EN Category 1.<br>Two additional courts at the school, poor quality, do not meet EN Category 1, largely unplayable | Improve quality and retain for school use.<br>If opportunity arises upgrade to meet at least EN Category 1 standard.  | School                          |                            |           |      |                    |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site                              | Sport       | Management/<br>Ownership              | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners                 | Hierarchy<br>(priority)                 | Timescale | Cost | Aim     |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|---|-----------|------|---------|
| 45  | Astley Cooper School              | Football    | School                                | Three standard quality adult pitches, one standard quality mini pitch, two standard quality youth pitches. Site played to capacity. Used extensively by Hemel Hempstead Town Youth FC. Will lose two pitches due to land redevelopment for new primary school. | Ensure pitches are either replaced or seek contributions to invest in increasing the capacity of other sites i.e. Grovehill Playing Fields.   | School<br>FA             | Education/<br>Key Centre<br><b>High</b> | S         | M    | Enhance |
|     |                                   | Cricket     |                                       | One standard quality pitch with one artificial wicket. Unused due to artificial surface and lack of access to changing.  | Retain/improve quality to make accessible for school use.   | School<br>ECB            |   |           |      |         |
|     |                                   | Rugby union |                                       | One senior pitch, unused. No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs.  | Maintain/improve quality and retain for school use.<br>Consideration to improving access to ancillary facilities to encourage community use.  | School                   |   |           |      |         |
|     |                                   | Tennis      |                                       | Five good quality tarmac tennis courts, available for community use.   | Retain for school use.  | School                   |   |           |      |         |
|     |                                   | Netball     |                                       | Five netball courts, average quality, EN Category 1. Used for Back 2 Netball sessions.   | Retain quality for current activity use. Consider additional community use if demand arises.  | Dacorum Netball<br>Forum |   |           |      |         |
| 85  | Lime Walk Primary School          | Football    | School                                | One standard quality adult pitch. Used by Hemel Hempstead Athletic FC. Played to capacity.   | Improve quality of pitch to retain current school and community activity.   | School                   | Education<br><b>Low</b>                 | L         | L    | Enhance |
|     |                                   | Netball     |                                       | One netball court, standard quality, EN Category 1.  | Retain quality for school use   |                          |   |           |      |         |
| 88  | Holtsmere End Junior School       | Football    | School                                | One good quality mini pitch. Has spare capacity though not at peak time. Used for holiday clubs by private provider.   | Retain quality of pitch.  | School                   | Education<br><b>Low</b>                 | L         | L    | Protect |
|     |                                   | Netball     |                                       | One netball court, good quality, EN Category 1.  | Retain quality for school use   |                          |   |           |      |         |
| 89  | George Street Primary School      | Football    | School                                | One standard quality youth pitch, used to capacity. Used by Hemel Warriors FC.   | Retain/improve quality of pitch to accommodate current play. Formalise community use.   | School                   | Education<br><b>Low</b>                 | L         | L    | Protect |
| 91  | Boxmoor Primary School            | Football    | School                                | One standard quality youth pitch, used at weekends by Hemel Stag Aces FC.  | Retain/improve quality of pitch to accommodate current play.  | School                   | Education<br><b>Low</b>                 | L         | L    | Protect |
|     |                                   | Tennis      |                                       | One average quality tennis court.  | Retain for school use.  | School                   |   |           |      |         |
| 99  | Adeyfield School                  | Football    | School                                | One standard quality adult pitch. Pitch at capacity. Used on Sundays by two teams.   | Ensure pitch quality is appropriate to sustain current levels of use.   | School                   | Education<br><b>Low</b>                 | S         | L-M  | Enhance |
|     |                                   | Netball     |                                       | Four floodlit netball courts, standard quality, EN Category 1. Good parking. Used by Hemel Hempstead and District League. Poor standard changing and toilet facilities. Run off and umpire space inadequate. Surface is slippery when wet.                     | Investigate funding to improve ancillary facilities.<br>Remove wire netting and extend court area. Remark courts to provide additional run off.<br>Increase to EN Category 2.             | Dacorum Netball<br>Forum |   |           |      |         |
| 108 | Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club | Cricket     | Leased to the Club from Boxmoor Trust | One standard quality pitch with 14 grass wickets and one poor quality pitch with 9 grass wickets. Overplayed by 44 sessions per season.<br>Poor pitch quality on one pitch is further affecting capacity.  | Improve quality of pitches to accommodate overplay.<br>Consider using Hemel Hempstead or Cavendish School artificial wicket or Warners End Valley for junior training to reduce overplay. | ECB                      | Club<br><b>Medium</b>                   | M         | M    | Enhance |



**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site                                     | Sport        | Management/<br>Ownership  | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners                                 | Hierarchy<br>(priority) | Timescale | Cost | Aim     |
|-----|--|--------------|---|--|--|--|-------------------------|-----------|------|---------|
| 20  | Boxmoor Oval - Boxmoor Cricket Club      | Cricket      | Club/<br>Boxmoor Trust  | Club owns the pavilion and reports that size of changing rooms may be an issue in future and would need umpires room if promoted. Pitch is leased to the Club from the Boxmoor Trust. One standard quality pitch with 12 grass wickets. Pitch is significantly overused and quality is affected- overplayed by 60 sessions per season.   | Improve quality of pitch to accommodate some overplay.<br>Consider external funding to develop changing facilities.<br>Continue with utilisation of Hemel Hempstead School and investigate opportunity to use Warners End Valley for junior training to reduce overplay. | ECB                                      | Club<br><b>Medium</b>   | M         | M    | Enhance |
| 60  | Leverstock Green Tennis and Cricket Club | Cricket      | Leased to the Club from DBC                                       | One standard quality pitch with 11 grass wickets. Pitch is heavily overused which is affecting pitch quality- overplayed by 44 sessions per season.<br>This limits capacity at the Club. Club must use alternative venues outside area for fixtures.<br>Club expressed an interest in leasing Bunkers Lane, which was rejected.  | Improve quality of pitch to accommodate some overplay.<br>Consider using Longdean School artificial wicket for junior training.<br>Consider alternative sites for Club to lease.   | ECB                                      | Club<br><b>High</b>     | S         | M-H  | Enhance |
|     |  | Tennis       |   | Three clay, five tarmac, four acrylic excellent quality tennis courts. Quality of courts and lack of floodlights are limiting membership.<br>The club has identified indoor courts as a priority for the future growth but they are unlikely to get these on their current site and as such are considering relocation.  | Investigate option to relocate to larger site with potential for indoor courts.  | DBC<br>LTA<br>Club                       |                         |           |      | Enhance |
| 107 | Hemel Hempstead Stags RFLC               | Rugby league | One pitch leased from DBC to Club<br>Two pitches owned by Council | Home to HH Stags RFLC. Two poor quality senior pitches (Council owned) and one good quality senior pitch (Club leased). Changing room provision and match official accommodation poor  | Seek options to improve pitch quality.<br>Consider external funding to improve changing provision and match official accommodation.<br>Consider provision of dedicated training area to alleviate overplay. Work with rugby union to achieve possible AGP                | DBC<br>RFL<br>RFU<br>Tring and Hemel RFC | Club<br><b>Medium</b>   | M         | M-H  | Enhance |
| 46  | Abbot's Hill School                      | Tennis       | School  | Four excellent quality tarmac tennis courts, used for school activity.   | Maintain for school use.   | School<br>Dacorum Netball Forum          | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Enhance |
|     |  | Netball      |   | Five netball courts, good quality, EN Category 2.<br>School keen on community use  | Retain quality for school use. Dacorum Netball Forum explore as possible option for league activity.   |  |                         |           |      |         |
|     |  | Lacrosse     |   | Four good quality pitches used by school and associated club. Could be available for community use if demand dictates  | Retain quality for school use. Consider access by community if club demand increases.  | School                                   |                         |           |      |         |
| 139 | Langley Tennis Club                      | Tennis       | School  | Three good quality clay tennis courts operating at capacity.<br>The Club has ambition to refurbish the indoor facilities, a seasonal dome and floodlights for outdoors. However, the short lease on the courts is restricting funding applications.<br>The club need additional courts (floodlit/indoors) if they are to continue to grow their programmes and community engagement. | Negotiate new lease or consider alternative location.<br>Retain quality of courts. Investigate planning permission for floodlights.  | LTA                                      | Club<br><b>High</b>     | S         | M-H  | Provide |
| 62  | The Collett School                       | Netball      | School  | One netball court, poor quality, EN Category 1.  | Improve quality for school use.  | School                                   | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Protect |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site                       | Sport   | Management/<br>Ownership          | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners    | Hierarchy<br>(priority) | Timescale | Cost | Aim     |
|-----|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---|--|-------------|-------------------------|-----------|------|---------|
| 126 | Tudor Primary School       | Netball | School                            | One netball court, standard quality, EN Category1.  | Retain quality for school use.   | School      | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Protect |
| 127 | Two Waters Primary School  | Netball | School                            | One netball court, standard quality, EN Category 1.   | Retain quality for school use.   | School      | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Protect |
| 5   | Gadebridge Park            | Bowls   | Council/ one green leased to Club | Two Council greens, one leased to Hemel Hempstead Bowls Club. Quality needs to be improved at request of County Association.  | Consideration of Club taking on the maintenance of the green to improve quality.                                     | DBC<br>Club | Club<br><b>Medium</b>   | S         | L    | Enhance |
| -   | Bunkers Park, Bunkers Lane | -       | Council                           | Hemel Hempstead Town Youth FC has identified potential land to enable the Club to continue to grow and to develop (over the longer term) clubhouse facilities, changing rooms, storage and a 3G pitch as well as 10-12 grass pitches. | Support the Club to carry out a feasibility with regards to the development of site, together with business planning | DBC<br>FA   | Club<br><b>High</b>     | S         | H    | Provide |

# DACORUM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## SOUTHERN SUMMARY AND ACTION PLAN

### Football – grass pitches

*Summary of football pitches required to meet current and future demand*

| Pitch type    | Actual spare capacity (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions) |               |               |                     |
|---------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
|               |  | Overplay                | Latent demand | Future demand | Total <sup>16</sup> |
| Adult pitches | 4.5                                    | 6                       | 1             | 0.5           | -3                  |
| Youth pitches | 2                                      | 2.5                     | 4             | 1.5           | -6                  |
| Mini pitches  | 2                                      | 3                       | 2             | 2             | -5                  |

- Overplay at Bovingdon FC and Gaywood Park results in an undersupply of pitches in the Southern area.
- Spare capacity is minimal, which will decrease further if Rear of the Boot site in Tower Hill, Chipperfield is sold to developers.

### Football – 3G pitches

- There is current demand for one additional full size floodlit 3G pitch in Dacorum. However, if demand increases to play competitive fixtures on 3G pitches and the quality of grass pitches deteriorates further, there will be a need for more 3G pitches (up to three).

### Cricket

*Capacity of cricket pitches*

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity (pitches) | Demand (pitches) |               |               |       |
|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
|               |                                 | Overplay         | Latent demand | Future demand | Total |
| Southern Area | -                               | 1                | -             | 1             | 2     |

- A large amount of over play at The Common, Vicarage Lane - Kings Langley Cricket Club and Chipperfield Common - Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club result in an undersupply of pitches in the southern area.
- Bovingdon Green has spare capacity, however the poorer quality on some wickets reduces the appeal of this facility.

### Rugby union

- No club demand for pitches in the Area. Some school provision but generally poor quality.

<sup>16</sup> Totals are calculated by taking the demand figures (overplay, latent and future) away from actual spare capacity and are rounded up. Figures are taken from the Assessment Report (Table 2.11 and Table 2.12 for football).



# DACORUM

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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### Rugby league

- ◀ There are no pitches in this analysis area and no reported demand.

### Hockey

- ◀ Sport England modelling suggests there is insufficient pitch space in Dacorum to meet demand from hockey. Unmet and displaced demand would need to be met through provision of one additional full size AGP.

### Tennis

- ◀ Provision is supported by two community clubs
- ◀ Bovington and Flaunden Tennis Club to sort new lease with DBC to secure future tennis provision.
- ◀ Continue to support and encourage junior development in order to increase participation levels in the sport.

### Bowls

- ◀ Adequate provision to service current demand. Most bowling greens are being played to capacity or slightly overplayed. However, it is not anticipated that future demand will result in the need for more greens.

### Netball

- ◀ Adequate provision of netball courts to service current demand.
- ◀ Ensure courts at Kings Langley School are replaced within the rebuild to provide for school activity.
- ◀ Ensure netball/tennis partners and DBC work together to identify potential tennis courts that could be appropriate for netball use.

### Athletics

- ◀ There are no facilities in this analysis area and no reported demand.

### Golf

- ◀ Adequate provision to service current demand.

### Lacrosse and baseball

- ◀ There are no facilities in this analysis area for lacrosse or baseball and no reported demand.

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site  | Sport    | Management/<br>Ownership                           | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners                    | Hierarchy<br>(priority)    | Timescale | Cost | Aim     |
|-----|---|----------|--|--|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|------|---------|
| 38  | Bovingdon FC                                    | Football | Club lease from the Council                        | Two good quality adult pitches. One pitch has perimeter fencing and dug outs. Overplayed by 3.5 matches per week. Used by Hemel Comets and Bovingdon Juniors. The clubs use an area between the two pitches for training. There is a need for better training lights. Club is also actively looking at options to improve the changing facilities. | Continue with maintenance to retain quality. Consider moving some activity to Kings Langley School. Seek funding to improve training lights and changing facilities.   | DBC<br>FA                   | Club<br><b>Medium</b>      | S         | M    | Enhance |
| 106 | Flaunden Playing Fields                         | Football | Leased by Flaunden Parish Council from the Council | One standard quality adult pitch, used to capacity. One standard quality mini pitch, spare capacity. Site solely used by Chipperfield Corinthians Youth FC. Club is investigating potential for a clubhouse.   | Confirm lease arrangements with PC. Consider options for partnership working/lease with Chipperfield Corinthians Youth FC to provide greater on site presence and self-management opportunities and possible funding opportunities for improvements. | Parish Council<br>DBC<br>FA | Club<br><b>Medium</b>      | M         | M    | Enhance |
| 35  | Gaywood Park                                    | Football | Club   | One standard quality adult pitch, one standard quality youth pitch, one standard quality mini pitch. All pitches overplayed. Homeground to Kings Langley FC.   | Improve quality of pitch in order to accommodate overplay.   | FA                          | Club<br><b>Medium</b>      | L         | L    | Enhance |
| 104 | Rear of The Boot, Tower Hill                    | Football | Council  | One standard quality youth pitch with no changing facility. Site has potentially been sold to developers.  | Ensure like for like mitigation for the loss of the pitch.   | DBC                         | -                          | -         | -    | Provide |
| 37  | Chipperfield Corinthians FC                     | Football | Club   | One good quality adult pitch. Homeground to Chipperfield Corinthians FC. Capacity for an additional match per week.  | Retain quality in order to accommodate existing usage.   | FA                          | Club<br><b>Low</b>         | L         | L    | Protect |
| 114 | Rudolf Steiner School                           | Football | School   | One good quality youth pitch with capacity for additional activity. Used on an ad hoc basis by Kings Langley FC as an overspill for training. Changing facilities available.   | Retain quality of pitch and consider additional community usage if demand arises.  | School                      | Education<br><b>Medium</b> | L         | L    | Protect |
|     |   | Cricket  |  | One good quality pitch with five grass wickets. Played to capacity by Kings Langley CC. Changing facilities available for community use.   | Ensure pitch quality can sustain current levels of use and consider longer term increasing the number of wickets on the square if demand increases.  | School<br>ECB               |                            |           |      |         |
| 121 | Chipperfield St Paul's VA C of E Primary School | Football | School   | One standard quality mini pitch used to capacity. Pitch is undersized. Used by the attached Children's Centre and Watford FC for holiday activities.   | Retain/improve quality of pitches to accommodate current use.  | School                      | Education<br><b>Low</b>    | L         | L    | Protect |
|     |   | Netball  |  | One netball court, good quality, EN Category 1.  | Retain quality for school use.   |                             |                            |           |      |         |
| 70  | Kings Langley Primary School                    | Football | School   | One poor quality mini pitch with spare capacity for one match per week.  | Consider improvements to maintenance regime in order to increase pitch quality and retain for school use. Consider community use if demand arises.   | School                      | Education<br><b>Low</b>    | L         | L    | Protect |
|     |   | Netball  |  | One netball court, good quality, EN Category 1.  | Retain quality for school use.   |                             |                            |           |      |         |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site  | Sport       | Management/<br>Ownership                  | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners                        | Hierarchy<br>(priority)    | Timescale | Cost     | Aim                |
|-----|---|-------------|---|--|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------|--------------------|
| 47  | Kings Langley School                                      | Football    | School                                    | Three standard quality adult pitches with some spare capacity. Used by two Sunday teams.   | Improve pitch quality to accommodate additional activity from Bovingdon FC pitch.  | School<br>FA                    | Education<br><b>Medium</b> | S         | <b>M</b> | Protect<br>Enhance |
|     |   | Cricket     |   | One poor quality pitch with ten grass wickets. Used by Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club 5 <sup>th</sup> team.   | Improve maintenance regime in order to increase pitch quality to accommodate club and school use.<br>Encourage usage by Kings Langley CC and Chipperfield Clarendon CC     | School                          |                            |           |          |                    |
|     |   | Rugby union |   | Two senior pitches, unused by community. No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs.   | Retain for school use.   | School                          |                            |           |          |                    |
|     |   | Tennis      |   | Four average quality tennis courts available for community use.  | Retain for school use.   | School                          |                            |           |          |                    |
|     |   | Netball     |   | Three netball courts, good quality, EN Category 1.   | If opportunity arises upgrade to meet EN Category 2 standard.  | School<br>Dacorum Netball Forum |                            |           |          |                    |
| 17  | Bovingdon Green - Bovingdon Cricket Club                  | Cricket     | Leased to the Club from DBC – Common Land | One standard quality pitch with 10 grass wickets. Spare capacity of 22 sessions per season. 10 match equivalent sessions per season have been added to account for casual/unofficial use.<br>The strips at the end of the square are of poorer quality so used less, thus reducing the pitch capacity. | Retain/improve quality of pitches to accommodate play. Develop relationship with Kings Langley Cricket Club to enable club to use facility.                                | ECB                             | Club<br><b>Medium</b>      | M         | M        | Enhance            |
| 18  | The Common, Vicarage Lane - Kings Langley Cricket Club    | Cricket     | Leased to the Club from DBC – Common Land | One good quality pitch with 12 grass wickets. Overplayed by 22 sessions per season due to the number of fixtures being played.<br>10 match equivalent sessions per season have been added to account for casual/unofficial use.  | Retain quality of pitch to cater for usage. Consider moving some activity to Bovingdon Green and usage of Kings Langley School.  | ECB                             | Club<br><b>Medium</b>      | L         | L        | Protect            |
| 19  | Chipperfield Common - Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club | Cricket     | Leased to the Club from DBC – Common Land | One standard quality pitch with 13 grass wickets. Over played by 32 sessions per season.<br>Although the pitch is overplayed juniors may be using the artificial wicket.<br>10 match equivalent sessions per season have been added to account for casual/unofficial use.                              | Improve quality of pitch to accommodate overplay. Ensure junior cricket is played on artificial wicket to accommodate overplay.<br>Consider usage of Kings Langley School. | ECB                             | Club<br><b>Medium</b>      | L         | L        | Enhance            |
| 61  | Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club                        | Tennis      | Lease to Club from DBC                    | Five good quality tarmac tennis courts leased to Club from DBC.<br>Club has been granted planning permission and an LTA loan to install floodlights.<br>Some issues with parking at the site.  | Continue with installation of floodlights. Maintain court quality. Investigate options to alleviate parking issues.  | DBC<br>LTA                      | Club<br><b>Medium</b>      | M         | M        | Enhance            |
| 75  | Chipperfield Tennis Club                                  | Tennis      | Club                                      | Two good quality tarmac tennis courts. Club intends to refurbish second court in 2015. No league competition, social tennis only. No clubhouse, reliant on good will of adjacent café/bar.   | Support club in seeking funding to refurbish courts.   | LTA                             | Club<br><b>Low</b>         | L         | L        | Enhance            |
| 119 | Roman Fields Provision                                    | Tennis      | School                                    | One standard quality tennis court, not available for community use.  | Seek to improve quality and retain for school provision.   | School                          | Education<br><b>Low</b>    | L         | L        | Enhance            |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site                 | Sport   | Management/<br>Ownership           | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners       | Hierarchy<br>(priority) | Timescale | Cost | Aim     |
|-----|----------------------|---------|------------------------------------|--|---|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|------|---------|
| 130 | Bovingdon Academy    | Netball | School                             | One netball court, good quality, EN Category 2.                                    | Retain quality for school use.  | School         | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Protect |
| 67  | Bovingdon Bowls Club | Bowls   | Leased to Club from Parish Council | One green with four rinks and good quality club house. Club aspires for a new mat. | Retain quality of green. Support club in applying for funding to finance mat. | Parish Council | Club<br><b>Low</b>      | S         | L    | Protect |
| 31  | The Saracens Head    | Bowls   | Leased from DBC                    | One standard quality green. Lease to expire in 2018.                               | Retain/improve quality of green. Negotiate new lease to secure                | DBC            | Club<br><b>Low</b>      | S         | L    | Protect |

# DACORUM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## TRING SUMMARY AND ACTION PLAN

### Football – grass pitches

*Summary of football pitches required to meet current and future demand*

| Pitch type    | Actual spare capacity (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions) |               |               |       |
|---------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
|               |  | Overplay                | Latent demand | Future demand | Total |
| Adult pitches | 17                                     | 0.5                     | -             | 1.5           | 15    |
| Youth pitches | 2                                      | 3                       | 1             | 2             | -4    |
| Mini pitches  | 1                                      | -                       | -             | 1             | 0     |

- Over supply of adult pitches due to apparent oversupply at Tring Secondary School. In reality these are undersized so not suitable for adult football.
- Pendley Sports Centre also shows spare capacity, but this is not the case as pitches are in almost constant use with training as well as matches.
- Cow Roast/Lockhart Field shows some spare capacity, however this same area is also used for rugby union and lacrosse.
- The undersupply of youth and to allow future growth in mini football, the quality of the pitches should be improved to allow additional activity.

### Football – 3G pitches

- There is current demand for one additional full size floodlit 3G pitch in Dacorum. However, if demand increases to play competitive fixtures on 3G pitches and the quality of grass pitches deteriorates further, there will be a need for more 3G pitches (up to three).
- Investigate opportunities/funding for provision of a full size floodlit 3G pitch in Tring as a joint priority with Hemel.

### Cricket

*Capacity of cricket pitches*

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity (pitches) | Demand (pitches)       |               |               |       |
|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
|               |                                 | Overplay <sup>17</sup> | Latent demand | Future demand | Total |
| Tring         | 1                               | 1                      | -             | 1             | 1     |

- There is an undersupply of cricket pitches in Tring, mainly due to the huge over played site at Tring Park Cricket Club.
- The artificial wicket at Tring Secondary School is unsuitable to accommodate this additional play due to the poor quality.

<sup>17</sup> Matches per season overplay is converted to pitches on the basis of 5 matches per season being the capacity of a grass wicket and there being on average 10 wickets per pitch. Figures are rounded up/down to the nearest full pitch.

# DACORUM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## Rugby union

Capacity of rugby union pitches (match equivalent sessions per week)

| Pitch type | Actual spare capacity (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions) |               |               |                     |
|------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
|            |  | Overplay                | Latent demand | Future demand | Total <sup>18</sup> |
| Senior     | -                                      | 3                       | -             | 1             | -4                  |
| Mini/midi  | -                                      | 11                      | -             | 3             | -14                 |

- ◀ There is a shortfall of two senior rugby pitches in Tring.
- ◀ Primarily due to significant overplay at Tring RFC, there is a need to provide seven mini/midi pitches to meet current and future demand and a further one pitch in Hemel to meet future demand.
- ◀ Berkhamsted RFC is a growing club with the potential to require a ground of its own in the medium term.

## Rugby league

- ◀ There are no pitches in this Area.

## Hockey

- ◀ One good quality full size sand based AGP at Tring Secondary School which is used to accommodate all hockey in Dacorum.
- ◀ Sport England modelling suggests there is insufficient pitch space in Dacorum to meet demand from hockey. Unmet and displaced demand would need to be met through provision of one additional full size AGP.

## Tennis

- ◀ There is a shortfall in the quality parks tennis courts such as Pound Meadow and Stocks Road.
- ◀ Tring LTC is a priority site for the LTA, requiring additional court space.

## Bowls

- ◀ Adequate provision to service current demand. Most bowling greens are being played to capacity or slightly overplayed. However, it is not anticipated that future demand will result in the need for more greens.
- ◀ Shortfall in quality of the green at Pendley Sports Centre.

## Netball

- ◀ There is adequate netball court provision.
- ◀ Tring Secondary School has good quality double court site for future increased demand.
- ◀ Ensure netball/tennis partners and DBC work together to identify potential tennis courts that could be appropriate for netball use.

<sup>18</sup> Figures rounded up/down to the nearest pitch

# DACORUM

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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### **Athletics**

- ◀ There are no facilities in this analysis area and no reported demand.

### **Golf**

- ◀ There are no facilities in this analysis area and no reported demand.

### **Lacrosse and baseball**

- ◀ Adequate lacrosse provision to service current demand.
- ◀ There are no baseball facilities in this analysis area and no reported demand.

### **Potential for new sites**

#### *LA5 Icknield Way, West Tring*

This site has been removed from the Green Belt and added to the settlement of Tring. The proposal for this site includes the provision of playing fields and open space, for which approximately 8.1 hectares is allocated on the site. Green space principles for the site suggest the provision of a mix of parkland and informal open space in the western fields and consider the inclusion of pitches for outdoor sports.

The development on this site should not have a serious adverse visual impact on views from the surrounding countryside particularly views from the south and south west in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Views from the site towards the Chilterns escarpment to the south and west should be maintained.

The Council's preference is for the open space in the western fields to provide a mix of parkland and open space, in order to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Chilterns AONB. However the Council does acknowledge this Strategy and Action Plan and will consider recommendations regarding pitches on this site.

Artificial lighting in the western fields open space should be avoided. This would deem the site inappropriate for a floodlit AGP development and would also limit usage for any grass pitches or tennis courts. The shortage of rugby pitches particularly in the area may suggest that this would be a logical site for the provision of match pitches.

#### *Tring Secondary School*

There will be a need to provide detached playing fields for Tring Secondary School should they be required following expansion of the school's premises. This was omitted from the pre-submission version of the Site Allocations DPD and is being identified as a modification.

Land at Dunsley Farm off London Road in Tring is being proposed for provision of these playing fields.



**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID | Site                     | Sport       | Management/<br>Ownership                  | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners  | Hierarchy<br>(priority)     | Timescale | Cost | Aim                |
|----|--------------------------|-------------|---|---|--|---|-----------------------------|-----------|------|--------------------|
| 13 | Pound Meadow             | Football    | Council                                   | One standard quality adult pitch. Overplayed. Regular incidents of vandalism to changing and showers.   | Improve pitch quality to cater for overplay and consider controls to protect changing facility.  | DBC<br>FA   | Key Centre<br><b>Medium</b> | M         | L    | Enhance            |
|    |                          | Tennis      |   | Two good quality tarmac tennis courts, available for community use.   | Retain quality to accommodate casual play.   | DBC   |                             |           |      |                    |
| 24 | Tring Park Cricket Club  | Cricket     | Club                                      | Two good quality adult pitches and one good quality mini pitch. Used extensively by the Club, overplayed by 48 sessions per season.<br>Outfields used at football pitches for Tring Tornados out of season.<br>Users of Pound Meadow using the cricket club to park, resulting in deteriorating facilities at the Club, where the car park already requires investment. | Ensure pitch quality can sustain current levels of use and over marking. Consider an improved Stocks Road Recreation Ground for some fixtures. Investigate using Tring Secondary School for some fixtures/training. Consideration of DBC to invest in parking area at Tring Park Cricket Club. | DBC<br>ECB  | Key Centre<br><b>Medium</b> | S         | M    | Protect<br>Enhance |
|    |                          | Football    |   | Two good quality adult pitches and one good quality mini pitch. Played to capacity. Pitches are over marked on the cricket outfield so teams lose access towards the end of the season so pitches can be prepared for cricket season. Capacity rating has been adjusted to reflect this.  | Ensure pitch quality can sustain current levels of use and over marking.   | DBC   |                             |           |      |                    |
| 28 | Cow Roast/Lockhart Field | Football    | Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club | Two good quality adult pitches, two standard quality adult pitches, two standard quality youth pitches. Capacity for additional four matches per week overall. Used by various clubs. Water sometimes lies in goalmouths and centre circle after heavy rain.  | Retain quality to accommodate play. Consider accommodating additional play from Wiggington Sports Field.   | FA  | Strategic<br><b>Medium</b>  | S         | L    | Protect            |
|    |                          | Lacrosse    |   | One standard quality pitch, used for competitive matches by Hatch End Hawks   | Retain/improve quality of pitch to accommodate club activity.  | Club  |                             |           |      |                    |
| 30 | Pendley Sports Centre    | Football    | Pendley Trust                             | Three good quality adult pitches and one standard quality youth pitch.<br>'The Grass Roots Stadium' is home ground to Tring Athletic FC. One adult pitch has floodlights, perimeter fencing and dugouts.<br>Changing facilities poor quality and too small.   | Ensure pitch quality can sustain current levels of use.<br>Seek external funding to improve quality of changing facilities.  | Pendley Trust<br>FA   | Strategic<br><b>High</b>    | M         | M    | Protect<br>Enhance |
|    |                          | Rugby union |   | Home of Tring RFC. Six standard quality mini pitches, overplayed by 11 matches per week and three good quality senior pitches overplayed by three matches per week.<br>Changing facilities poor quality and too small.  | Seek options for dedicated training area in order to reduce overplay. Seek external funding to improve quality of changing facilities and clubhouse.   | Pendley Trust<br>RFU<br>Tring Athletic FC<br>Hemel Stags<br>RLFC<br>Hemel RFC |                             |           |      |                    |
|    |                          | Bowls       |   | One good quality 7 rink green. Home to Tring Bowls Club.  | Retain quality of green to accommodate activity.   | Pendley Trust   |                             |           |      |                    |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID | Site                           | Sport    | Management/<br>Ownership   | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners              | Hierarchy<br>(priority) | Timescale | Cost | Aim                |
|----|--------------------------------|----------|--|--|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------|--------------------|
| 39 | Icknield Stadium               | Football | Club   | One good quality adult pitch. Pitch has spare capacity. Home to Tring Corinthians FC. Good quality changing but is small and in need better officials' facilities. | Retain spare capacity in order to protect quality.<br>Explore options for future funding to make required improvements to changing facility.          | FA                    | Club<br><b>Low</b>      | M         | M    | Protect            |
| 53 | Stocks Road Recreation Ground  | Football | Parish Council   | One standard quality adult pitch. No peak time spare capacity.   | Ensure pitch quality can sustain current levels of use.   | Parish Council        | Key Centre<br>Medium    | M         | M-H  | Protect<br>Enhance |
|    |                                | Cricket  |  | One poor quality pitch with eight grass wickets. Unused due to its poor quality and lack of changing rooms.  | Investment to improve quality of pitch for use by Tring Park Cricket Club.<br>Consider external funding for changing room accommodation.              | Parish Council<br>ECB |                         |           |      |                    |
|    |                                | Tennis   |  | One average quality tarmac tennis court. Available for community use.  | Retain quality to cater for casual play.  | Parish Council        |                         |           |      |                    |
| 10 | Miswell Lane                   | Football | Council  | One standard quality adult pitch. No spare peak time capacity. Regular incidents of vandalism with changing rooms and showers.                                     | Ensure pitch quality can sustain current levels of use. Improve security of the changing facility. Consider site for lease to a club.                 | DBC<br>FA             | Club<br><b>Low</b>      | M         | L    | Enhance            |
| 98 | Long Marston Recreation Ground | Football | Tring Rural Parish Council leased to Long Marston Football Club until 2019 | One good quality adult pitch but regular issues with dog foul. Home to Long Marston FC, currently used to capacity.  | Retain quality to accommodate activity.<br>Consider controls to limit dog issues.   | Club                  | Club<br><b>Low</b>      | S         | L    | Protect            |
| 11 | Mortimer Hill                  | Football | Council  | One good quality undersized adult pitch, not suitable for adult use. As a result has spare capacity.   | Resize pitch to accommodate demand for youth pitches and accommodate overplay from Tring Secondary School.  | DBC                   | Reserve                 | S         | L    | Protect            |
| 65 | Wigginton Sports Field         | Football | Wigginton Parish Council   | One poor quality adult pitch.  | Relocate play from pitch to Cow Roast/Lockhart Field. Retain pitch for future demand.   | DBC                   | Reserve                 | S         | L    | Enhance            |
| 69 | Aldbury Primary School         | Football | School   | One poor quality youth pitch, played to capacity.<br>School reports no demand for the pitches given the proximity of recreation ground in the village.             | Consider improvements to maintenance regime in order to increase pitch quality and retain for school use.<br>Consider future potential community use. | School                | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Enhance            |
|    |                                | Netball  |  | One netball court, standard quality, EN Category 1.  | Retain for school use.  | School                |                         |           |      |                    |
| 92 | Bishop Wood CofE School        | Football | School   | One standard quality mini pitch. Has capacity to accommodate community use.  | Retain quality of pitch and retain for school use.  | School                | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Protect            |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site                             | Sport       | Management/<br>Ownership       | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners                              | Hierarchy<br>(priority)                | Timescale | Cost | Aim                |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|------|--------------------|
| 40  | Tring Secondary School           | -           | School                         | Expansion of the school's built facilities is highly likely to consume part of the existing playing fields.  | Allocate land for the provision of detached playing fields in the event that it is required to enable the expansion of the school's built facilities and to continue school and community use. | DBC                                   | Education/<br>Strategic<br><b>High</b> | M         | H    | Protect<br>Enhance |
|     |                                  | Football    |                                | One standard quality adult pitch, two good quality undersized adult pitches, six standard quality youth pitches. Pitches are well used by Tring Tornadoes FC.  | Adult pitches- consider changing to youth/mini pitches to cater for local demand.<br>Youth pitches- improve quality of pitches to cater for demand.  | School                                |  | M         | M    |                    |
|     |                                  | Cricket     |                                | One poor quality pitch with one artificial wicket. Unused due to poor quality.   | Consider improvements to maintenance regime in order to increase pitch quality to enable school use and use by Tring Park Cricket Club   | School                                |  |           |      |                    |
|     |                                  | Rugby union |                                | Two undersized senior pitches. Occasional use as overspill by Tring RFC.   | Improve quality of pitches to allow regular use by Tring RFC.  | School<br>Club                        |  |           |      |                    |
|     |                                  | AGP         |                                | One good quality full size sand based floodlit pitch. High demand from both football and hockey- including both hockey clubs from Dacorum.   | Maintain quality of pitch. Keep as sand based, no conversion to 3G<br>Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment.  | School<br>England Hockey<br>FA<br>DBC |  |           |      |                    |
|     |                                  | Tennis      |                                | Two excellent quality tarmac tennis courts. Available for community use.   | Maintain quality of courts for school use.   | School                                |  |           |      |                    |
|     |                                  | Netball     |                                | Two good quality netball courts, good quality, EN Category 2. Recently relaid and remarked.  | Maintain quality of courts.<br>Dacorum Netball Forum to consider use for league or Back 2 Netball activity.  | School<br>Dacorum Netball<br>Forum    |  |           |      |                    |
| 95  | Long Marston Cricket Club        | Cricket     | Club                           | One good quality pitch with 15 grass wickets. Has spare capacity as previously stopped junior cricket, however this will restart again in 2015 so capacity will not be spare. Ground is available on request to the local school (Cheddington). Uses a second pitch two miles away in Bucks. | Retain quality of pitch to accommodate play.   | Clubs                                 | Club<br><b>Low</b>                     | L         | L    | Enhance            |
| 51  | Lockhart Field                   | Rugby Union | Berkhamsted and HH Hockey Club | One standard quality senior pitch. Used by new team Berkhamsted RFC. No spare capacity at peak time.   | Ensure pitch quality can sustain current levels of use.<br>Find site to cater for club growth in the medium term.  | Club                                  | Club<br><b>Low</b>                     | L         | L    | Enhance            |
| 128 | Francis House Preparatory School | Tennis      | School                         | Two good quality tennis courts, not available for community use.   | Retain for school use.   | School                                | Education<br><b>Low</b>                | L         | L    | Protect            |
| 97  | Long Marston Tennis Club         | Tennis      | Club                           | Two excellent quality tarmac tennis courts.  | Retain quality of courts for club use.   | Club                                  | Club<br><b>Low</b>                     | L         | L    | Protect            |

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site                           | Sport   | Management/<br>Ownership | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners | Hierarchy<br>(priority) | Timescale | Cost | Aim     |
|-----|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---|--|----------|-------------------------|-----------|------|---------|
| 59  | Tring Tennis Club              | Tennis  | Club                     | Six excellent quality tarmac tennis courts. Located on site with Tring Park Cricket Club.<br>Club is operating at capacity and is looking to improve their facilities (which could include indoor courts) and to expand their community programmes. | Retain quality for continued use.<br>Consider external funding to support developments of additional courts. | LTA      | Club<br><b>Medium</b>   | L         | L    | Protect |
| 84  | St Bartholomew's C of E School | Netball | School                   | One netball court, good quality, EN Category 1.   | Retain for school use.   | School   | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Protect |
| 123 | Grove Road Primary             | Netball | School                   | Two netball courts, poor quality, EN Category 1.  | Retain for school use.   | School   | Education<br><b>Low</b> | L         | L    | Protect |

# DACORUM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## EASTERN VILLAGES SUMMARY AND ACTION PLAN

### Football – grass pitches

*Summary of football pitches required to meet current and future demand*

| Pitch type    | Actual spare capacity (match sessions) | Demand (match sessions) |               |               |       |
|---------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
|               |  | Overplay                | Latent demand | Future demand | Total |
| Adult pitches | 3.5                                    | -                       | -             | 0.5           | 3     |
| Youth pitches | 2.5                                    | -                       | -             | 0.5           | 2     |
| Mini pitches  | 1                                      | -                       | -             | 0             | 1     |

- ◀ No demand for additional football pitches.
- ◀ Spare capacity expressed should be retained for future Borough wide demand.

### Football – 3G pitches

- ◀ There is current demand for one additional full size floodlit 3G pitch in Dacorum. However, if demand increases to play competitive fixtures on 3G pitches and the quality of grass pitches deteriorates further, there will be a need for more 3G pitches (up to three).

### Cricket

*Capacity of cricket pitches*

| Analysis area    | Actual spare capacity (pitches) | Demand (pitches) |               |               |       |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
|                  |                                 | Overplay         | Latent demand | Future demand | Total |
| Eastern Villages | 2                               | 0                | -             | -             | 2     |

- ◀ There is an apparent over supply of two cricket pitches in the Eastern Villages area. This is due mainly to the apparent non use of the Cavendish Road Recreation Ground site. The Club could not be contacted for consultation, however various club websites show activity is occurring at the Club, which would suggest this figure is reduced to one.
- ◀ Spare capacity expressed should be retained for future Borough wide demand.

### Rugby union

- ◀ There are no rugby union pitches in the Eastern Villages and no reported demand.

### Rugby league

- ◀ There are no pitches in this analysis area and no reported demand.

# DACORUM

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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### Hockey

- ◀ Sport England modelling suggests there is insufficient pitch space in Dacorum to meet demand from hockey. Unmet and displaced demand would need to be met through provision of one additional full size AGP.

### Tennis

- ◀ One court, not available for community use.
- ◀ No additional demand recorded.
- ◀ Alternative tennis oversupply across Borough to cater.

### Bowls

- ◀ No facilities exist in this analysis area

### Netball

- ◀ One court, not available for community use.
- ◀ No additional demand recorded.
- ◀ Alternative netball oversupply across the Borough to cater.
- ◀ Ensure netball/tennis partners and DBC work together to identify potential tennis courts that could be appropriate for netball use.

### Athletics

- ◀ There are no facilities in this analysis area and no reported demand.

### Golf

- ◀ There are no facilities in this analysis area and no reported demand.

### Lacrosse and baseball

- ◀ There are no facilities in this analysis area for lacrosse or baseball and no reported demand.

**DACORUM  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| ID  | Site                         | Sport    | Management Ownership  | Issue to be resolved   | Recommended actions  | Partners            | Hierarchy (priority)  | Timescale | Cost | Aim     |
|-----|------------------------------|----------|---|--|--|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------|---------|
| 101 | Cavendish Road Rec           | Football | Leased by Markyate Parish Council from DBC and sublet to Markyate Football & Cricket Club | Two good quality adult pitches and one youth pitch. Capacity for additional matches on all pitches. Used by Markyate Football and Cricket Club. Adult pitch contains perimeter rail and dugouts. Club reports regular dog foul on all pitches                | Maintain quality of pitches. Investigate options for addressing dog foul issue.  | Club Parish Council | Club <b>Low</b>       | S         | L    | Protect |
|     |                              | Cricket  |   | One poor quality pitch with eight grass wickets. Used by Markyate Cricket Club.  | Consider improvements to maintenance regime in order to increase pitch quality.  | Club Parish Council |                       |           |      |         |
| 74  | Friendless Lane Rec          | Football | Flamstead Parish Council  | Two good quality adult pitches, one good quality mini pitch, one good quality youth pitch. Poor quality changing rooms. All have spare capacity. Used solely by Flamstead Youth FC   | Retain quality of pitches. Consider external funding to improve changing facilities, in conjunction with the Cricket Club  | Parish Council FA   | Key Centre <b>Low</b> | M         | M    | Enhance |
|     |                              | Cricket  |   | One standard quality pitch with 11 grass wickets. Overplayed by 11 sessions per season. Used by Flamstead Cricket Club which indicates it has no current lease on the facility. Although the pitch is overplayed juniors may be using the artificial wicket. | Sustain quality of pitch to accommodate overplay. Consider external funding to improve changing facilities, in conjunction with the Football Club. Confirm lease arrangements on ground. | Parish Council Club |                       |           |      |         |
|     |                              | Netball  |   | One netball court not available for community use. Good quality, EN Category 1.  | Retain quality.  | Parish Council      |                       |           |      |         |
|     |                              | Tennis   |   | One tennis court not available for community use.  | Retain quality.  | Parish Council      |                       |           |      |         |
| 73  | Cross Road, Great Gaddesden  | Football | Great Gaddesden Parish Council  | One standard quality youth pitch with some spare capacity. Not maintained, rusty junior goalposts.   | Retain pitch in reserve for future demand.   | Parish Council      | Reserve               | L         | L    | Protect |
| 122 | Flamstead Village School     | Football | School  | One standard quality youth pitch. School reports the pitch is not available for hire as there is no local demand.  | Retain quality of pitch. Consider offering for community use if demands arises.  | School              | Education <b>Low</b>  | L         | L    | Protect |
| 100 | Great Gaddesden Cricket Club | Cricket  | Leased to the Club from Halsey Estate   | One standard quality pitch with 11 grass wickets. Used by Great Gaddesden Cricket Club   | Sustain quality of pitch to accommodate play.  | Club                | Club <b>Low</b>       | L         | L    | Enhance |



# DACORUM

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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

#### ***Delivery***

The PPS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Dacorum. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this PPS, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Dacorum can be satisfied. The PPS 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 PPS should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of the PPS 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 PPS. 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.

## DACORUM

# PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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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.

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 playing pitch provision in the area
- ◀ Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan
- ◀ Shares lessons learnt from how the 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 playing pitch 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 PPS 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.

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

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### APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The recommendations within this PPS have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis. They reflect key areas to be addressed over its lifetime. However, implementation must be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to also meet planning considerations.

#### 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 PPS is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

#### ***Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)***

In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England aspires to transforming sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics. The strategy will:

- ◀ See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- ◀ Create more opportunities for young people
- ◀ Nurture and develop talent
- ◀ Provide the right facilities in the right places
- ◀ Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- ◀ Ensure real opportunities for communities

The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- ◀ Maximise value from current NGB investment
- ◀ Places, People, Play
- ◀ Strategic direction and market intelligence
- ◀ Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- ◀ Market development

The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habit for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes:

- ◀ 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's area.
- ◀ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ◀ All secondary schools that wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ◀ At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.

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- ◀ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
- ◀ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ◀ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ◀ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ◀ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

### ***National Planning Policy Framework***

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***The FA National Game Strategy (2011 – 2015)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Growth and retention (young and adult players)
- ◀ Raising standards and behaviour
- ◀ Better players
- ◀ Running the game

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- ◀ Workforce
- ◀ Facilities

'The National Game Strategy' reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites. Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years, resulting in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built five-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of five-a-side teams in recent years.

### ***The FA National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2015)***

The recently launched National Facilities Strategy sets out the FA's long term vision for development of facilities to support the National Game. It aims to address and reflect the facility needs of football within the National Game. The National Game is defined as all non-professional football from Steps 1-7 of the National League System down to recreational football played on open public space. The role of facilities will be crucial in developing the game in England. One of the biggest issues raised from 'the Big Grassroots Football Survey' by that of 84% respondents, was 'poor facilities'.

The FA's vision for the future of facilities in England is to build, protect and enhance sustainable football facilities to improve the experience of the nation's favourite game. It aims to do this by:

- ◀ Building - Provide new facilities and pitches in key locations to FA standards in order to sustain existing participation and support new participation.
- ◀ Protecting - Ensure that playing pitches and facilities are protected for the benefit of current and future participants.
- ◀ Enhancing - Invest in existing facilities and pitches, ensuring that participation in the game is sustained as well as expanded.

The Strategy commits to delivering in excess of £150m (through Football Foundation) into facility improvements across the National Game in line with identified priorities:

- ◀ Natural grass pitches improved – target: 100
- ◀ A network of new AGPs built – target 100
- ◀ A network of refurbished AGPs – target 150
- ◀ On selected sites, new and improved changing facilities and toilets
- ◀ Continue a small grants programme designed to address modest facility needs of clubs
- ◀ Ongoing support with the purchase and replacement of goalposts

It also commits to:

- ◀ Direct other sources of investment into FA facility priorities
- ◀ Communicate priorities for investment across the grassroots game on a regular basis
- ◀ Work closely with Sport England, the Premier League and other partners to ensure that investment is co-ordinated and targeted



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### ***Champion Counties – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017)***

“Champion Counties” - continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified in the ECB’s previous strategy: “Grounds to Play”. The pillars are:

- ◀ Energising people and partnerships through effective leadership and governance
- ◀ Building a Vibrant domestic game through operational excellence and delivering a competition structure with appointment to view
- ◀ Engaging participants through the maintenance of existing facilities, supporting club/school links , supporting volunteers and expanding women’s and disabilities cricket
- ◀ Delivering Successful England teams and world class global events

The key measures for the life span of the plan are as follows:-

- ◀ Increase the subset of participation measured by Sport England’s Active People Survey from 183,400 to 197,500.
- ◀ Increase attendances at LV= CC, YB50 and FLT20 by 200,000.
- ◀ Complete sponsorship and broadcasting agreements through 2019.
- ◀ Win the World Test Championship and Women’s World Cup in 2017.
- ◀ Win The Ashes and World Cup in 2015.
- ◀ Expand the number of clubs participating in NatWest Cricket Force from 2,000 to 2,200.
- ◀ Complete co-operation agreements for each of the 39 County Boards with their First Class County or Minor County partner.
- ◀ Deliver two world class global events in 2017 which exceed budget and exceed customer satisfaction targets.
- ◀ Increase the number of cricket’s volunteers to 80,000 by 2017.
- ◀ Expand the number of participants in women’s and disabilities cricket by 10% by 2017.
- ◀ Award all Major Matches through 2019 by December 2014.
- ◀ To increase the number of TwelfthMan members from 220,000 to 250,000 by 2017.
- ◀ Complete an approved Community Engagement programme with all 18 First Class Counties and MCC.
- ◀ Provide First Class Counties with total fee payments of £144m between 2014 and 2017.
- ◀ For each £1 provided in facility grants through the Sport England Whole Sport Plan grant programme ensure a multiplier of 3 with other funding partners.
- ◀ Provide a fund of £8.1m of capital investment to enhance floodlights, sightscreens, replay screens, power sub-stations and broadcasting facilities at First Class County venues.
- ◀ Provide an interest-free loan fund to community clubs of £10 million.
- ◀ Leverage the 2014 tour by India to engage with a minimum of 10,000 cricket supporters of Asian origin. Qualify and engage 50 Level 4 coaches to support the development of professional cricketers.
- ◀ Expand the number of coaches who have received teacher level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications to 50,000.
- ◀ Deliver an annual fixture for the Unicorns against a touring (Full, A or U19) ICC member nation.
- ◀ Provide a fund of £2 million for community clubs to combat the impact of climate change.
- ◀ Introduce a youth T20 competition engaging 500 teams by 2017.

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### ***The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)***

The recently launched RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

### ***England Hockey (EH)***

*'The right pitches in the right places'<sup>19</sup>*

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.

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<sup>19</sup>

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143&sectionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

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- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment.
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

### ***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.rffacilitiestrust.co.uk](http://www.rffacilitiestrust.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

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### *England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17 Whole Sport Plan*

England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.



To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

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### **2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy**

The new strategy is presented in a concise one page framework that includes key strategies relating to three participation "focus" areas, six participation "drivers" and three participation "enablers". To achieve success, the 12 strategy areas will need to work interdependently to stem the decline and unlock sustainable growth:

The three participation "focus" areas are where tennis is consumed:

1. Deliver great service to CLUBS
2. Build partnerships in the COMMUNITY, led by parks
3. Enhance the tennis offer in EDUCATION

The six participation "drivers" are the areas that will make the biggest difference where tennis is consumed. They must all be successful on a standalone and interconnected basis and include:

1. Becoming more relevant to COACHES
2. Refocusing on RECREATIONAL COMPETITION
3. Providing results orientated FACILITY INVESTMENT
4. Applying best in class MARKETING AND PROMOTION
5. JUMP STARTING THE PEAK SUMMER SEASON
6. Establishing a "no compromise" HIGH PERFORMANCE programme with focus.

The final layer is comprised of three participation "enablers" that underpin our ability to be successful. These enablers are rooted in how the LTA will get better; how the entire network of 4 / 17/03/2015 partners must be harnessed to work together and the need to raise more financial resources to fund our sport's turnaround. They include:

1. Becoming a more effective and efficient LTA
2. Harnessing the full resource network
3. Generating new revenue

For further information and more detail on the framework please go to <http://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision>

### **England Athletics: Whole Sport Plan 2013-2017**

The England Athletics plan outlines a strategy to attract and retain 3 million athletics participants by 2017, from a current base of 1.9 million as measured by Active People, whilst cementing athletics as the most popular individual sporting activity in England.

*"The ambition is to make England an athletic nation. Traditional athletics for some, running for many, fitness for all".*

In order to achieve this, the goals of the strategic plan are:

- ◀ To grow and sustain participation levels in the sport.
- ◀ To improve the experiences of every participant in the sport.
- ◀ To improve performance levels and to grow the next generation of senior athletic champions.

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The plan also reflects a total commitment to delivering an inclusive sport, setting specific disability targets that are woven into the core measures for growth and retention of participation. Key personnel within the England Athletics staffing structure will now lead this area of work, focusing on:

- ◀ Delivering inclusive formats of the sport.
- ◀ National policy and programme development.
- ◀ Coaching and teaching resources.

### ***Raising Our Game: The Strategic Plan for England Golf (2014-2017)***

The recently launched England Golf Strategy 2014-2017 focuses on preventing the continued decline of people participating in golf. Since 2004, membership at clubs has declined by around 180,000 members, which is seriously challenging the economy and culture of the sport within England. Active People Survey data shows a current latent demand of 830,000 adults, with a further 2 million golfers playing independently.

The ambition of the strategy is to:

- ◀ Reverse the decline in club membership which has been occurring annually since 2005 and stabilise club membership at the July 2014 level of 675,000 members
- ◀ Increase the number of people who play golf at least once a week from the baseline of 750,000 in 2014 to 910,000 by March 2017.
- ◀ Strengthen the talent development pathway from club to national level, leading to even more international success for English players.
- ◀ Improve communications, governance and partnerships at all levels within England Golf.

There are a number of measurable performance indicators within this strategic plan, with progress tracked and reported on a regular basis. There will be an annual review of progress in April each year, commencing in April 2015 and this will be reported as part of the Annual Report of England Golf. To achieve its aims, England Golf will concentrate on seven key themes:

- ◀ More players - Increasing the number of players who play golf regularly.
- ◀ More members - Increasing the number of players in club membership.
- ◀ Stronger clubs - Supporting clubs to attract and retain members and to achieve a sustainable business model.
- ◀ Winning golfers - Identifying and developing talented golfers at every level, leading to international amateur success.
- ◀ Outstanding championships - Providing excellent championships and competitions for golfers of all levels.
- ◀ Improved image - Changing the perception of golf and improving communications within the sport.
- ◀ Excellent governance - Improving the governance, building the infrastructure and strengthening the partnerships to develop golf in England.

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### ***Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017***

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

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



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### APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

#### Funding opportunities

In addition to using the planning system to lever in contributions through Section 106 or CIL, it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought to deliver much of the action plan. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated. Below is a list of current funding sources that are relevant for community improvement projects involving sports facilities.

| Awarding body  | Description  |
|--|--|
| Big Lottery Fund<br><a href="http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/">http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/</a>  | Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment   |
| Sport England :<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement Fund</li> <li>• Sportsmatch</li> <li>• Small Grants</li> <li>• Protecting Playing Fields</li> <li>• Inspired Facilities</li> <li>• Strategic Facilities Fund</li> </ul> <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx">http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx</a><br><a href="http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/strategic-facilities/">http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/strategic-facilities/</a> | Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.  |
| Football Foundation<br><a href="http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/">http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/</a>   | This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.   |
| Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme<br><a href="http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org">www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org</a>   | The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project.<br>Projects eligible for funding include:<br>1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights.<br>2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors).<br>3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers). |
| EU Life Fund<br><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</a>  | LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.   |
| EH Capital Investment Programme (CIP)  | The CIP fund is for the provision of new pitches and re-surfacing of old AGPs. It forms part of EH's 4 year Whole Sport's Plan.  |

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| Awarding body   | Description   |
|---|---|
| National Hockey Foundation<br><a href="http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/">http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</a> | The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus:<br>Young people and hockey.<br>Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.<br>Smaller Charities. |

### ***Protecting Playing Fields***

SE launched a funding programme; Protecting Playing Fields (PPF ) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects over the next three years (2011-2014).

The programme is being delivered via five funding rounds (with up to £2 million being awarded to projects in each round). Its focus is on protecting and improving playing fields and developing community sport. It will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long term protection of the site for sport. Projects are likely to involve the construction of new pitches or improvement of existing ones that need levelling or drainage works.

Sport England's 'Inspired Facilities' funding programme will be delivered via five funding rounds and is due to launch in Summer 2011 where clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and local authorities can apply for grants of between £25k and £150k where there is a proven local need for a facility to be modernised, extended or modified to open up new sporting opportunities.

The programmes three priorities are:

- ◀ Organisations that haven't previously received a Sport England Lottery grant of over £10k.
- ◀ Projects that are the only public sports facility in the local community.
- ◀ Projects that offer local opportunities to people who do not currently play sport.

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also providing opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces

### ***Strategic Facilities Fund***

Facilities are fundamental in providing more people with the opportunity to play sport. The supply of the right facilities in the right areas is key to getting more people to play sport. Sport England recognises the considerable financial pressures that local authorities are currently under and the need to strategically review and rationalise leisure stock so that cost effective and financially sustainable provision is available in the long-term. Sport England has a key role to play in the sector, from influencing the local strategic planning and review of sports facility provision to investing in major capital projects of strategic importance.

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The Strategic Facilities Fund will direct capital investment into a number of key local authority projects that are identified through a strategic needs assessment and that have maximum impact on growing and sustaining community sport participation. These projects will be promoted as best practice in the delivery of quality and affordable facilities, whilst demonstrating long-term operational efficiencies. The fund will support projects that bring together multiple partners, including input from the public and private sectors and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). The fund is also designed to encourage applicants and their partners to invest further capital and revenue funding to ensure sustainability. Sport England has allocated a budget of circa £30m of Lottery funding to award through this fund (2013-17).

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

- ◀ A robust needs and evidence base which illustrates the need for the project and the proposed facility mix
- ◀ Strong partnerships which will last beyond the initial development of the project and underpin the long-term sustainability of the facility
- ◀ Multi-sport provision and activity that demonstrates delivery against NGB local priorities
- ◀ A robust project plan from inception to completion with achievable milestones and timescales.

Lottery applications will be invited on a solicited-only basis and grants of between £500,000 and £2,000,000 will be considered.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

- ◀ Are large-scale capital developments identified as part of a local authority sports facility strategic needs assessment/rationalisation programme and that will drive a significant increase in community sports participation
- ◀ Demonstrate consultation/support from two or more NGBs and delivery against their local priorities
- ◀ Are multi-sport facilities providing opportunities to drive high participant numbers
- ◀ Are a mix of facility provision (indoor and/or outdoor) to encourage regular & sustained use by a large number of people
- ◀ Offer an enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build facilities
- ◀ Have a long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Show quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Have effective and efficient operating models, combined with a commitment to development programmes which will increase participation and provide talent pathways.

Projects will need to demonstrate how the grant will deliver against Sport England's strategic priorities. The funding available is for the development of the capital infrastructure, which can contribute to the costs of new build, modernisation or refurbishment and purchasing of major fixed equipment as part of the facility development.

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### **Funder's requirements**

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

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

### **Indicative costs**

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan can be found on the Sport England website:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

These costs are broken down into two areas:

- ◀ Facility capital costs
- ◀ Lifecycle costs

### **Facility capital costs**

Facility capital costs are calculated using estimates of what it typically costs to build modern sports facilities, including fees and external works.

Naturally, varying conditions, inflation and regional adjustments.

Costs are updated regularly in conjunction with information provided by the BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) and other Quantity Surveyors.

The document is often referred to as the Planning Kitbag costs as the figures are often used by Planners and Developers when reviewing potential Planning Contributions to site developments.

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### ***Facility life cycle costs***

Life cycle costs are how much it costs to keep a facility open and fit-for-purpose during its lifetime.

It includes costs for major replacement and planned preventative maintenance (day to day repairs).

The costs are expressed as a percentage of the capital cost.

You should not underestimate the importance of regular maintenance and the expense in maintaining a facility throughout its life.

### APPENDIX THREE: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Displaced demand** generally relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area (i.e. from residents of the study area) which takes place outside of the area. This may be due to issues with the provision of pitches and ancillary facilities in the study area, just reflective of how the sports are played (e.g. at a central venue for the wider area) or due to the most convenient site for the respective users just falling outside of the local authority/study area.

**Unmet demand** is demand that is known to exist but unable to be accommodated on current supply of pitches. This could be in the form of a team with access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. This could also be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have declined applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

**Latent demand** is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.

**Future demand** is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the study area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure.

**Casual use** or other use could take place on natural grass pitches or AGPs and include:

- ◀ Regular play from non-sports club sources (e.g. companies, schools, fitness classes)
- ◀ Infrequent informal/friendly matches
- ◀ Informal training sessions
- ◀ More casual forms of a particular sport organised by sports clubs or other parties
- ◀ Significant public use and informal play, particularly where pitches are located in parks/recreation grounds.

**Carrying capacity** is the amount of play a site can regularly accommodate (in the relevant comparable unit) for community use without adversely affecting its quality and use. This is typically outlined by the NGB

**Overplay** is when a pitch is used over the amount that the carrying capacity will allow, (i.e. more than the site can accommodate). Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected.

**Spare capacity** is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in addition to current activity. There may be reasons why this potential to accommodate additional play should not automatically be regarded as actual spare capacity, for example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below its carrying capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of friendly matches and training activity. This needs to be investigated before the capacity is deemed **actual spare capacity**.

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**Match equivalent sessions** is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football, rugby union and rugby league, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season and one match = one match equivalent session