

Chesterfield Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

Chesterfield Borough Council

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Introduction

- 1.1 This Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy draws upon the issues identified within the Chesterfield Borough Outdoor Sports and Playing Pitch assessment report, which evaluated the adequacy of provision for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis, bowls and athletics across the borough. It sets out the priorities for the delivery of outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches in the borough up to 2026.

Key Drivers

- 1.2 The strategy sits within the context of Chesterfield Borough Councils Corporate Plan (2012-2015) and will help the delivery of four specific priorities:
- A Sustainable Community- A clean, green and attractive Borough, where open spaces and built heritage are valued
 - An Accessible Community- An inclusive Borough, where everyone feels valued and has equal and fair access to local services
 - A Safer, Healthier and Active Community- A healthy and safe Borough, where the community is free from the fear of crime
 - A High Performing Council with productive partnerships - An efficient and effective Council.
- 1.3 Against this backdrop, the strategy will help to deliver on the broader agenda of increasing participation in sport and physical activity, which is key to improving health and wellbeing outcomes and which can also play an important role in the development of community cohesion and integration.
- 1.4 The objectives of the strategy extend across multiple partnerships and service department plans and can be summarised as;
- to ensure that knowledge and understanding is available to support and drive forward the delivery of the public health agenda;
 - to inform sport and physical activity development projects and initiatives;
 - the need to ensure that facilities are tailored to current and projected future local community need;
 - to help facilitate community use of pitches and outdoor facilities on education and other identified locality based sites;
 - the need to inform the investment strategy for Community Sport and Health related projects or initiatives;
 - the need to inform local plan policy and potential developer contributions; and
 - to set the strategy for Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports facilities provision within the context of the local plan and wider strategies for parks, green spaces and community development and to reflect wider community asset reviews.
- 1.5 This assessment and strategy will also seek to bring together the sporting community across Chesterfield and will seek to achieve the goals, aims and objectives of wider partners, as well as those of Chesterfield Borough Council.

Strategic Vision

1.6 This strategy seeks to support the Council and its partners to provide:

“a high quality sporting infrastructure which meets the needs of players at all levels and promotes participation and physical activity across the borough”.

1.7 To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives;

- ensure that all valuable playing fields are protected for the long term benefit of sport;
- provide enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand;
- enhance existing facilities to ensure that they are fit for purpose and promote participation in pitch sports; and
- promote sustainable sport and club development and maximise participation across Chesterfield Borough.

Context

1.8 In addition to the achievement of specific objectives relating to playing pitches and sport and physical activity, the strategy contributes to the delivery of many other national, regional and local strategic targets as follows;

National Level

1.9 At a national level, there are several key policies that impact upon the preparation of this Playing Pitch Strategy:

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF's expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation are set out in paragraphs 73 and 74 which require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application.

Sport England has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches since 1996 and has a long established policy of retention, which is the precursor to the National Planning Policy Framework guidance above. Sport England also advises that informed decisions on playing pitch matters require all local authorities to have an up to date assessment of need and a strategy emanating from this. Sport England recommend that a strategy is monitored and updated annually and refreshed every three years. This assessment will support the Council in implementing a robust strategic approach to the delivery of pitches across the borough. Sport England's National Strategy, (Creating a Sporting Habit for Life 2012) also underpins this outdoor sports and playing pitch assessment.

National Governing Body Facility Strategies: The Football Association (FA), England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Rugby Football Union (RFU), Rugby Football League (RFL) and England Hockey all set out strategies guiding the provision of facilities for their specific sport as follows;

- The Football Association - National Game Strategy
- Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)
- The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy
- Community Rugby League Facilities Strategy
- The National Hockey Facility Strategy – The Right Facilities in the Right Places (2012)
- Places to Play – The Lawn Tennis Association.

1.10 The strategy builds upon the priorities set out in these national documents and seeks to implement them in Chesterfield Borough.

Local Context

1.11 More local to Chesterfield, the preparation of this Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy impacts upon, or is informed by, a number of key documents including:

- Chesterfield Borough Core Strategy (2013) –sets out the priorities for the future development of the Borough up to 2031. These include a targeted growth strategy proposing 7,600 additional dwellings in the borough, as well as the enhancement, protection and improvements to connectivity of open space, sport and leisure facilities. This Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy will inform the local plan, including site allocations and development management policies which will provide further detail on the principles set out in the core strategy
- Chesterfield Borough Council Corporate Plan - 2012-2015 –includes a vision of “putting our communities first” and seeks to deliver on four priorities, specifically A Sustainable Community, An Accessible Community, A Safer, Healthier and Active Community and a High Performing Council with productive partnerships. The key priorities arising from this outdoor sports and playing pitch assessment and strategy will be considered in the context of this overall vision and objectives
- Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy – 2012 – 2015 – the strategy seeks to reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing across all stages of life by working in partnership with communities. Its priorities are focused around five key themes. Effective provision of outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches will a key means of delivering these key priorities
- Active Derbyshire Plan – 2013 – 2016 – this strategy has been developed through the Active Derbyshire Partnership which is the strategic lead for physical activity in Derbyshire. The vision is to make Derbyshire one of the most active counties in the country by 2020. It is anticipated that this will be achieved through participation in sport, active recreation and everyday activity. This assessment and strategy will therefore contribute to the achievement of these goals.
- Beyond 2012: A Plan for Sport and Active Recreation in Derbyshire 2012 – 2015 – the plan provides the strategic framework for sport and active recreation in Derbyshire and builds upon the previous document which finished in 2012. It informs and guides the delivery of service action plans for agencies involved in sport in the county and has a vision of making Derbyshire one of the most active counties in the country by

2020. It seeks to achieve this by increasing participation, strengthening the sports system and improving player pathways.

Population and Participation in Sport

1.12 An understanding of population trends and overall participation in sport underpins the evaluation of the adequacy of facilities for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls in the needs assessment and as a consequence, the key priorities set out in this strategy. There are several key issues that impact upon the requirement for outdoor sports and playing pitches, and the role that pitches and other sports facilities can play in the achievement of national, regional and local goals. These can be summarised as;

- the current age structure of Chesterfield Borough and Derbyshire's population is older than both the East Midlands and England averages. This impacts upon the demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities, as younger residents in general have a higher propensity to participate in pitch and outdoor sports than their older counterparts
- while the population is projected to increase overall (by circa 8%) between 2013 and 2031, the number of people in age groups traditionally playing pitch sports will increase by a much smaller percentage. Total increase in demand for pitch and outdoor sports therefore will not be in line with projected increases in the overall population. There will however be an increase in the total numbers of people that are in the age groups most likely to play pitch and court sports and an overall increase in the demand for these facilities therefore
- population growth will be spatially focused in specific areas of Chesterfield and it is likely therefore that increasing demand will have a particular impact in these parts
- the demographic profile of the borough suggests that effective provision of sporting facilities could have an important role to play in improving health – Chesterfield Borough has a higher proportion of residents than average that are currently obese and almost half of the adult population would like to participate in sport more frequently
- building on this, the Active People survey suggests that there are therefore strong foundations for the continued growth in participation in sport and physical activity across the borough, following recent increases in participation. Nationally however, participation in all sports considered except athletics are declining. Participation in Chesterfield in some sports considered is however higher than national and regional averages
- while there are significant numbers of residents who do have the propensity to participate in pitch and outdoor sports, not all of the dominant population segments in Chesterfield are likely to have an interest in taking part in these activities. The borough is spatially dominated by Elsie and Arnold, the oldest population sector, who may have limited interest in pitch sports for example. This highlights the need to balance opportunities to play such sports with other activities.

Role of this Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy

1.13 The end goal of this strategy is to deliver the overarching vision and achieve the specific aims and objectives set out on the previous page. To do this, it is essential that provision for each sport continues to evolve and improve to meet with changing needs and aspirations.

Uses of this Strategy

1.14 The principles and findings of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy can be applied to support a variety of different outcomes, including;

- Sports development planning;
 - highlight, justify and make the case for sports development activities with particular sports, groups and clubs and in particular areas;
 - identify current and future trends and changes in the demand for sports and how they are played;
 - inform the work, strategies and plans of sporting organisations active in the area including NGBs;
 - identifying facilities where there is scope to increase usage;
 - informing planning policy
 - outline facilities that are to be protected and inform site allocations;
 - inform contributions and facilities required as part of new development;
 - develop new and review existing policies within local planning frameworks;
 - inform planning applications;
 - inform the development of planning applications which affect existing and/or propose new pitch provision;
 - inform pre-application discussions to ensure any subsequent planning applications maximise their benefit to pitch sports and are developed in line with national (e.g. NPPF paragraph 74) and local planning policy;
 - enable Local Planning Authorities and others to assess planning applications affecting existing and/or proposing new playing pitch provision
- Supporting funding bids;
 - this document and accompanying assessment report provide evidence of strategic need for facilities and facility improvements
- Facilitating decision making relating to facility and asset management;
 - ensure a strategic approach is taken to the provision and management of pitches and outdoor sports facilities;
 - inform the current management, strategies and plans of providers
 - share knowledge and good practice
 - ensure any proposed asset transfers are beneficial to all parties
- Informing capital programmes and related investment;
 - provide the evidence base to justify the protection and investment in playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision;
 - influence the development and implementation of relevant capital programmes
 - ensure that there is no duplication in provision and maximise the benefits of investment.
- Informing the role of facilities and participation in associated sports on public health and contributing towards the achievement of wider aims and objectives;
 - the strategy provides an understanding of how the community currently participates in pitch sports and the need for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities

- raise awareness of barriers to maintaining and increasing participation, particularly in relation to facilities
 - address any inequalities of access to playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- Provide evidence to help support wider health and well-being initiatives.

1.15 Section 2 sets out the methodology that has been used to develop this strategy.

Section 2: Methodology

Methodology

- 2.1 This strategy has been developed in line with guidance set out in 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy' (Sport England 2013).
- 2.2 The priorities have been established through the preparation of a full evidence based assessment which included extensive consultation and analysis. The key phases of the methodology and the consultation and engagement with key partners is summarised below;

Gather Supply and Demand Information and Views:

- 2.3 Information was gathered on both the supply of pitches and the demand for these pitches, specifically;
- supply - details, accessibility and overall quality of current provision;
 - demand - teams and their match and training requirements, Casual and educational demand as well as displaced and latent demand; and
 - details of potential changes to the future pitch stock, as well as projected and aspirational increases in participation.
- 2.4 The following tasks were undertaken to compile the supply and demand information;
- analysing existing information on pitch provision including data managed by Chesterfield Borough Council and the Sport England Active Places tool;
 - reviewing NGB data on pitches and local participation;
 - full review of local league websites, fixture lists and pitch booking records;
 - use of available technical quality assessment reports;
 - undertaking non technical site visits;
 - a full programme of consultation with sports clubs and league secretaries and local sporting forums – over 90% of clubs for most sports successfully engaged during the process;
 - engagement with providers of playing pitches including schools, Chesterfield Borough Council as well as private and commercial operators;
 - engagement with key stakeholders including Facilities for All, Chesterfield School Sport Partnership and Derbyshire Sport; and
 - face to face and telephone discussions with NGBs to discuss key issues and priorities.

Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

- 2.5 The supply and demand information collated has been used to;
- understand the situation at individual sites;

- develop the current and projected future pictures of provision; and
- identify the key findings and issues that need to be addressed.

2.6 Reflecting the compact nature of the Borough, the adequacy of facilities is analysed at a Borough wide level.

Develop the Strategy and Deliver the Strategy and Keep it Up to Date and Robust

2.7 This strategy document has been developed drawing upon the key issues identified to set out a strategic framework for the provision of pitches and outdoor sports facilities across the borough. It is the result of scenario testing of many possible solutions to the issues identified and the detailed evaluation of the impact of the recommendations.

2.8 During and following the preparation of the assessment report, which identified the key issues that need to be addressed, a series of consultations have been undertaken to further explore the areas identified and to prioritise actions and agree responsibilities for these actions. Consultees at this phase include;

- Chesterfield Borough Council, Chesterfield School Sport Partnership, Derbyshire Sport;
- Representatives of the Derbyshire County FA, Derbyshire Cricket Board, the RFU, England Hockey, the LTA; and
- Sport England.

2.9 The views of these groups have been used to shape this strategy and to finalise the action and implementation plan. The consultation process does not stop here - many of the identified short term actions involve consultation with wider groups, ensuring that any priorities implemented are reflective of the needs and aspirations of current pitch users.

Structure

2.10 The remainder of this strategy is set out as follows:

- Section 3 – Context for pitch and outdoor sports and the adequacy of provision
- Section 4 – Strategic Framework, general policies and delivery mechanisms and recommendations by sport
- Section 5 – Delivery and Implementation, including site specific priorities and actions.

Section 3: Context and Adequacy of Provision

Introduction

3.1 This section summarises the context for each of the pitch and outdoor sports in Chesterfield Borough and outlines the key issues that need to be addressed. Reflecting the specific nature of each sport, the type of facilities required and the different issues arising, sports are considered in turn as follows;

- Football
- Cricket
- Rugby
- Hockey
- Tennis
- Bowls
- Athletics

Football

Supply

- 72 football pitches available for community use, 89% of which are secured. There is limited use of unsecured sites
- 8 pitches available for community use but not secured – all located at school sites
- Most pitches not available for community use are located at primary schools – limited opportunities to open up these sites due to small size of playing fields, perceived impact on curricular use and pitch quality. Larger playing fields at St Marys RC High also not available, and facilities at Springwell Community College not available for community use due to relationship with Chesterfield FC
- 46% of pitches are adult sized while the remainder cater for 9v9 and mini soccer
- Reliance upon Council pitch provision – Council is primary owner and manager of facilities. Next largest provider is the education sector – important role of commercial management company in providing access to school facilities
- Pitch stock includes a small number of larger sites, but is characterised by numerous single pitch sites, particularly for adult football.
- six former playing field sites are no longer used and there is some scope to mark out additional pitches on existing sites, including Stand Road Park, Somersall Park and Highfield Park
- Pitch quality is relatively consistent across the borough and 85% of pitches are rated as standard. Pitches at club sites are the highest quality facilities. Pitches are however on the border between standard and poor and for most, the quality is retained due to limited use over the week. Pitches are known to deteriorate over the course of the season, particularly in the event of inclement weather. Drainage and playing surface are the most frequently occurring issues identified both through on site evaluation and local consultation and there are also concerns about the maintenance regimes, particularly on Council pitches. The quality of pitches at Council sites is overall perceived to be much poorer than other providers – this is a concern due to the reliance upon public provision by football. Concerns

are also raised about the quality of equipment on school sites

- The quality of changing accommodation is similarly limited – while most sites have changing accommodation, this is largely provided in portacabins, some of which do not include showers. This is a key concern for many clubs
- With the exception of Staveley Miners Welfare FC, there are no facilities in the borough suitable for clubs playing in leagues requiring a higher standard of playing pitches
- Users are concerned about both the quality and amount of pitches – 25% of respondents believe that pitches are deteriorating and maintenance regimes are becoming more limited. Several clubs indicate that they are forced to supplement the maintenance regimes carried out by their pitch providers in order to ensure that pitches are acceptable for use. There are overall high levels of dissatisfaction
- Significant investment has been made into pitches in the borough, including improvement to Holmebrook Valley Park – a project undertaken by Chesterfield BC in conjunction with the Football Foundation and Derbyshire FA

Demand

- FA data indicates that participation is above the regional and national averages and Chesterfield Borough is ranked number one in comparison to similar authorities
- There is a strong club structure, with many clubs offering a pathway from junior to senior sport and large numbers of big clubs. Recent participation trends indicate that while adult participation has declined, there has been a more steady increase in junior and mini football
- 217 teams, 70% of which are aged 16 and below. 46% of pitches in the borough are full sized, meaning that there is a slight in balance between supply and demand
- There has been recent decline in adult participation, slight increase in junior play, movement towards larger clubs and reduction in the number of smaller teams. Chesterfield Sunday league has declined by 28 teams in 3 years – this decline mirrors national trends and is something Derbyshire FA are addressing through initiatives targeting U21 and the transition between adult and junior football
- Small number of clubs with own facilities (Brampton Rovers, Staveley Miners Welfare). Clubs are largely reliant on Council facilities. Large clubs are dispersed across several sites and many are also accessing unsecured school sites
- There is a significant emphasis on Sunday morning for both adult and junior football, meaning that extra pressures are placed on pitch sites as all required at the same time. Higher proportions of mini football and 9v9 take place on a Saturday
- Some use of unsecured venues – primarily by junior teams and 9v9 teams. Junior teams also using senior pitches rather than dedicated junior facilities
- Limited impact of educational demand on community use - almost all schools have own facilities. Some concerns about pitch quality at senior schools,

particularly with increasing levels of community use taking place

- Evidence of displaced demand – five junior teams and seven senior teams are currently travelling outside of the borough, but are based in Chesterfield and would like facilities in the borough if pitches of the right quality were available
- Active People indicates potential to increase participation by 17% based upon the total population that would like to play.

Adequacy of Provision

- Only 39% of users are satisfied with the facilities provided in the borough. Dissatisfaction is spread across all types of club and all sizes, and there is particular concern around the amount of junior pitches and quality concerns across all pitch types. Several clubs comment that supply does not match demand
- Modelling reveals significant spare capacity available in all types of pitches across the week. This is influenced by the strong demand at peak time – there is heavy use of sites on one day and limited use outside the peak period. It should be emphasised however that the limited use of the pitches is thought to be partially responsible for retaining the quality at acceptable levels. Maintenance levels may be insufficient to cope with greater use of the pitches over the long term than currently takes place
- Reflecting the high peak time demand, there are very few pitches that are overplayed. Those pitches that are overplayed are associated with large clubs with multiple teams, in particular Staveley Miners Welfare and Brampton Rovers FC. Most sites have a small amount of capacity for further play
- Single pitch sites sustain much lower levels of play than the larger facilities. This is due to the popularity of the site, the preference of larger clubs to use bigger sites where more teams can play together, and the quality of pitches and associated changing accommodation
- There is extensive spare capacity on full size pitches, equivalent to 30 match equivalents. Peak time capacity is much lower (11.5 match equivalents). There are no pitches with lots of availability at peak time, but no sites are overplayed, while Brookfield Community School and Chantry Playing Fields are the only sites played to the level they can sustain. Across the week, spare capacity is highest at Chesterfield Panthers (influenced by the quality of the pitch which can sustain higher levels of play)
- While there is significant capacity in the pitch stock, many of the pitches are on the boundaries of being classified as poor and capacity is known to deteriorate over the course of the season. The high peak time demand means that this would have relatively limited impact as long as pitches could still host one game per week– if capacity at these sites is reduced, spare capacity decreases to 26 match equivalents, 11 of which are available at peak time
- There is more limited spare capacity on junior pitches (4 match equivalents). There are no public junior pitches and like for adults, the higher quantities of play are focused at club bases. Peak time capacity is equivalent to 6 match equivalent slots.
- Unlike adult football however, there is a significant reliance upon unsecured

playing pitches for junior football - Dunston Primary School, Old Hall Junior School, Springwell Community College, St Marys RC High School and Brimington Junior School are unsecured for community use. Excluding these pitches, spare capacity reduces to just 1.5 match equivalents, and 2.5 slots at peak time. 1 match equivalent also takes place on unsecured pitches and there would only just be sufficient capacity to meet this need.

- Like junior pitches –there are pressures on 9v9 pitches (2.5 match equivalents, 3 at peak time due to greater spread of play). Overplay is focused on club sites (Brampton Rovers FC and Cavendish Primary School (Chesterfield Town) and there is spare capacity at Tapton Park and Highfield Recreation Ground. Much availability at unsecured sites (none of which have toilets etc) – Cavendish Primary School, Brockwell Junior, Inkersall Primary and Highfield Hall Primary School – loss of use of these pitches would mean supply was evenly matched with demand.
- For mini football, 8 match slots available at peak time, but 39 across the week. High levels of use at Holmebrook Valley Park (no further capacity) due to function as central venue for Rowsley League. Remaining sites have capacity but relatively limited at peak time. There is spare capacity for additional play on 5v5 pitches.
- Overall therefore, there is enough spare capacity overall base upon existing demand, however the balance of pitches (too many full size pitches and not enough junior pitches) does not meet demand, meaning that there is reliance upon unsecured junior pitches. There are some pitches at school sites that are not available for community use at all currently.
- While there are quality issues with the existing pitch stock, the high peak time demand means that most pitches are only used once per week and the quality of facilities does not have a huge impact upon the adequacy of the pitch stock from the point of view of capacity. Quality issues however impact upon the perceived adequacy of the stock, cancellations, the level of satisfaction of users and the longer term sustainability of pitches. The limited levels of maintenance may cause particular issues should the amount of demand increase. Added to this, there are few higher quality facilities meaning that there are limited opportunities for teams wishing to progress
- Reflecting this, there are several displaced teams, who are struggling to access appropriate facilities and therefore travel outside of the borough to find alternative options (5 junior and 7 senior). This is attributed to quality of pitches, availability of pitches and cost.
- Two clubs, including Chesterfield Town, the largest club in the borough, have expressed an interest in managing and maintaining their own facilities. In addition, several smaller junior clubs indicate that there is latent demand due to a lack of access to facilities and that they wish for additional pitches. The creation of larger playing field sites (either new or through the reinstatement of existing large sites) may benefit these clubs and may provide an opportunity for the clubs to manage their own facilities.
- Population growth will place further pressures – it will generate 2 adult, 6 junior and 23 mini teams. While there are enough adult pitches, and mini play can just be accommodated, the stock of junior pitches is more constrained and when excluding sites with unsecured community use, provision would be insufficient. Population growth will focus around Chesterfield, Rother, Staveley and Poolsbrook

- There are however several schemes currently underway to increase the pitch stock including new provision at Langer Lane, Holmebrook Valley Park and improvements to facilities at Brookfield School. These will increase the pitch stock by 7 adult pitches, 1 9v9 and increased capacity for junior play. Capacity of full size pitches will therefore improve significantly. The existing pitch stock (if reconfigured to a more appropriate balance of pitches and the issue of a lack of large sites was addressed) would be sufficient to meet future needs, although long term quality issues would need to be overcome
- Clubs do however have significant aspirations to increase participation, equivalent to 37 new teams in the next five years, many of which will be in the junior age group. Achievement of specific growth aspirations would reduce spare capacity on adult pitches and mini and junior pitches would become tightly constrained, meaning that a degree of reconfiguration will be required. If significant increases in demand occurred for pitches at peak time, pitches may however become further constrained and new pitches needed
- Reflecting the increase in the pitch stock that is planned for next year, the Borough Council intend to close some existing single pitch sites and reconfigure the pitch stock. As a consequence, several additional pitch sites will become dormant (returned to green space in the short term, but remaining designated as playing fields). These sites will offer the potential to accommodate usage again in future years and may offer the opportunity to increase the stock of facilities should participation rise at a speed quicker than anticipated. There are also some facilities at school sites that are not currently available for use which if opened, would be able to meet this unmet demand. Table 5.3 outlines the appropriate course of action for each site.
- In addition to the existing sites, there are several former playing fields that are not currently used. The majority are single pitch sites and as there are already enough pitches of this type, they have limited role to play in current or future provision. Table 5.3 evaluates the most appropriate course of action for each of these sites.

AGPs for Football

- Only one of the full sized pitches is 3g, the preferred surface for football and there is an additional small sized pitch at Queens Park Sports Centre. Brookfield School AGP, the only 3g pitch, is managed by the school who have relationships with several large clubs. The remaining AGPs are sand based
- Despite the emphasis on sand based provision, 85% of activity on AGPs is football – just 15 hours out of 104 available at peak times are dedicated to hockey. Despite this, only one full sized pitch (and one small sided pitch) has a surface that is tailored for football. Hockey usage is isolated to St Marys RC High School
- Taking into account just full sized pitches that are available to the community, pitches are operating overall at 64% capacity at peak time. Almost all spare capacity exists at weekends however and there are just 3 hours available midweek. Smaller sized pitches at Hasland Hall School and Queens Park Sports Centre are also used by clubs for training, with minimal spare capacity remaining. There is also evidence of teams travelling outside of the borough to use facilities in a variety of locations.
- While spare capacity is primarily focused on weekends, with only one pitch being 3g, there is limited scope for AGPs to be used for competitive league fixtures, as

sand based surfaces are not approved for match play

- There is therefore limited capacity for further football training activity on full size pitches during the week and the Sport England FPM modelling confirms that pitches are running close to maximum levels.
- Demand for additional AGPs (particularly 3g) was one of the key issues emerging through consultation, with a greater proportion of users of pitches indicating that they are dissatisfied with current provision than those that are satisfied. The perception that facilities are inadequate was almost wholly attributed to the perceived lack of AGPs in the borough (and in particular 3g AGPs) and the resulting challenges in accessing these facilities. The cost of using AGPs was highlighted as a barrier by some. Some clubs would also like to see grass training facilities, particularly for use during pre season
- Participation is therefore constrained currently and if further teams were to be created, additional pitch provision may be required. The current distribution of facilities is skewed towards the west of the borough, suggesting that new provision may be needed.

Cricket

Supply

- Six active sites for cricket, including 6 grass squares (all secured for community use). Brearley Park, Eastwood Park and Robinsons Sports Ground do not have artificial wickets
- Provision is a balance between clubs (2), Council facilities (3) and school sites (1). Chesterfield Borough Council is therefore the main provider. There is limited access to facilities for local schools
- Two former cricket pitches (Stand Road Park / Somersall Park) – no longer marked out due to reduced demand for these sites. A pitch was also planned at Chesterfield RUFC which has not been delivered. Provision distributed primarily to the south of Chesterfield town and in the north east / Staveley. There is a gap to the north of the town where Stand Road Park pitch was previously located
- Pitch quality average overall although both Brearley Park and Eastwood Park are average to poor and the facility at Brookfield School is suitable for cricket of limited standard only. Staveley CC and Queens Park rated good with no issues identified. There are also issues with changing accommodation at Robinsons Sports Ground.
- Clubs concerned that pitch quality is deteriorating through a combination of overuse and reducing focus on maintenance. Quality of pitches believed to be inhibiting demand. Issues are also experienced with vandalism and misuse
- Sustainability of ongoing maintenance regimes is a key challenge for providers, particularly Chesterfield Borough Council
- Use of Robinsons Sports Ground is only an annual lease – lack of security of tenure and challenges in securing investment in to pitch quality. Chesterfield CC have 12 years remaining on their lease

Demand

- Participation declining – attributed to closure of clubs, lack of focus on cricket development and poor quality pitches. Mixed trends at existing clubs with only one experiencing an increase
- Just 12% of Derbyshire cricket output is in North Derbyshire (which includes the authorities of Chesterfield, Bolsover, NE Derbyshire) despite a significantly higher proportion of the population in these parts – significant opportunity to grow the game through an increasing focus upon sports development and partnership working
- 50% of cricket teams are open aged male teams meaning that senior teams still dominate the cricket landscape but there are strong foundations for junior growth
- Chesterfield CC (Queens Park) important for national games as well as local fixtures
- Limited educational demand, with just one school having a pitch and only one additional school having a relationship with a club – suggests that recruitment of players is difficult. The Derbyshire Cricket Board are currently however in discussions with Chesterfield College to create a cricket academy which may provide a boost for the development of the sport
- Displaced demand evident – Two teams from Chesterfield CC travelling outside of the borough to play fixtures –attributed to lack of pitches of appropriate quality within Chesterfield. Issues with access were further evident through a recent approach to the Derbyshire Cricket Board by a team wishing to join a local league who were unable to secure access to a local pitch

Adequacy of Provision

- With the exception of Robinsons Sports Ground (Chesterfield Barbarians), there is capacity to accommodate more play on grass wickets at all sites. The facility at Robinsons Sports Ground is overplayed and there is no artificial wicket, further increasing pressure on the square as it is also used for training. The club currently require at least 11 good strips (have 9 of average quality) – lack of security of tenure and issues with poor quality changing accommodation further exacerbate issues at this site. All other sites have sufficient capacity for current activity over the course of a season.
- Despite this, Chesterfield CC travelling outside borough due to a lack of available pitches of appropriate quality at peak time. Although Eastwood Park has capacity (it isn't used), it is perceived to be of insufficient quality (bumpy outfield, poor wicket) to sustain required levels of play. The pavilion is also currently poor, although this will be replaced in 2014 with funding already secured. There are also similar issues with the pitch at Brearley Park, although this is used by Whittington Wanderers. There are concerns about the challenges of providing cricket pitches of appropriate quality on public sites.
- While there is spare capacity, as well as quality issues, declining participation is thought to be partly responsible for this – poor club development means that there is significant scope to increase the number of teams at each club.
- A lack of training facilities exacerbates concerns – this was raised as a key issue during consultation and there is a shortage of both indoor and outdoor training

facilities. Neither Chesterfield Barbarians or Whittington Wanderers currently have access to any training facilities

- Population growth will result in the addition of 8 – 10 junior games and demand for senior cricket remaining static. This could be accommodated within existing infrastructures (assuming that current issues relating to security of tenure and pitch quality were addressed). Existing cricket clubs are located in areas most likely to see population growth, which may see a greater increase in participation occur
- Derbyshire Cricket Board have a strategy of retention of players across the county, but with the significant latent demand across Chesterfield, believe there is scope to increase participation – they will be trialling the introduction of shorter forms of the game across the county, starting in Derby with a view to spreading across the county – if successful this will place further demands upon existing facilities
- Clubs also have aspirations for growth however existing facilities may restrict these if action is not taken– there is limited capacity for Whittington Wanderers to achieve their goal of the development of junior section without an artificial wicket and Chesterfield Barbarians have no further capacity, but would like to run more teams. There are further opportunities to increase participation through the cricket forum, which provides support for clubs and seeks to drive forward the sport.

Rugby

Supply

- Chesterfield Panthers RUFC is the main site for rugby in the borough, containing three pitches. The quality of pitches at the club is good, having only opened in 2012 and facilities are owned and managed by the club. The site includes a floodlit pitch as well as floodlit training grids and a comprehensive maintenance regime. The site also has a high quality clubhouse
- To support the sustainability of the club, the facility also includes community football pitches, which are currently rented to a large football club
- Only other pitches are located at St Marys RC High School. This pitch is not available for community use.

Demand

- There is only one rugby club– this is a large club which offers progression from midi rugby through to seniors and veterans. It has 13 teams in total and owns its own ground. Total match equivalents – 5 per week
- The club has experienced recent growth in the adult section following the relocation although there has been a drop in junior rugby - there is limited rugby played in schools within the borough which impacts upon the ability to recruit players
- All training takes place at the club base both on training grids and on the floodlit pitch – training can be equivalent to up to 6.5 matches per week
- Active People surveys suggest that there is potential to increase the rugby playing

Rugby

population by up to 20%, which would have significant impact upon demand for facilities.

Adequacy of Provision

- There is sufficient capacity at the club base – there is minimal scope to increase play at peak time but more during the week – capacity 9 match equivalents per week, current use on pitches 6 match equivalents per week therefore spare capacity 3. Capacity is more limited at peak time although mini teams are able to use training grids
- The overall quality of the rugby pitches is good and the maintenance levels are appropriate for the level of activity sustained. The level of activity that can be accommodated however is dependent upon retaining the good quality of pitch and the excellent drainage at the current site - pitches are currently able to sustain three games per week and provision would be more tightly constrained if this was not the case
- There is only one floodlit pitch, however use of the training grids means that this pitch does not accumulate significant training activity and there is no clear detrimental impact on the quality of this pitch
- Population growth alone will have little impact on demand for rugby, with just two additional midi teams, and no increase in junior / adult participation
- The club have however signed up the delivery of a development plan as part of their relocation. This will see aspirations to increase to a total of 17 teams. Targets are already part achieved but the club continue to work on these. The existing pitch stock will be sufficient to accommodate the intended increase in participation although this will be dependent upon the quality of the existing facilities being retained. Significant further increase will place great pressures on the pitches at peak periods.

Hockey

Supply

- There are three full sized AGPs that have a suitable surface for hockey in Chesterfield Borough. All of these are located on school sites meaning that the Borough Council has no control over the surfaces that are provided
- Facilities are relatively well distributed, but there are no AGPs in the town of Chesterfield itself and a gap to the south east of the borough, although there are two small facilities at Hasland Hall Community School
- The quality of sand based AGPs is varying. The facility at Springwell School is good with no quality issues identified but while the facility at Newbold Community School is of adequate quality, it has no floodlights, restricting its role in community sport. In contrast, the surface at St Marys RC High School (which is owned and managed in partnership with the hockey clubs) is poor and is approaching 15

Hockey

years old. The surface shows evidence of wear and tear and there are rips in the surface. It requires replacement to enable ongoing use of the facility.

Demand

- There are two hockey clubs, both of whom are based at St Marys RC High School and are part of the St Marys Sports Partnership. Both Hockey clubs own part of the facility and are involved in the management and maintenance of the site
- There are 9 teams (7 at Chesterfield Hockey Club and 2 at Staveley Ladies Hockey Club). The clubs however work together on junior development
- Recent years have seen a decline in senior hockey and demand for junior hockey has remained static. As a consequence, requirements for access to AGPs have reduced at weekends, although need remains constant midweek. The reduction in demand is however attributed to a lack of appropriate AGPs as well as declining membership and challenges attracting players
- Clubs are currently working with schools in a bid to increase the amount of hockey played and Chesterfield Hockey Club have aspirations for membership to return to levels it has been at previously.

Adequacy of Provision

- 85% of activity at peak times on AGPs is football. Despite this, 75% of full sized pitches are sand based pitches. Hockey usage is isolated to St Marys RC High School and this is the preferred venue, due to part ownership in the site (despite the poor quality of the facility). 60% of the use of St Marys AGP is hockey
- Hockey usage over the course of the week is equivalent to 15 hours per week
- At peak time, demand equates to 2.5 match equivalents. There is scope to increase this by three teams (1.5 match equivalents) before hockey use would need to be extended to a second site (assuming flexibility in fixtures). The condition of the pitch is such however, that without short term refurbishment, it will become unsuitable for hockey (and other activities that it also accommodates)
- While there remains availability in the current pitch stock, significant increases in demand may see opportunities for hockey restricted, particularly if additional evening training slots are required or growth beyond three teams is experienced
- There is more limited capacity across the AGP stock during midweek (with just 3 hours spare capacity)
- FPM modelling supports the above findings, suggesting that there is limited demand for additional sand based hockey pitches currently, although it does indicate that there is an imbalance between facilities for football and hockey. The current stock of facilities is slightly lower than regional and county averages
- Population growth will have limited impact upon the demand for hockey with less than one team generated overall. England Hockey are focusing upon a strategy of retention, and the development of new players through participation in non traditional forms of the game (which do not require formal hockey pitches).

Hockey

Increases in participation through sports and club development activity, including school club links are therefore the most likely means of participation growth

- Projecting future demand, it is likely that match play could be accommodated within the existing pitches but that additional capacity for training may need to be considered if participation was to grow (or existing football usage on the pitch relocated). This may happen naturally if football teams continue to relocate to 3g pitches as per the FA strategy.

Bowls

Supply

- There are 21 bowling greens at 19 sites. In addition, there used to be a second green at Chesterfield Cylinders Sports Club – this is now used for archery instead
- A former green at New Whittington Bowls Club was used until it was recently sold and the club are currently no longer able to access the facility
- Just under 25% of greens are in Chesterfield Borough Council ownership, meaning that the majority are owned and managed privately
- The quality of bowling greens is good and consistent across the borough and there are no differences between facilities managed by different providers. Pavilions, pathways and the bowling green surrounds were the key areas identified for improvement
- There are concerns about the sustainability of bowling greens in the borough, with the cost of maintenance of facilities rising.

Demand

- The profile of participants in bowls is focused towards older segments of the population than all other sports considered. Active People suggests that there is some latent demand - 81% of those residents that expressed an interest in playing bowls are currently playing
- All active greens have existing clubs
- Bowling is relatively static and some clubs indicate that they have experienced a decline in membership
- There is little junior participation.

Adequacy of Provision

- There are no supply and demand models for bowls greens with the only standard being a historic Sports Council standard which would require 17.2 greens in the borough. Current provision means that the amount of facilities in Chesterfield is above this level

- The quality of existing facilities is good, however the sustainability of greens is becoming an increasing concern, with the costs of providing such facilities rising and the number of participants remaining static or falling
- All clubs have capacity for additional members, and there is scope to accommodate more teams on all greens
- The average club membership is however just 50 per green (based upon respondents to the survey) which is relatively low
- In contrast to pitch sports however, the ageing population of the borough may see bowls become more popular in future years, as it is the older age groups who have a higher propensity to participate. This growth alone could generate an additional 274 bowls players, meaning that each club would accommodate on average 64 members, which is still well within acceptable capacity. Higher memberships will increase the sustainability of existing greens
- If marketing / promotion was to be successful and latent demand and participation growth aspirations were realised, demand could increase. If participation was to grow by 20% (based upon the suggestion that only 80% of those that would like to play currently do so), participation may increase to 1468 members (70 members per green) which would further enhance sustainability but would ensure that the existing stock remains adequate.

Tennis

Supply

- The current stock of tennis courts is limited, with just two clubs and only two public facilities currently active. In total, there are 12 active tennis courts
- There are three former public venues that have fallen into disrepair due to sustainability issues and a lack of use
- The quality of public tennis courts is poor. Club based facilities are of noticeably higher quality than other facilities, although while Chesterfield Tennis Club has high quality facilities, several issues, including vandalism, court surface and pavilion quality are raised in relation to Queens Park Tennis Club (Queens Park Annexe)
- There are 31 courts at school sites that are not open to the public currently, but may provide opportunities to increase the pitch stock in future years.

Demand

- Participation at the club base currently equates to just 481 members, representing only 0.58% of the population. The vast majority of club members are based at Chesterfield Tennis Club, with just 37 at Queens Park Tennis club currently. Queens Park TC have concerns about the sustainability of the club, particularly as they are also experiencing quality issues at the site
- Both clubs currently have capacity to increase the number of members

- The amount of people playing casual tennis is not monitored, but the limited facilities in the borough mean that there are relatively few participants
- Active People surveys suggest that there is scope to increase participation in tennis significantly and there are more people that would like to play tennis but don't than currently do play
- In recognition of opportunities to grow the sport, as well as concerns around sustainability of several clubs in the area (not just in Chesterfield) a tennis development forum has recently been established by the LTA in partnership with clubs. It is hoped that this will promote knowledge sharing across clubs and that membership will develop as clubs support each other in their growth.

Adequacy of Provision

- There are no formal models for evaluating supply and demand for tennis
- Analysis of the adequacy of provision using indicative LTA court capacity parameters suggests that there is capacity within the existing club base to accommodate both current and projected participation, assuming that the proportion of residents playing tennis (0.58%) doesn't change. In total, there are 481 members of existing tennis clubs but there is capacity for 705 members. Much of the spare capacity is at Queens Park Tennis Club, but there are currently concerns about how attractive the facility is to new members, when compared with facilities at Chesterfield Tennis Club
- Active People however indicates that there is significant latent demand for tennis, suggesting that there is an opportunity to increase participation above current levels. Club membership data reveals that current levels of participation are equivalent to 0.58% of the adult population, which is almost half that of national levels
- LTA research indicates that on average 65% of those playing during the summer will use public facilities, while 50% playing all year round will choose to play at community sites rather than as part of a club. As there is a lack of public courts in Chesterfield, it is likely that the latent demand and low levels of participation can be attributed to a lack of provision in this area. If 50% of participants wish to play on public courts, there is insufficient capacity in the current stock to sustain them. This is echoed by analysis of the capacity at club bases, which indicates that clubs are able to sustain both current levels of demand and projected increases in participation resulting from population growth
- While until recently, the LTA strategy has focused upon growth through the club base, this is now changing and efforts to channel increased participation are being delivered through public venues. Public venues are becoming increasingly important therefore in tennis development and could have a central role to play in Chesterfield in realising latent demand
- While on face value additional public courts would therefore seem to be required, there are several former courts that have fallen into disrepair due to concerns over the level of usage that they receive (Tipton Park, Whitebank Close and Staveley King George). New facilities are therefore unlikely to be successful unless they are accompanied by a strong sports development initiative to grow participation and channel activity onto a new site. As a consequence their sustainability and any

reinstatement / new provision would require careful management. The LTA are currently reviewing their strategy and will shortly be announcing a new direction, which is expected to include innovative ideas and sustainable solutions for providing public tennis courts. Analysis of the adequacy of provision suggests that this should be considered in the borough. There are also 31 courts at school sites, which may provide an alternative solution to providing new facilities.

Athletics

Supply

- There are no existing tracks in Chesterfield. There were historically two cinder tracks both of which are now closed.
- There is relatively good access to athletics tracks outside the borough in accordance with NGB guidelines, and potential athletes can access 3 tracks within 20 minutes
- Athletics tracks are however a strategic facility and levels of provision are above average when considering a wider area comprising North East Derbyshire, Bolsover and Chesterfield Borough.

Demand

- There are no athletics clubs based in Chesterfield Borough – the only club (Chesterfield Athletics Club) relocated in 2008 to Tupton Hall School and Moorways Sports Centre in Derby. The club however continue to associate themselves with Chesterfield and would use any facilities provided within the town.
- Active People analysis indicates that there is potential to increase demand by up to 50%.

Adequacy of Provision

- There is no identified need for a full size athletics track, as the club are already accommodated elsewhere. National Governing Body Strategies and priorities do not identify the need for an additional facility
- To support club development and promote a pathway into formal athletics, and ensure that facilities are locally available, there may be justification for a small compact training track. There has been recent interest from both Brookfield School and Chesterfield Athletics Club in the creation of such a facility and. England Athletics believe there to be a strategic need for this type of opportunity
- Linked to the above, England Athletics also highlight opportunities to increase participation in recreational athletics and would support the development of marked running routes. The England Athletics Recreational Athletics Plan (A Nation that Runs 2013 – 2017) sets the target of establishing 1 recreational running route in each town /city by 2017 as part of the bid to increase participation in the sport. There are currently 3 road running groups in and around Chesterfield, all of whom would benefit from such a facility as well as 7 Run England groups.

Section 4: Strategic Framework & Recommendations

Introduction

4.1 This section sets out a framework for the future delivery of facilities for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls across Chesterfield Borough. As outlined in section 1, it seeks to support the delivery of a multitude of local and national priorities as well as to achieve the overall vision for this strategy, which is to;

“provide a high quality sporting infrastructure which meets the needs of players at all levels and promotes participation and physical activity across the borough”

4.2 The Council is facing increased pressures across all service areas including those anticipated to arise from changes to welfare benefits, greater need for social care and a new duty to improve public health, as well as considerable constraints on local authority budgets. The strategy therefore seeks to promote the provision of appropriate accessible community infrastructure and to deliver on the aspirations of the local sporting community within this context. As such, it is been developed with the following principles in mind;

- **The strategy seeks to promote and facilitate participation in pitch and outdoor sports** – it is essential to ensure that the types of facilities provided are those that are needed to both sustain existing participation and to encourage new participants into the game
- **Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision** – the strategy seeks to ensure that Chesterfield Borough contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and type and in the right place. It promotes the protection of existing provision, but also recognises the need to improve the quality of existing facilities and the impact that qualitative improvements can have on capacity, as well as the long term sustainability of the facility stock
- **The strategy will seek to maximise sustainability** – it will seek to build relationships between partners, promote good practice and deliver sustainable solutions for sport and recreation across the borough taking into account the challenging financial context in which facilities must be provided. It will promote investment on large sites which provide a more effective and long term solution than the creation of small sites and will seek to maximise the use of existing resources
- **Pitch provision will be delivered in partnership.** The strategy seeks to bring together key partners in the delivery of playing fields and to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and effectively aligned to maximise the value of assets to the community
- **Investment will focus upon interventions that will have the greatest impact** – the strategy seeks to prioritise investment into sites where the highest impact will be felt and where high numbers of users will benefit.

4.3 An overall framework is provided for provision across the borough as a whole and then building upon this framework, key priorities are explored on a sport by sport basis. These priorities have been developed following a series of scenario testing, which included;

- The impact of population growth and potential impact of housing development
- The impact of growth aspirations of clubs
- The impact of improving the quality of existing sites

- The impact of securing community use to key sites that are currently unsecured or unavailable.

4.4 The results of this scenario testing are incorporated into the justifications for the recommendations where relevant.

Framework for the future delivery of playing pitches across Chesterfield Borough

4.5 The framework for the strategy seeks to deliver upon four key strategic objectives. These are to;

- ensure that all valuable playing fields are protected for the long term benefit of sport;
- provide enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand;
- enhance existing facilities to ensure that they are fit for purpose and promote participation in pitch sports; and
- promote sustainable sport and club development and maximise participation across Chesterfield Borough.

Policies and Delivery Mechanisms

4.6 The policies and delivery mechanisms that will be adopted to achieve these core objectives are summarised in the section that follows.

Strategic Objective 1 - Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long term benefit of sport

The Council will safeguard all existing playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities in line with Paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework, irrespective of ownership and the degree of access and use. Existing facilities should not be built on unless proposals meet one of the three tests identified in paragraph 74 of the NPPF.

Delivery Mechanisms

The strategy will seek to protect pitches by;

- a) Ensuring that the local plan contains policies protecting sites containing playing pitches, building upon the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 74) and Sport England's¹ statutory consultee role on planning applications affecting playing field land
- b) Designating sites with a particular special significance for sport through the Development Plan process (see NPPF paragraphs 76 and 77)
- c) Clearly identifying pitches that are no longer required for sporting use within this strategy document in the action plan and subsequent tables. All other pitches

¹ Sport England Policy on Playing Fields is set out in A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England – Policy on Planning Applications for development on playing fields

are valuable facilities and any loss of pitches should result in the creation of replacement facilities. The loss of any facilities identified will be subject to the capital receipt / developer contribution being used to implement improvements to a multi pitch site in line with the action plan.

Strategic Objective 2. – Provide enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand

The strategy has identified pressures on the existing facility stock and a need to reconfigure provision to meet demand. More effective use of existing facilities, including an appropriate balance of pitches and increased capacity will be required to address identified inadequacies in the current facility stock, as well as to meet the needs of changing participation trends and to meet demand from rising population.

Delivery Mechanisms

The strategy will seek to provide sufficient and appropriate facilities by;

- a) Retaining valuable existing provision and ensuring a strategic reserve of pitches is available to meet current and projected need. The action plan will clearly identify pitches that are required to meet current and projected future need
- b) Reconfiguring the stock of existing facilities to ensure that provision is tailored to community need
- c) Maximising the role that school facilities play in the provision of community facilities
- d) Ensuring that the most efficient use is made of available space within existing and new playing field sites
- e) Maximising the role that 3g pitches play in competitive play as well as their use for training
- f) Ensuring that new developments contribute towards playing pitch and outdoor sports provision in the borough
- g) Supporting clubs with an identified need in their pursuit of new facilities to provide an overall increase in the pitch stock
- h) Exploring other management options to meet demand during peak periods such as extending the playing season, encouraging leagues to allow the staggering of kick off times and consider introducing reduced pricing of pitches for less popular days and times
- i) Improving the quality of maintenance and pitch quality to increase site capacity and longevity
- j) Seeking additional playing pitch sites in the event of further pitch requirements.

Strategic Objective 3 - Enhance existing facilities to ensure that they are fit for purpose and promote participation in pitch sports.

The strategy seeks to promote good access to a range of high quality playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities. The quality of facilities and access to these sites is as important as the initial provision of facilities. Pitches should be constructed in accordance with Sport England and National Governing Bodies for Sport guidance on user requirements and accessibility for all.

Delivery Mechanisms

In order to deliver a network of high quality facilities, the strategy will seek to;

- a) Support improvements and enhancement at sites that do not meet NGB quality standards
- b) Ensure that pitches / outdoor sports facilities are accompanied by appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. sports lighting and changing provision)
- c) Ensure that all pitches / outdoor sports facilities are maintained using maintenance regimes appropriate for the level of use that they sustain and the activities that are undertaken to ensure the long term future of the pitch stock. This should include both regular maintenance and out of season reinstatement and capital investment
- d) Support clubs that require improved facilities in order to play at a higher standard and developing a hierarchy of pitch and training facilities
- e) Ensure that usage is in line with site capacity and that play is evenly spread across pitches
- f) Effectively balance the dual function (recreational and formal sport) of key sites
- g) Implement a programme of rest and recovery.

Strategic Objective 4. Promote sustainable sport and club development and maximise participation across Chesterfield Borough.

Increasing participation and maximising public health is one of the key objectives of Chesterfield Borough and improvements to the infrastructure of outdoor sports facilities will be central in the achievement of these goals. Sustainability in both the network of facilities and the clubs using the facilities will however be essential if the strategy is to achieve long term sustained change and participation.

Delivery Mechanisms

The strategy will promote the provision of a network of sustainable clubs and facilities by;

- a) Driving increased participation through targeted sports development initiatives
- b) Facilitating the introduction of new forms of each sport through both promotion of opportunities and the provision of effective facilities where required
- c) Supporting clubs to achieve relevant accreditations and to work towards long term robust development plans
- d) Promoting partnership working and knowledge sharing across the borough. This may include partnerships between public, voluntary and private providers for both the management and maintenance of facilities as well as the implementation of sports development initiatives
- e) enabling clubs to manage and maintain their own facilities

- f) Protecting existing security of tenure for clubs with current leases through the timely renegotiation of new leases
- g) Supporting and promoting multi sport activities.

Delivering the Strategy – Key Issues and Recommendations by Sport

- 4.7 The policies set out on previous pages outline how the strategic objectives of this strategy will be delivered. They provide a framework for the development of recommendations for each sport.
- 4.8 The remainder of this section sets out how, using the strategic objectives and strategy policies as the foundation, the issues identified in section three will be addressed and the delivery mechanisms that will be used.
- 4.9 The remainder of this section therefore outlines the key priorities for each sport and the justification for these priorities, based upon the evidence collated through the evidence based assessment.
- 4.10 An action plan for the delivery of these priorities is provided in section 5 and site specific priorities and actions are also set out in Section 5.

Sport Specific Priorities

Football

- 4.11 The analysis of the adequacy of facilities for football in Section 3 identifies a number of issues with the stock of facilities for football in terms of meeting both current and future demand. Many of the identified issues are interrelated and result in the need to re-evaluate the pitch stock to ensure that supply is responsive to the demand. A variety of actions are therefore required to address these issues. These are explored in more detail below, along with the justifications for the issues recommended.
- 4.12 The impact of Key Issues 1 and 2 is similar and therefore recommendations to address these issues are discussed in tandem.
- 4.13 **Key Issue 1-** There is an imbalance between the supply of pitches and demand for pitches, resulting in there being insufficient junior pitches, displaced teams and a reliance upon unsecured facilities. This can be attributed to a variety of things, most notably;
 - The high and increasing demand from junior teams
 - The growth of large clubs meaning that club bases are overplayed – this also means that accommodating clubs with high numbers of teams is likely to be increasingly important in future years
 - The significant focus upon activity at peak time – Sunday morning, for both junior and adult football.

The retention of pitches (including adult pitches) is a national priority of the FA.

- 4.14 **Key Issue 2:** Participation, particularly for juniors is continuing to increase and there are significant aspirations for club development. Larger clubs continue to grow, but are

dispersed across multiple small sites and most have no club base. The clubs that do have a club base are associated with the majority of overplay in the borough and have limited further opportunity to expand. Most junior growth is occurring within the large clubs. There are several former playing fields that are not currently used but few of these offer significant opportunities to provide large scale facilities (the suggested future of each site is included in Table 5.3).

<p>Strategic Objective: S02</p> <p>Delivery Mechanisms: a,b,c,d,e</p>	<p>F1: Reconfigure the existing pitch stock to better match the balance of adult / junior football teams. This should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conversion of key multi pitch sites into junior facilities • the conversion of some pitches back to green space and use as a strategic reserve • the relocation of play areas to enable additional pitches to be laid out on sites where use is currently constrained • promotion of the use of 3g pitches for competitive play as well as their use for training • working with key partners to ensure that their pitch configuration reflects local needs. <p>It should be noted that as well as reconfiguring the pitch provision, there will also be a need to tailor the ancillary and parking facilities provided due to differing requirements for adult and junior teams.</p> <p>While this may mean an initial reduction in the number of adult pitches, this is required to meet immediate demand and is possible within existing provision. The successful delivery of F2 and F3 will provide further flexibility within the pitch stock and will ensure that pitches can be tailored to the appropriate size.</p> <p>If school pitches are reconfigured to junior pitches, there may be an opportunity to link schools with clubs. This is likely to help address problems of clubs being dispersed across several sites.</p>
<p>Justification</p>	<p>There is sufficient capacity overall within the existing pitch stock in Chesterfield Borough however it is not currently matched with demand. There are more than enough full sized pitches to meet current requirements and there is therefore scope to redesignate some sites as junior facilities. Allocation of sites for junior play will ensure that there are no child protection issues and that adult and junior play can take place at the same time. Allocation of sites for junior football will also as far as possible enable clubs to focus all activity on a smaller number of sites.</p> <p>The current position is as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11.5 match equivalents available on adult pitches at peak time, but capacity of 30 match equivalents across the week. Limited impact of population growth • 4 match equivalents available across the week for juniors and reliance upon unsecured facilities. Excluding unsecured pitches, capacity equals 1.5 match equivalents (2.5 at peak time). The

	<p>impact of displaced demand means provision is only just sufficient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • similar pressure on 9v9 pitches – 2.5 match equivalents available, 3 at peak time • 39 match equivalents available across the week at mini pitches. More limited availability at peak time (8). <p>There are several changes to facilities scheduled to take place at the beginning of season 2014 – 2015 which will increase the stock of facilities. Taking into account future growth projections, as well as the changes that will occur, the adequacy of provision would be as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 match equivalents at peak time (45.5 over the course of a week) on adult pitches • No spare capacity at junior pitches and a requirement for 5 additional junior pitches (or secured access to pitches that are currently used informally) • 8 match equivalents for mini pitches available at peak time. <p>There are 15 full sized pitches outside Council ownership currently. If all of these pitches are used to their capacity at peak time, 8 pitches are required at Council sites to accommodate the remaining use.</p> <p>Sites outside of Council ownership are not however all fully used currently and there is a higher reliance on pitches at Council sites as a result. Based upon current patterns of play, 14 full sized pitches are required at Council sites. Additional junior pitches are also required if play is to be redistributed from unsecured sites and teams that are currently displaced are able to return.</p> <p>Any reconfiguration of pitches at Council sites should therefore ensure that at least 14 full sized pitches remain operational (unless other sites provide additional adult pitches).</p> <p>The introduction of new sites next season will ensure that not all sites used this season will be required to meet demand. Retention of these sites as strategic reserve will ensure that there is sufficient capacity in the pitch stock to meet increases in participation above projected levels. This will be particularly important given the concentrated focus of potential population growth. The action plan indicates sites that should be retained and sites that may be rested in the short term. These include sites in areas of projected high population growth where demand may increase in future years.</p>
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<p>Strategic Objective: SO2</p> <p>Delivery Mechanism:</p>	<p>F2: Build upon the success of existing community use arrangements, seek to secure long term access to sites of potential or existing community value.</p> <p>This could be achieved by linking clubs with schools and may also require investment in both pitch quality and maintenance procedures</p>
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C,I,f	(F5 and F7). It should also be ensured that sites with existing community access are retained over the strategy period.
Justification	<p>Whilst there are overall sufficient facilities, several school facilities have an important role to play in current provision and they also offer significant potential, with many multi pitch sites. The existing stock is otherwise largely characterised by single pitch sites.</p> <p>School facilities are therefore important in meeting current needs and will be required to maintain the existing level of provision as well as to meet growing demand.</p>

Strategic Objective: SO2 Delivery Mechanism: a,b,c,d,f,g,j	<p>F3: Support the growth of clubs by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking wherever possible, to accommodate teams from the same club on the same site (through the conversion of sites to junior sites – F1) • Promoting the creation of school club links (F2) • Facilitating extension to existing facilities where appropriate and there is evidence of need • Supporting clubs with an identified need in their pursuit of new facilities where appropriately located and sustainable multi pitch sites can be identified – this may involve the creation of new sites and / or the reinstatement of appropriate former playing fields • Supporting improvements to club sites which enhance the capacity of facilities • Seeking additional playing pitch sites in the event of further pitch requirements. <p>All new provision should follow the principles of this strategy.</p>
Justification	<p>Many clubs are currently dispersed across several sites and this is highlighted as limiting club development.</p> <p>The stock of existing facilities is however by and large characterised by smaller playing fields and there are few opportunities to create larger sites. The reconfiguration of existing sites will ensure a concentration of junior pitches, enabling greater focus for clubs. Links between schools and clubs where this can be achieved will also have a positive impact on club development.</p> <p>The management and maintenance of club bases is part of the FA strategy moving forwards and there are several clubs in Chesterfield Borough with the capacity to follow these aspirations. Club development would benefit from securing a large site and this would</p>

also free capacity at other Council pitches, potentially enabling further longer term reconfiguration of the pitch stock.

<p>Strategic Objective SO1</p> <p>Delivery Mechanism: a,b,c</p>	<p>F4: Protect all football pitches that are required to meet current or projected future demand. These sites are listed in Table 5.3 – Site Specific Priorities, as well as the action plan set out in Section 5.</p> <p>Sites that are not required to meet the recommendations of this strategy are also listed in Section 5.</p> <p>Where sites are not required for sporting use (either currently, or following the completion of actions set out in the action plan), any disposal of these facilities should see investment into the sporting infrastructure of the borough in order to ensure that overall benefit is gained.</p> <p>These lists will be updated as part of the strategy monitoring and revision process (set out later in this document) in order to ensure that changes in demand / the evolution of requirements for each sport are taken into account.</p>
<p>Justification</p>	<p>The capacity of the existing pitch stock is sufficient overall to meet current and projected demand and should be protected to ensure that opportunities are retained for future years.</p> <p>Former playing fields identified for protection are of sufficient size and appropriately located to offer opportunities to meet the key priorities of this strategy taking into account both current demand and projected increases in participation.</p> <p>Sites listed as not required for future sporting use are not required to deliver this strategy. The action plan indicates sites that should be retained and sites that may be rested in the short term (but retained to meet potential longer term need). These take into account the location of projected high population growth as it is in these parts where demand is most likely to increase in future years.</p>

4.15 **Key Issue 3** – There are low levels of satisfaction from users, particularly in relation to Chesterfield Borough Council facilities. Despite this, high peak time demand means that there is significant capacity across the week for all types of pitch and many pitches are used just once, levels of use that should easily be sustainable.

4.16 Despite the low usage, there are however quality issues at many sites and a perception that there are not enough pitches of the right quality to meet demand. Drainage and pitch surface are the key issues evident, although this varies by site. The quality of pitches itself is also thought to restrict demand and force some clubs to travel.

<p>Strategic Objective: S03,S02</p> <p>Delivery</p>	<p>F5: Address current and potential longer term issues with the quality of football provision by initially improving the existing pitch stock as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investing capital in improving existing poor quality football pitch
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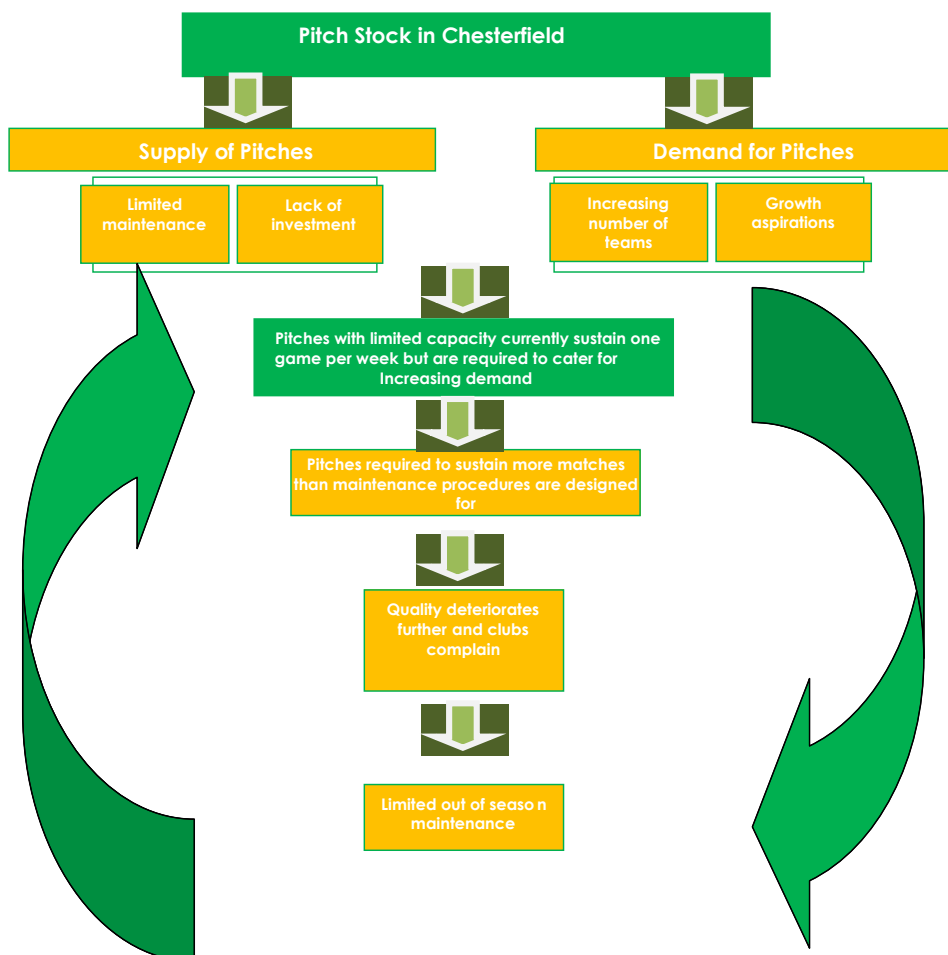
<p>Mechanism; SO2 I, f</p> <p>SO3 a,b,c,d,e,f</p>	<p>sites. This may include facilities in all ownership. Given the interrelationship between quality and capacity, improvements should focus firstly on sites sustaining higher levels of usage (to ensure that benefits to capacity are felt) and multi pitch sites. Football pitches should be fit for the standard of play that they accommodate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality by addressing existing quality issues with associated ancillary accommodation and parking. All sites containing senior pitches should offer full changing accommodation, while sites for mini and junior teams should include a minimum of toilet and wash facilities. Changes to the configuration of pitches are likely to have a knock on impact on the demand for parking and ancillary accommodation • Where clubs require higher grade facilities to enable them to play within a specific league, this should be facilitated.
<p>Justification</p>	<p>Pitch improvements will have a positive impact upon pitch capacity but will also improve player experience. Quality was deemed to be as problematic as quantity by pitch users and is directly related to capacity issues. Quality is also one of the key contributing factors to the amount of displaced demand that is evident within Chesterfield Borough.</p> <p>While ancillary provision does not impact upon pitch capacity as such, it is essential that facilities provided are appropriate and meet with league regulations. Effective ancillary provision will also encourage and promote participation.</p> <p>Improvements and changes to the infrastructure of pitches will be a key part of the reconfiguration of facilities across the borough and the aspiration to better tailor supply to meet with demand.</p>

<p>Strategic Objective: SO3</p> <p>Delivery Mechanism: c,e,f,g</p>	<p>F6: Protect the quality of pitches by controlling Council booking procedures and ensuring that usage is in line with site capacity and that play is evenly spread across pitches. Consideration should be given to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling bookings to ensure that quality is taken into account when allocating matches • Resting pitches during a season where possible – teams should be allocated to ensure even use of pitches, rather than to meet with specific location requests • Differentiated costs according to pitch quality and maintenance procedures assigned to the pitch • The implementation of consequence for teams that do not follow procedure • The allocation of preseason training pitches to reduce the unofficial use on formal pitches • The installation of goalposts (potential with artificial surface) off
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Justification	the main pitch site designed for recreational play to reduce informal use of match pitches
	The above maintenance and management procedures will positively impact upon the quality of pitches and ensure longevity of the Council pitch stock. This is particularly important given the reliance upon the public sector for the provision of football pitches.

- 4.17 **Key Issue 4** The low levels of use of the pitches are currently ensuring that pitches remain playable, however if participation was to increase, it is unlikely that they would remain so, as the maintenance levels associated with pitches would be insufficient to sustain high levels of weekly use over the longer term. The key concerns include drainage and pitch surface and changing accommodation is also restricted. FA research indicates that poor quality can be detrimental to both attracting and retaining players.
- 4.18 Figure 4.1 illustrates the pattern of decline that is currently taking hold in Chesterfield and the impact on the capacity of the pitch stock. It evidences the interrelationship between the issues identified and clearly demonstrates the long term impact on the capacity of facilities if there is no intervention. It also highlights the importance of ensuring an appropriate maintenance procedure is in place, as even with capital investment, pitches will decline if not appropriately maintained.

Figure 4.1: Capacity Issues across Chesterfield Borough



Strategic Objective SO2,SO3	F7: Improve the short and longer term quality of pitches by securing levels of investment to ensure that maintenance regimes appropriate to the pitch and its' usage are adopted. This should involve investment in both weekly maintenance work and pitch reinstatement procedures. Investment in maintenance regimes will be necessary if any capital investment into pitch condition is to be successful.
Delivery Mechanism: SO2:l,f SO3:c,f,g	
Justification	The maintenance programme currently adopted at Council sites is insufficient to sustain high levels of use and is likely to lead to long term decline in the pitches available. The quality of the pitches is only currently maintained due to the relatively low levels of usage that pitches sustain, which is influenced by high peak time demand. As demand increases usage will also increase. The existing maintenance programme will be insufficient to accommodate this. Even if usage does not increase, the levels of maintenance will lead to long term deterioration in pitch quality and pitches will become of poor quality

overall, leading to cancellations and a decline in participation.

4.19 **Key Issue 5** – There is only one full sized 3g pitch in the borough and a second smaller facility although over 85% of use of all AGPs is football. A shortage of 3g AGPs was highlighted as a concern by 63% of responding clubs and some clubs are travelling outside of the borough to use facilities.

4.20 The lack of 3g pitches means that there is limited scope to use AGPs for competitive play.

Strategic Objective: SO2, SO4 Delivery Mechanism: SO2:e SO4:b, Justification	<p>F8: Support the growth and development of football clubs by improving access to 3g AGPs for football clubs across the Borough. The provision of an additional 3g pitch should be considered.</p> <p>To maximise the role of this facility and to ensure it can be used for competitive fixtures as well as training, it should be (as a minimum) of sufficient size to accommodate junior football fixtures.</p> <p>Hockey activity is focused at St Marys RC High School and this site is sufficient to meet all hockey needs. The remaining pitches are heavily used for football.</p> <p>While overall, there is only a small shortfall of AGPs (less than 1 pitch according to the SE FPM) the balance between provision for football and hockey is not tailored to need. Furthermore, a significant amount of capacity at the Springwell College AGP is used by Chesterfield FC. There is however significant dissatisfaction with the amount of 3g AGPs that are provided and there is limited remaining availability midweek.</p> <p>As well as meeting training needs of clubs, the provision of an appropriate facility would also meet with the recommendations of F1, which seeks to promote the use of 3g AGPs in competitive fixtures to reduce pressures on the current stock of junior football pitches. The provision of a facility at a school site would offer benefits to the school as well as providing a facility that could accommodate both football matches and training.</p>
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4.21 **Key issue 6:** There are a variety of providers of football pitches and the stock is not fully coordinated. While participation in football is high, there remain opportunities to increase participation and activity.

4.22 The financial climate, as well as the amount of issues identified, means that improvements will not be delivered effectively if partners work in isolation.

Strategic Objective: SO4 Delivery Mechanism:	<p>F9: In order to drive forward football development in the borough, support the football forum which has recently been established with significant success. This group should own and implement the football recommendations in this PPS and should continue to include the Derbyshire FA, all interested clubs, leagues and Chesterfield FC. As a</p>
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a,b,c,d,e	<p>key provider of football pitches in the borough, this forum should also be attended by Chesterfield Borough Council.</p> <p>The focus of the group should be on the delivery of FA priorities in the context of the local needs and evidence set out in the PPS. The group should also provide a forum for feedback.</p> <p>This group should also work to increase participation in the borough through a joined up approach.</p>
Justification	<p>Knowledge sharing will ensure a coordinated approach to football across the borough and will support in the delivery of this strategy.</p> <p>The forum will provide a constructive way of providing feedback to providers and participants and maximising partnership working.</p>

4.23 Site specific priorities for the above actions, alongside responsibilities and timescales will be identified in the action plan in Section 5.

Cricket

4.24 The analysis of the adequacy of cricket in Section 3 identifies several key issues that need to be addressed if the strategic objectives of this strategy are to be met.

4.25 These are evidenced below and the recommendations to address these issues are also highlighted along with the justifications for the proposed actions. The specific actions required, alongside priority sites, timeframes and responsibility for delivery are set out in the action plan at the end of this section.

4.26 The solutions identified for key issues 1, 2 and 3 are all linked and these are therefore discussed together.

4.27 **Key Issue 1:** Chesterfield Barbarians are the largest club in the Borough but operate on an annual lease, meaning there is no long term security of access to the site. Facilities are poor and the facility is insufficient to accommodate the number of teams that the club has currently. Aspirations for growth of the club can also not be accommodated.

4.28 **Key Issue 2:** Two teams from Chesterfield CC are currently displaced – the club believe there to be a lack of facilities of appropriate quality in Chesterfield Borough. There has also been an additional approach from a new club to the Derbyshire Cricket Board as they were also unable to find appropriate facilities.

4.29 **Key Issues 3:** Despite Key issues 1 and 2, facilities at Eastwood Park are not used (and pitches at Stand Road Park and Somersall Park have recently closed due to a lack of demand). All of these pitches were / are managed by Chesterfield Council and were perceived by clubs to be of insufficient quality. They therefore have no role in their current form. Clubs are however travelling out of the borough to use other facilities, suggesting that it is the quality of pitches provided rather than the actual demand for pitches that is the issue.

<p>Strategic Objective: SO2, SO4</p> <p>Delivery Mechanism:</p> <p>SO2: a,f,g,i,j,F</p> <p>SO4: c,e,f</p>	<p>C1: Ensure that clubs have access to the facilities required to sustain current and projected future activity by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Chesterfield Barbarians with the negotiation of a long term lease at Robinsons Sports Ground • Liaising with Chesterfield Barbarians to agree a partnership approach for a second ground (if lease for Robinsons Sports Ground is secured) or additional / new facilities at a new site if no agreement can be determined at the Walton Dam site. A new site could be provided through a partnership approach on a Council site, or securing use of a new alternative ground • Liaising with Chesterfield CC to establish a partnership approach in the management and maintenance of both the existing facility and a new facility. To ensure facilities are sustainable moving forwards and that the quality is sufficient to meet the needs of the club, this should include an agreement for the use of a specific site, and a devolved or shared maintenance programme using club and Council expertise • Supporting similar discussions relating to a partnership approach with other clubs should the requirement for additional facilities arise • Ensuring that valuable sites are protected • Promoting and encouraging the use of artificial wickets for junior matches where appropriate.
<p>Justification</p>	<p>Cricket in the borough is currently constrained by a lack of appropriate facilities. This is both constraining the growth of Chesterfield Barbarians and generating displaced demand (Chesterfield CC).</p> <p>Capacity analysis indicates that the amount of grass wickets at Chesterfield Barbarians is insufficient to accommodate current demand and growth aspirations therefore cannot be accommodated. There is also a requirement for Chesterfield CC to use a second ground due to high demand at peak time.</p> <p>Consultation demonstrates that existing Council owned and managed facilities are not used due to the quality of the site and the poor condition of wickets and outfield. There is however clear demand for effective provision within the borough and closure of these pitches would cause a deficiency in provision. The location of pitches owned and managed by the Council on public parks does provide challenges and such sites offer more limited opportunities than purpose built grounds, however they provide important resources to support the growth of cricket in the borough (particularly if other opportunities are not available). Artificial wickets provide an effective way of more easily and cost effectively managing junior fixtures.</p> <p>A partnership approach would provide the most sustainable solution and would ensure that the club are able to achieve the quality of facility that they require but without the constraints currently experienced. This approach has proven successful elsewhere.</p>

4.30 **Key Issue 4:** Excluding Chesterfield Barbarians and Chesterfield CC, there is spare capacity at all other club bases. Population growth will generate an additional 8 – 10 junior games and the assessment of need indicates that assuming that Key Issues 1 -3 are addressed as above, the infrastructure for cricket will be sufficient to meet this additional demand. Clubs do however have significant aspirations for ongoing development and the Derbyshire Cricket Board identify scope for growth in levels of participation in cricket.

Strategic Objective S04	C2: Support clubs and leagues in creating club development plans to enable targeted and accurate forecasting and monitoring of additional pitch requirements.
Delivery Mechanism: c	
Justification	No existing or projected future requirement for additional pitches, but significant increases in participation may impact upon this. The strategy seeks to ensure that facilities do not inhibit participation growth. Long term planning of facilities is therefore essential.

4.31 **Key Issue 5:** Added to the capacity issues with the existing pitch stock currently, a lack of (or poor quality) training facilities limits both capacity and the quality of cricket that can be played at club sites.

4.32 Where there are no or poor training facilities, clubs are required to use grass wickets to train, reducing the number of matches that can be sustained. A similar situation arises where there are poor quality practice facilities. A lack (or the poor quality) of artificial wickets can also restrict opportunities for junior match play.

Strategic Objective: S03	C3: Support cricket clubs in the improvement of training facilities to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance.
Delivery Mechanism: B	This should include improvements (or provision of) both appropriate training nets and artificial wickets for all clubs. The aspiration is for all clubs to have; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one artificial wicket • Access to appropriate training nets <p>To facilitate growth in cricket, clubs would also benefit from access to indoor training facilities.</p>
Justification	The provision of inappropriate training facilities negatively impacts upon the overall capacity of a club, the attractiveness of a club and the quality of cricket that can be played. Artificial wickets can be used for both training and junior match play, meaning that they improve match capacity as well as training opportunities. Artificial wickets provide an effective way of more easily and cost effectively managing junior fixtures. <p>Indoor training facilities in Derbyshire are currently focused in Derby, meaning that there is a lack of local dedicated indoor training facilities for cricket. The Derbyshire Cricket Board have identified</p>

the need for a facility in the Chesterfield area.

- 4.33 **Key Issue 6:** Similar to a lack of training facilities, quality of pitches is impacting upon the short term capacity of pitches. If not addressed, these issues will intensify and are likely to influence the longer term sustainability of the pitch stock. The quality of pitches is also linked to the issues with the amount of pitches provided, as set out in Key Issue 1.
- 4.34 The quality of the wicket is the key element of a cricket pitch and it is this that most influences the capacity of a facility and it's overall condition. A good quality grass wicket is able to sustain 7 adult matches per season, whereas poorer quality facilities can take more limited play. To maximise the use of each facility, good quality wickets are essential.
- 4.35 Quality issues at cricket pitches in the borough primarily focus upon the outfield and ancillary facilities, rather than the wicket itself. Nevertheless, these issues impact upon the quality of the cricket experience and can reduce participation, as well as present danger.

Strategic Objective: S03	C4: Prioritise improvements to the quality of existing cricket club bases. Key areas for improvement relate to:
Delivery Mechanism: a,b,d,e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surface levelling • changing pavilions • wicket quality. <p>All pitches should be fit for the purposes they are intended and club bases should meet with NGB specifications.</p> <p>All sites for cricket should include full changing accommodation and shelter as well as appropriate parking.</p>
Justification	<p>The need for pitches to sustain high levels of use means that quality is essential if resources are to be maximised. This will be particularly important if aspirations to increase participation are achieved.</p> <p>Ancillary facilities are as important as the actual pitch in attracting new players and retaining existing facilities.</p>

- 4.36 **Key Issue 7:** Cricket in the borough is underdeveloped and there is significant capacity to increase the sport in terms of both club growth and creation of new forms of the game. There has been no focus on cricket development historically and this means that growth in participation has not occurred as rapidly as it may otherwise have done. Building upon this, the work of the Derbyshire Cricket Board, and the ECB nationally, recognises the need to provide alternative forms of the game and different opportunities to participate to ensure that the game continues to evolve in response to changing demands.

Strategic Objective: SO4	C5: Support the growth of cricket across Chesterfield Borough through ongoing support for the cricket development forum. This should involve the Derbyshire Cricket Board, all clubs playing in the area and Chesterfield Borough Council, as well as the School Sport Partnership.
Delivery Mechanism:	The group should seek to implement development initiatives to both grow existing clubs and to introduce new players to the game. This may

a,b,c,d,e	involve the introduction of new forms of the game as well as formal cricket.
Justification	<p>Knowledge sharing will ensure that clubs are able to learn from each other and promote the growth of cricket across the borough as well as address issues of sustainability and management.</p> <p>Significant latent demand was identified both in Chesterfield Borough specifically and wider across North Derbyshire as a whole and Derbyshire Cricket Board have identified the north of the county as a key area for the development of the sport in terms of clubs participation and infrastructure, as well as more informal types of cricket. Cricket therefore offers an opportunity to increase participation amongst residents of the borough. Larger club membership will also enhance the sustainability of existing clubs.</p>

4.37 Site specific priorities for the above actions, alongside responsibilities and timescales will be identified in the action plan in Section 5.

Rugby

4.38 Chesterfield RUFC is the only club in the area. As a club based sport, facilities are particularly important for rugby clubs. The club recently relocated to new high quality provision and are self sustaining. The existing provision is sufficient to accommodate both current and projected future demand, unless there are significant levels of participation increase.

4.39 **Key Issue 1:** The existing rugby club is an important facility for rugby in Chesterfield Borough and the surrounding area. The site is sufficient to meet current and all anticipated projected demand and is a high quality site of strategic significance.

Strategic Objective: SO1, SO2	R1: Ensure that Chesterfield RUFC club has secured access to sufficient pitches and ancillary facilities through the protection of the existing site.
Delivery Mechanism: SO1:a,b,c SO2: a,c,j,f	Continue to monitor participation at the site to ensure that the amount of pitches available remains sufficient for the club requirements
Justification	<p>The existing site is an important venue for rugby in the borough and is able to meet current and projected future demand. Protection of the facility will ensure that this situation remains up to 2031.</p> <p>Analysis demonstrates that significant growth in participation may see pressures on the facilities at the existing site.</p>

4.40 **Key Issue 2:** The club currently struggle to recruit new players due to a lack of activity in the borough at a school level. They have however signed up the delivery of a development plan as part of their relocation. This will see aspirations to increase to a total

of 17 teams. Targets are already part achieved but the club continue to work on these. The existing pitch stock will be sufficient to accommodate the aspired increase in participation.

Strategic Objective: SO4	R2: Support Chesterfield RUFC in the development of rugby across the borough.
Delivery Mechanism: A,b,c,d,e	
Justification	The lack of current activity in local schools and the struggles that the club have recruiting players means that there is scope to increase participation through effective promotion and development initiatives. This is also supported by the Active People survey, which highlights latent demand for rugby in the borough.

4.41 Site specific priorities for the above actions, alongside responsibilities and timescales will be identified in the action plan in Section 5.

Hockey

4.42 As outlined in Section 3, there are only two hockey clubs in the area and all activity is focused upon one AGP. There are several issues that need to be addressed however to maximise the long term sustainability of the clubs and facilitate growth in hockey over the strategy period.

4.43 **Key Issue 1:** Just 15% of activity at AGPs across the borough is hockey – the remainder is football. 75% of pitches have a sand based surface however that is suitable for hockey. Taking this into account, there is an imbalance between sand based and 3g pitch provision. Hockey activity is concentrated onto St Marys RC High School pitch. This is an important site for hockey. Modelling suggests that this site is sufficient to meet current and projected future demand unless there are increases in participation of greater than three teams.

Strategic Objective: SO1; SO2	Ensure that there remain sufficient sand based facilities to fulfil hockey need at both the current time and in the future by retaining the AGP at ST Marys RC High School as a sand based facility. It should be ensured that conversion of any AGPs does not impact upon hockey activity.
Delivery Mechanism: SO1:a,b,c SO2: a,f	
Justification	Current hockey activity is equivalent to circa 15 hours per week. Modelling suggests that this site is sufficient to meet current and projected future demand unless there are increases in participation of greater than three teams. Expansion of the number of teams run may however require an

	increase in the number of hours access to facilities required by the clubs. This may be particularly significant if additional access for competitive fixtures was required as there is currently a small sided football league using the facility for 3 hours on a Sunday.
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4.44 **Key Issue 2:** The quality of facilities impacts upon the activity that can be undertaken. The surface of the pitch at St Marys RC High School is poor and in need of immediate replacement if hockey is to continue to be possible on this pitch.

Strategic Objective: SO3	H2: Address quality issues identified at the existing site and work with providers to ensure the timely refurbishment of the pitch surface.
Delivery Mechanism a,b	
Justification	Lack of refurbishment will mean that the pitch surface would no longer be suitable for competitive play. This would inhibit participation in hockey. Quality of pitch and ancillary facilities is important in attracting and retaining hockey club members.

4.45 **Key Issue 3:** There are opportunities to increase the amount of hockey played across the borough, with potential to accommodate additional play within the existing infrastructure.

Strategic Objective: SO4	H3: Work with the two clubs to increase participation in hockey across the borough and support the implementation of initiatives to increase awareness and play.
Delivery Priorities A,b,c,d,e	This may include rush hockey and sports development initiatives to introduce more people to the game.
Justification	Increases in club membership could be accommodated within existing full sized pitches and would maximise club sustainability. The spread of participants in hockey means that the sport provides an important opportunity to increase participation in segments with lower participation rates in other sports.

4.46 Site specific priorities for the above actions, alongside responsibilities and timescales will be identified in the action plan in Section 5.

Tennis

- 4.47 **Key Issue 1:** Although there are only two clubs, assuming that participation levels remain constant, there is capacity to sustain the number of members that are anticipated by 2031, although some quality improvements may be required. There are therefore no requirements for additional club based courts at the current time.
- 4.48 There are however concerns about the sustainability of Queens Park Tennis Club, particularly in the context of declining membership. The loss of this facility would see club based provision becoming insufficient.

Strategic Objective: SO1,SO2,SO4	T1: Retain existing club based tennis courts and support activity to increase participation and membership at both club sites
Delivery Mechanism SO1:a,b,c SO2: a,f SO4:a,b,c,d,e	
Justification	<p>The club based infrastructure is sufficient to meet current and projected future need, despite increases in the number of players arising through population growth.</p> <p>Increasing membership numbers will maximise sustainability of clubs by improving income. There is capacity at both clubs to grow the number of members, even taking into account the likely impact of population growth.</p>

- 4.49 **Key Issue 2:** Some quality issues have been identified with existing club based facilities, some of which are believed to inhibit the attraction of new members.

Strategic Objective: SO3	T2: Support clubs in the improvement of facilities where issues have been identified. Both clubs should include access to;
Delivery Mechanism a,b,c,d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courts of an appropriate standard; and • adequate pavilion (including toilets) and shelter.
Justification	<p>Quality was identified as being particularly important for both tennis clubs and the availability of appropriate facilities will be essential if participation is to be retained and increased. Queens Park Tennis Club consider the poorer quality of facilities at their site to be one of the key reasons for the contrast in fortunes between Chesterfield Tennis Club and Queens Park Tennis Club.</p>

- 4.50 **Key Issue 2:** There are only two public courts (Eastwood Park) that are currently in a playable condition and several courts have fallen into disrepair due to a lack of use. There are 31 courts at secondary school sites that are not available to the public currently.
- 4.51 **Key Issue 3:** Despite the lack of use of public facilities, current levels of participation suggest that there is significant scope to increase participation in tennis across the borough, particularly at pay and play facilities. Current club based membership is equivalent to just half the national participation rate in tennis and the lack of opportunities at pay and play sites mean play outside of the club bases is limited.
- 4.52 LTA research suggests that play is usually split between public tennis courts and private club membership and effective provision of public facilities may drive participation increases.
- 4.53 **Key Issue 4:** There are significant opportunities to grow the sport of tennis within the borough and to promote opportunities to participate, particularly at public facilities. Tennis provides an opportunity to attract a wide participation profile.

Strategic Objective: SO2, SO4	T3: Create a sustainable means of providing public tennis courts by evaluating innovative means of providing access to these facilities linking with the emerging LTA Strategy.
Delivery Mechanism SO2: b,c,j,f SO4: a,b,c,d	Access to new facilities should be linked with marketing and promotion activity to encourage use of the facilities and maximise the benefits derived from the new facilities.
Justification	Reduced Council budgets mean that the existing input into the facilities is not possible in the longer term. Public tennis courts are however an essential component of the stock of facilities and analysis of latent demand demonstrates that it is in this form of the game where there is most potential to generate participation increases.

Strategic Objective:	T4: Protect valuable existing public tennis provision and facilities that are required to deliver the strategy for tennis across the borough. This should include;
Key Delivery Priorities – SO1 Delivery mechanisms a, b,c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both club sites • Provision at Eastwood Park (as well as Queens Park TC) to ensure that access to facilities is available during the day, when school facilities would not be available. • Facilities at school sites. <p>Courts on other public sites that have fallen into disrepair should not be reinstated. Any capital receipt should be reinvested into improving the sporting infrastructure in the borough.</p>
Justification	The existing club bases are required to meet existing demand and

future demand and protection is therefore essential.

Recent declines in the use of public tennis facilities have seen these sites fall into decline and become unsustainable. None of these facilities are suitable to host activity currently.

While unmet demand for public tennis courts has been identified, the existing courts cannot be operated sustainably. Opening facilities at school sites (in conjunction with the facilities at Eastwood Park) would ensure that use of resources is maximised and allow participation in the borough to grow slowly. Use of facilities at school sites which are also open for other community activity will ensure that there are toilets and ancillary facilities available, something which is central to enticing new participants.

4.54 Site specific priorities for the above actions, alongside responsibilities and timescales will be identified in the action plan in Section 5.

Bowls

4.55 The analysis of the adequacy of bowls in Section 3 identifies several key issues that need to be addressed if the strategic objectives of this strategy are to be met. These are evidenced below and the recommendations to address these issues are also highlighted along with the justifications for the proposed actions. The specific actions required, alongside priority sites, timeframes and responsibility for delivery are set out in the action plan at the end of this section.

4.56 **Key Issue 1:** Sustainability - Bowling greens are expensive to maintain and manage and clubs and the Council alike raise concerns about the long term sustainability of facilities. Membership of most bowling clubs is static (with some exceptions) and the cost of maintenance is rising. Coupled with this, many clubs are running with relatively low numbers of members.

4.57 Without intervention and a change in management / maintenance procedures, the status quo will not be possible. Pressures on budgets make it extremely difficult to provide facilities of the quality expected.

Strategic Objective: SO2, SO4	BG1: Review alternative means of managing and maintaining bowling greens to ensure that all facilities are sustainable moving forwards. This may include;
Delivery Mechanism: SO2: a,h,f, SO4: d,e,f,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lease of Council facilities to clubs • The rationalisation of existing facilities to increase membership numbers and therefore raise the amount of income into each club • The promotion of knowledge sharing for clubs in the management and maintenance of greens and sustainable procedures.
Justification	Reduced Council budgets mean that the existing input into the facilities is not possible longer term. Bowling greens are however an essential facility which provide groups of residents who may not participate in other outdoor/ pitch sports the opportunity to play.

4.58 **Key Issue 2:** Building upon the above, there is no requirement for the creation of additional greens (or the reinstatement of former greens) – the existing infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate both current and projected future demand, even taking into account the likely impact of the ageing population on demand for bowls.

Strategic Objective: SO1 Priorities	<p>BG2: Protect all existing club based facilities unless existing clubs can be successfully merged to improve overall club sustainability. In this instance, any capital / revenue savings from the reduced overall amount of greens should be reinvested Any capital receipt should be reinvested into improving the sporting infrastructure in the borough.</p> <p>Former bowling greens that are now redundant are not required to meet current or projected future need.</p>
Justification	<p>The strategy seeks to protect all valuable sites. The current stock of bowling greens is sufficient to meet current and projected future need, despite increases in the number of players arising through population growth. Increasing membership numbers will maximise sustainability of clubs by improving income for clubs.</p> <p>Sustainability issues with the management and maintenance of existing facilities however may mean that there is benefit in rationalising the existing sites by merging two clubs in order to build membership numbers and increase sustainability.</p>

4.59 **Key Issue 3:** Several bowling clubs identified quality issues with their existing facilities, some of which are believed to inhibit the attraction of new members.

Strategic Objective: SO4 Key Delivery Priorities – B, C, D	<p>BG3: Support clubs in the improvement of existing bowling greens where issues have been identified. All bowling greens should include access to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A green of appropriate standard • Adequate pavilion (including toilets) and shelter
Justification	<p>Quality was identified as being particularly important to bowling clubs and the availability of appropriate facilities will be essential if participation is to be retained and increased. Many bowls clubs highlighted the quality of facilities as being central to the attraction of new players.</p>

4.60 **Key Issue 4:** There are significant opportunities to grow the sport of bowls within the borough and to promote opportunities to play. There are currently limited junior members and inconsistent development activity to increase participation. Maintaining and increasing participation is one of the key aims and objectives of the Chesterfield and District Bowls Association.

Strategic Objective: SO4 Delivery Mechanism – a,b,c,d,e	<p>BG4: Support clubs to proactively increase participation and membership. To maximise the sustainability of bowls as a sport, efforts should focus on recruitment of junior players as well as adult and veterans. This is important for the sustainability of existing clubs as well as the growth of bowls as a sport.</p>
Justification	<p>There is a need to maximise income into bowls clubs to ensure the ongoing sustainability of clubs through the growth in membership. The ageing population means that bowls provides a significant opportunity to increase physical activity and achieve wider local and national goals.</p> <p>Maintaining and increasing participation is one of the key aims and objectives of the Chesterfield and District Bowls Association.</p>

Athletics

- 4.61 **Key Issue 1:** While there are no existing tracks in Chesterfield, there is good access to athletics tracks outside the borough for the club and they are settled at a nearby facility. There is therefore no requirement for additional facilities. There are however no opportunities for local club development in the borough, and the lack of facilities means that there is significant potential latent demand. There is also scope to enhance participation in recreational athletics.

Strategic Objective: SO2, SO4 Delivery mechanisms SO2:a,g,j SO4:a,b,c,d,e	<p>ATH1: Ensure that facility provision facilitates the growth in athletics through the provision of a new compact or small athletics facility. Opportunities to create marked running routes across the town should also be supported.</p>
	<p>Active People surveys demonstrate evidence of latent demand for athletics and the lack of facilities means that there are no clear opportunities for local growth of participation. A new facility would also provide local opportunities for Chesterfield Athletics Club.</p> <p>Location of the facility at a school site would ensure maximum use of provision and provide a foundation for growth in participation.</p> <p>Both the creation of a compact athletics track, as well as the development of marked running tracks are key strategic objectives of England Athletics.</p>

Strategic Objective:	ATH2: Support Chesterfield Athletics Club to proactively increase participation and membership.
Key Delivery Priorities	
Justification	Active People surveys suggest that there are significant opportunities to increase participation in the borough. Increasing membership will improve sustainability of the club and ensure that any new facility is well used.

4.62 Site specific priorities for the above actions, alongside responsibilities and timescales will be identified in the action plan in Section 5.

Summary

4.63 This section has identified the policies that will be implemented to deliver the key strategic actions and set out the general priorities on a sport specific basis.

4.64 Section 5 contains an action plan that clearly sets out the tasks that will be undertaken to deliver each of the recommendations and the associated site specific priorities. Section 5 also includes a summary of the suggested action for each site across the borough and an overall summary of the recommended key priorities on a site specific level.

Section 5: Implementation and Delivery

Introduction

- 5.1 Sections 3 outlines the context for each sport across Chesterfield Borough, while Section 4 outlined the strategic objectives and policies that would be implemented to address these issues and the sport specific priorities that need to be addressed.
- 5.2 The full assessment of issues identified, modelling and evaluation of options using site specific modelling is set out under separate cover (assessment report).
- 5.3 While to date and for clarity, each sport has been considered separately within this strategy, recommendations should be implemented strategically, considering opportunities for partnerships between sports. There are some good examples of sustainable clubs and multi sport partnerships and these provide foundations for a successful future delivery model. It will be essential to ensure that good practice and knowledge from these successful ventures is spread across the borough through knowledge sharing and effective training and guidance. This will be particularly important in the context of the challenging financial environment and the constraints on public finance.
- 5.4 In addition to the proactive improvement of pitches and outdoor sports facilities, this also relates to the allocation of funding arising from new development, which should consider strategic need and the benefits that can be derived for sport as a whole.
- 5.5 To support the implementation of the key priorities and recommendations, Table 5.1 sets out an action plan for delivery of the recommendations listed in Section 4. It briefly summarises the recommendation, identifies the sites that should be considered for the delivery of the recommendation (where appropriate) and provides an indication of the timeframe and the lead responsibility. This action plan has been developed in conjunction with key partners and therefore represents a joined up approach to the delivery of an improved stock of playing fields across the borough. Actions require either immediate, short term (1 – 2 years) medium term (3 years+) or long term action.
- 5.6 Building upon the tasks identified in the action plan, Table 5.2 summarises the key site specific priorities required to deliver the four strategic objectives. It also draws together the key priorities for all of the sports, ensuring a joined up approach to pitch and outdoor sports provision in the borough.
- 5.7 Table 5.3 provides a site by site list of the key actions at each site. It provides an indication of which sites should be protected and which sites are not required as playing fields to deliver this strategy. This list will be updated as part of the strategy monitoring and review process in response to changing demand / progress with the delivery of the action plan. New sites will also be added when they emerge. It should be noted that sites not required to meet current and future demand for playing fields are not necessarily surplus to requirements as green space and should be viewed in the context of the Green Space Strategy, as well as other relevant documents.

Table 5.1: Action Plan

Recom mendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
F1	Football	<p>F1: Reconfigure the existing pitch stock to better match the balance of adult / junior football teams. This should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the conversion of key multi pitch sites into junior facilities. the conversion of some pitches back to green space and use as a strategic reserve the relocation of play areas to enable additional pitches to be laid out on sites where use is currently constrained Promotion of the use of 3g pitches for competitive play as well as their use for training Working with key partners to ensure that their pitch configuration reflects local needs. <p>If school pitches are reconfigured to junior pitches, there may be an opportunity to link schools with clubs. This is likely to help address problems of clubs being dispersed across several sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversion of Highfield Park / Stand Road Park to smaller size junior pitches (tailored to club needs) Retention of mini pitches at Holmebrook Valley Park, alongside planned full size pitches Return Badger Recreation Ground, Rother Recreation Ground to green space to function as strategic reserve. Dependent upon the new layout of pitches at school sites, it may also be possible to rest Norbriggs Recreation Ground / Loundsley Green. Some of these sites are located in areas of high population growth and are likely to be required in future years Potential AGP at Netherthorpe School / Queens Park Sports Centre. Links with the school and the benefits that this would bring mean that Netherthorpe School should be 	Undertake consultation with schools offering community use following the end of each football season to determine planned pitch provision next season	Short Term	CBC / SSP
				Work with local leagues in terms of both supporting league development but also agreeing facility requirements and exploring opportunities to maximise the use of available resources (this may include staggered kick offs etc).	Ongoing	CBC / DFA
				Following receipt of club requirements and in in the context of school plans, review of CBC pitch stock in advance of each season to better tailor pitch stock to teams that wish to use it.	Short Term and Ongoing	CBC
				Remark pitches to meet with FA guidelines ensuring that juniors play on suitable pitches and consider external funding opportunities where new equipment is required to ensure that pitches are tailored to team needs and regulations	Short Term	CBC
				Undertake annual review to ensure that changing requirements are taken into account and that pitches are configured appropriately each season	Ongoing	CBC
				Promote use of Brookfield School 3g AGP for competitive fixtures - it is believed that the Rowsley League will be using this facility from next season to support competitive play. Chesterfield FC have also confirmed use of the facility for competitive fixtures	Short Term and Ongoing	Brookfield School / Football Forum
				Undertake a feasibility study to provide additional AGP of at least junior size. This facility should be in line with FA specifications to ensure that it can be listed on the FA register.	Short Term	CBC

Recom mendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
			considered priority.			
F2		<p>Build upon the success of existing community use arrangements, seek to secure long term access to sites of potential or existing community value.</p> <p>This could be achieved by linking clubs with schools and may also require investment in both pitch quality and maintenance procedures (F5 and F7).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools with existing community use St Marys RC High School <p>Junior Schools with potential to offer more than one pitch</p>	Maintain strong links with schools with existing community use to ensure the ongoing success of the arrangement.	Ongoing	SSP / Football Forum / DFA
				Work with schools that offer significant potential for community use to open these facilities to the community, providing guidance as to the models that could be adopted and the issues that should be considered. The challenges in achieving this are recognised, however there are several examples in Chesterfield Borough where successful models have been implemented. The challenges in achieving this are discussed in guidance provided by Sport England (http://www.sportengland.org/support__advice/accessing_schools.aspx) which will help to maximise opportunities. Improvement to school facilities may be required if this policy is to be successful (link with quality recommendation F5)	Medium Term	CBC / SSP
				Work with schools to develop stronger school club links and ensure that roles of both schools and clubs are clearly defined and coordinated. This should also extend to links with local leagues	ongoing	SSP / DFA / Football Forum
F3		<p>Support the growth of clubs by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking wherever possible, to accommodate teams from the same club on the same site (through the conversion of sites to junior sites – F1) 	<p>All junior clubs with more than 6 teams and / or significant growth aspirations.</p> <p>Priority given to larger clubs due to issues of sustainability</p>	Work with clubs to establish their requirements and identify appropriate venues. This may involve short and long term solutions. In the short term, planning is likely to link with the reconfiguration of pitch provision in the borough.	Short - Medium Term	DFA / CBC / Football Forum
				Work with clubs to develop links with schools through active facilitation of relationships following the	Short - Medium Term	CBC / SSP / DFA

Recom mendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the creation of school club links (F2) Facilitating extension to existing facilities where appropriate and there is evidence of need Supporting clubs with an identified need in their pursuit of new facilities where appropriately located and sustainable multi pitch sites can be identified – this may involve the creation of new sites and / or the reinstatement of appropriate former playing fields Supporting improvements to club sites which enhance the capacity of facilities Seeking additional playing pitch sites in the event of further pitch requirements. 		<p>principles of the Sport England Strategy, creating a sporting habit for life. Promote the development of club bases – this can also represent a short term solution</p> <p>Undertake an assessment of potential opportunities to create a new multi pitch playing field site that could accommodate a large club (4 or more pitches). This should include feasibility studies on former playing fields of sufficient size as well as the identification of new sites if existing sites are not suitable</p> <p>Provide advice, guidance and support for any clubs working towards the management of their own facilities.</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>CBC</p> <p>DFA / CBC</p>
F4		<p>Protect all football pitches that are required to meet current or projected future demand.</p> <p>Where sites are not required for sporting use (either currently, or following the completion of actions set out in the action plan), any disposal of these facilities should see investment into the sporting infrastructure of the borough in order</p>	Sites listed in Table 5.3	<p>Ensure that the list set out reflecting sites to protect in this strategy is up to date</p> <p>Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting valuable football pitches This should link with the priorities of this document and take into account the monitoring and review process which may see updates occur.</p> <p>Ensure that the findings of this assessment are considered when making decisions relating to playing</p>	Short Term and Ongoing	CBC

Recom mendat ion	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		to ensure that overall benefit is gained.		fields (including through the allocations and development DPD).		
F5		<p>Address current and potential longer term issues with the quality of football provision by initially improving the existing pitch stock as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investing capital in improving existing poor quality football pitch sites. Given the interrelationship between quality and capacity, improvements should focus firstly on sites sustaining higher levels of usage (to ensure that benefits to capacity are felt) and multi pitch sites. Football pitches should be fit for the standard of play that they accommodate. Seek to ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality by addressing existing quality issues with associated ancillary accommodation and parking. All sites containing senior pitches should offer full changing accommodation, while sites for mini and junior teams should include a minimum of toilet and wash facilities. Changes to the configuration of pitches are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brearley Park – changing and toilets / pitch surface / parking / drainage Stand Road Park – parking Highfield Park – parking and changing Inkersall Green – drainage / pitch surface / parking Brookfield School (funding now secured) Hady Playing Fields (significant scope for additional pitches if underlying methane issues were addressed) Hasland Hall School – changing Netherthorpe School – drainage Newbold Back Lane – drainage / changing School sites – equipment (goal posts etc) <p>Lower Priority where improvements would be of benefit</p>	Following reconfiguration of pitch stock, identify any additional issues that have been created (for example lack of parking due to higher number of pitches being provided on site)	Short Term	CBC
				Undertake detailed professional quality assessments / masterplanning to establish works required at sites where significant quality issues have been identified, focusing upon multi pitch sites initially to achieve maximum impact. This should link with Recommendation F7 (Improvements to maintenance procedures as capital investment will be of limited value if pitch maintenance is not adequate)	Short Term	CBC
				Support improvements to pitches where these are required through the provision of capital funding and / or preparing / supporting external funding bids to facilitate qualitative improvements. This should link with Recommendation F7 (Improvements to maintenance procedures as capital investment will be of limited value if pitch maintenance is not adequate)	Ongoing	CBC / SSP / DFA

Recom mendat ion	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>likely to have a knock on impact on the demand for parking and ancillary accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where clubs require higher grade facilities to enable them to play within a specific league, this should be facilitated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrowhill Brimington (changing) Langer Lane (surface / changing / parking). 	Work as a partnership between CBC, the FA, Football Forum, Chesterfield Community Trust, leagues and clubs to strategically improve facilities across the borough.	Ongoing	CBC / DFA / Football Forum
F6		<p>Protect the quality of pitches by controlling Council booking procedures and ensuring that usage is in line with site capacity and that play is evenly spread across pitches. Consideration should be given to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling bookings to ensure that quality is taken into account when allocating matches Resting pitches during a season where possible – teams should be allocated to ensure even use of pitches, rather than to meet with specific location requests Differentiated costs according to pitch quality and maintenance procedures assigned to the pitch The implementation of consequence for teams that do not follow procedure The allocation of preseason 	<p>Boroughwide</p> <p>Preseason training pitches – Somersall Park</p>	<p>Review pitch booking arrangements and create a new proactive system that addresses the issues raised</p> <p>Clearly communicate any changes in pitch booking procedures / policies to clubs and league secretaries</p>	Short term and ongoing	CBC

Recom mendat ion	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>training pitches to reduce the unofficial use on formal pitches</p> <p>The installation of goalposts (potential with artificial surface) off the main pitch site designed for recreational play to reduce informal use of match pitches</p>				
F7		<p>Improve the short and longer term quality of pitches by securing levels of investment to ensure that maintenance regimes appropriate to the pitch and its' usage are adopted. This should involve investment in both weekly maintenance work and pitch reinstatement procedures. Investment in maintenance regimes will be necessary if any capital investment into pitch condition is to be successful.</p>	Boroughwide	<p>Undertake review of grounds maintenance arrangements to ensure specification is achieving required outputs and that pitches are at the standard required. Review of contract should see increase in out of season reinstatement and weekly maintenance works to prevent deterioration.</p>	Immediate	CBC
				<p>Ensure that regular reviews of the suitability of maintenance arrangements are undertaken throughout the course of this strategy. Specification may change once pitch requirements have changed (not all pitches may be required each season) and improvements have been made and it should be ensured that this is taken into account. It is essential that maintenance regimes are maintained and improved if longer term deterioration of the pitches is not to take place.</p>	Ongoing	CBC
F8		<p>Support the growth and development of football clubs by improving access to 3g AGPs for football clubs across the Borough. The provision of an additional 3g pitch should be considered.</p> <p>To maximise the role of this facility and to ensure it can be used for</p>	Queens Park Sports Centre or Netherthorpe School	<p>Undertake a feasibility study to evaluate potential to locate an additional 3g pitch at Queens Park Sports Centre and / Netherthorpe School.</p> <p>This should involve engaging in consultation with Netherthorpe School and Schools letting agents to agree appropriate way forward (only one of the two suggested potential facilities is required). Facility should meet quality requirements of FA register</p>		

Recom mendat ion	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		competitive fixtures as well as training, it should be (as a minimum) of sufficient size to accommodate junior football fixtures.		Prepare action plan for delivery of new AGP, to include key sports club partners		
F9		<p>In order to drive forward football development in the borough, support the football forum which has recently been established with significant success. This group should own and implement the football recommendations in this PPS and should continue to include the Derbyshire FA, all interested clubs, leagues and Chesterfield FC Community Trust as well as CBC.</p> <p>The focus of the group should be on the delivery of FA priorities in the context of the local needs and evidence set out in the PPS. The group should also provide a forum for feedback. This group should also work to increase participation in the borough through a joined up approach.</p>	Boroughwide	CBC to engage with Football Forum and regularly attend meetings	Short Term and ongoing	CBC / Football Forum
				As a forum, set targets for the football development forum to achieve and monitor progress and challenges arising	Ongoing	Football Forum
C1	Cricket	<p>Ensure that clubs have access to the facilities required to sustain current and projected future activity by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Chesterfield Barbarians with the negotiation of a long term 	Chesterfield Barbarians – potential sites are Robinsons Sports Ground, Chesterfield Panthers RUFC, Stand Road / Eastwood Park, GKN Sheepbridge	Support Chesterfield Barbarians in the negotiation of a new lease for the Robinsons Sports Ground, or the identification of an alternative site. This should include a partnership approach if use of a Council facility is determined to be the best way forward	Short Term	CBC / DCB
			Chesterfield CC – Queens Park (existing site), Second facility, Eastwood Park or Stand Road	Work with Chesterfield CC to agree a partnership approach for the provision of facilities of appropriate quality in the borough. This should include identification	Short - Term	CBC / DCB

Recom mendat ion	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>lease at Robinsons Sports Ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaising with Chesterfield Barbarians to agree a partnership approach for a second ground (if lease for Robinsons Sports Ground is secured) or additional / new facilities at a new site if no agreement can be determined at the Walton Dam site. A new site could be provided through a partnership approach on a Council site, or securing use of a new alternative ground • Liaising with Chesterfield CC to establish a partnership approach in the management and maintenance of both the existing facility and a new facility. To ensure facilities are sustainable moving forwards and that the 	<p>Park. Constraints at Eastwood Park may mean that a junior facility, with artificial wickets would be an appropriate solution</p> <p>Staveley CC Chesterfield CC (Queens Park) Brearley Park Robinsons Sports Ground Stand Road Park / Eastwood Park Brookfield School</p>	<p>of a specific site and contractual agreement of detailed responsibilities. This partnership may also benefit from research into similar successful partnerships elsewhere.</p> <p>Ensure that the list set out reflecting sites to protect in this strategy is up to date</p> <p>Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting valuable cricket pitches This should link with the priorities of this document and take into account the monitoring and review process which may see updates occur.</p> <p>Ensure that the findings of this assessment are considered when making decisions relating to playing fields (including through the allocations and development DPD).</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>CBC</p>

Recom mendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>quality is sufficient to meet the needs of the club, this should include an agreement for the use of a specific site, and a devolved or shared maintenance programme using club and Council expertise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting similar discussions relating to a partnership approach with other clubs should the requirement for additional facilities arise • Ensuring that valuable sites are protected • Promoting and encouraging the use of artificial wickets for junior matches where appropriate. 	All clubs	Promote membership of the Derbyshire Cricket Board Groundsmans Association to all clubs, but particularly those clubs engaging in partnership arrangements or running / managing their own facilities. This forum provides an important support and mentoring network that will be beneficial to the clubs and to the long term quality of cricket pitches across the borough.	Short – Medium term	CBC/DBC
C2:		Support clubs and leagues in creating club development plans to enable targeted and accurate forecasting and monitoring of additional pitch requirements	Boroughwide	Work with clubs to produce development plans in order to ensure ongoing understanding of current and potential future requirements	Medium Term	DCB
C3		<p>Support cricket clubs in the improvement of training facilities to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance.</p> <p>This should include improvements (or</p>	<p>Whittington Wanderers</p> <p>Chesterfield Barbarians (assuming that existing ground is retained and applicable to new site if not)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with clubs to identify the detailed facility requirements 	Short Term	DCB
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support improvements to pitches where these are required through the provision of capital funding and / or preparing / supporting external funding 	Short – Medium Term	DCB

Recom mendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>provision of) both appropriate training nets and artificial wickets for all clubs. All club bases should have;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one artificial wicket Access to appropriate training nets <p>To facilitate growth in cricket, clubs would also benefit from access to indoor training facilities.</p>		bids to facilitate qualitative improvements		
C4		<p>Prioritise improvements to the quality of existing cricket club bases. Key areas for improvement relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> surface levelling changing pavilions wicket quality. <p>All pitches should be fit for the purposes they are intended and club bases should meet with NGB specifications.</p> <p>All sites for cricket should include full changing accommodation and shelter as well as appropriate parking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brearley Park – pitch and outfield surface / wicket / pavilion (potential also to provide a community facility). Robinsons Sports Ground – changing accommodation (dependent upon outcome of lease discussions) Eastwood Park / Stand Road Park (dependent upon outcome of discussions with Chesterfield CC on partnership approach to management and maintenance). Provision of appropriate cricket facilities – wicket / square preparation and outfield 	Work in partnership with clubs to identify the detailed improvements required	Short Term	DCB / CBC
				Support / undertake detailed professional quality assessments / masterplanning	Short Term	DCB / CBC
				Support improvements to pitches where these are required through the provision of capital funding and / or preparing / supporting external funding bids to facilitate qualitative improvements	Ongoing	DCB / CBC

Recom mendat ion	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
			All clubs	Linking with C1, promote membership of the Derbyshire Cricket Board Groundsmans Association to all clubs, but particularly those clubs engaging in partnership arrangements or running / managing their own facilities. This forum provides an important support and mentoring network that will be beneficial to the clubs and to the long term quality of cricket pitches across the borough.	Short – Medium Term	DCB / CBC
C5		Support the growth of cricket across Chesterfield Borough through ongoing support for the cricket development forum. This should involve the Derbyshire Cricket Board, all clubs playing in the area and Chesterfield Borough Council, as well as the School Sport Partnership. The group should seek to implement development initiatives to both grow existing clubs and to introduce new players to the game. This may involve the introduction of new forms of the game as well as formal cricket.	Boroughwide	Continue the cricket forum including members of all clubs, cricket board, the Council and the School Sport Partnership. The Council should actively engage with this forum also	Short Term	DCB / CBC / SSP
				As a forum, set targets for the cricket development group to achieve and monitor progress and challenges arising. Through the forum, promote cricket across Chesterfield borough including the development of improved school club links and links with Chesterfield College	Ongoing	Cricket Forum
				Investigate opportunities for the introduction of new forms of the game, for example Last Man Standing to cater for players with interests outside the full format of the sport. This should also focus upon attracting new participants into the game through effective marketing to all sectors of the community.	Medium - Long Term	Cricket Forum
				Regularly review cricket across the borough to ensure ongoing success of both clubs and also other forms of the game. This should include a review of the cricket offer to ensure that it evolves to meet changing demands	Ongoing	Cricket Forum
R1	Rugby	Ensure that Chesterfield RUFC club has secured access to sufficient pitches and ancillary facilities through the protection of the existing site	Chesterfield RUFC	Ensure that the list set out reflecting sites to protect in this strategy is up to date. Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting valuable rugby pitches This should link with the priorities of this document and take into account the monitoring and review process	Short Term	CBC

Recom mendat ion	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		Continue to monitor participation at the site to ensure that the amount of pitches available remains sufficient for the club requirements		<p>which may see updates occur.</p> <p>Ensure that the findings of this assessment are considered when making decisions relating to playing fields (including through the allocations and development DPD).</p> <p>Undertake regular monitoring of participation with the rugby club to ensure that pitch provision remains sufficient. Modelling suggests that significant increases and continued growth in participation may lead to a requirement for access to additional pitches. These should be sourced through the community use of school sites and / or new provision through the reinstatement of a dormant grass pitch site.</p>	Ongoing	RFU
R2		Support Chesterfield RUFC in the development of rugby across the borough.	Chesterfield RUFC	Engage with club to provide sports development support and advice on promotion and marketing	Ongoing	RFU / CBC / Active Chesterfield
				Support the rugby club in engaging with local schools	Short Term	RFU / SSP
H1	Hockey	Ensure that there remain sufficient sand based facilities to fulfil hockey need at both the current time and in the future by retaining the AGP at ST Marys RC High School as a sand based facility.	St Marys RC High School	Ensure full consultation is carried out with providers and NGBs prior to the change of any existing surfaces – the pitch surface at St Marys RC High School should be retained as sand based	Ongoing	CBC / EH
				Continue to monitor the adequacy of pitches to meet the needs of hockey clubs	Ongoing	EH
H2		Address quality issues identified at the existing site and work with providers to ensure that timely refurbishment of the pitch surface.	St Marys RC High School	Provide guidance and advice to school and clubs in the urgent refurbishment of the facility at St Marys RC High School	Short Term	EH

Recom mendat ion	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
H3		<p>Work with the two clubs to increase participation in hockey across the borough and support the implementation of initiatives to increase awareness and play.</p> <p>This may include rush hockey and sports development initiatives to introduce more people to the game.</p>	<p>Chesterfield HC</p> <p>Staveley Ladies HC</p>	Engage with clubs to provide sports development support and advice on promotion and marketing	Short - Medium Term	EH / Active Chesterfield
				Support the clubs in engaging with local schools to promote growth in participation in hockey at an early age	Short - Medium Term	SSP
	Tennis	<p>Retain existing club based tennis courts and support activity to increase participation and membership at both club sites</p>	<p>Chesterfield Tennis Club</p> <p>Queens Park Tennis Club</p>	Engage with clubs to provide sports development support and advice on promotion and marketing	Ongoing	LTA / CBC / Active Chesterfield
				Support the clubs in engaging with local schools	Medium Term	SSP
				Support clubs to proactively increase participation and membership through ongoing participation in the North Derbyshire Tennis Development Forum	Ongoing	LTA
				Chesterfield BC should engage with the tennis forum to ensure strong links between public and club based tennis facilities.	Short Term	CBC
T2		<p>Support clubs in the improvement of facilities where issues have been identified. Both clubs should include access to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> courts of an appropriate standard Adequate pavilion (including toilets) and shelter 	<p>Queens Park TC – court surface / pavilion</p>	Undertake detailed professional quality assessments / masterplanning to establish works required	Short Term	CBC / LTA
				Support improvements to courts where these are required through the provision of capital funding and / or preparing / supporting external funding bids to facilitate qualitative improvements.	Medium Term	CBC / LTA / Club
T3		<p>Create a sustainable model for the provision of public tennis courts by evaluating innovative means of</p>	<p>Eastwood Park</p> <p>Key school sites (Secondary)</p>	Engage with schools / Schools Letting Agents with a view to opening a tennis facility for public use. Agree management arrangements	Medium Term	CBC / Active Chesterfield / LTA

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		<p>providing access to these facilities linking with the emerging LTA Strategy.</p> <p>Access to new facilities should be linked with marketing and promotion activity to encourage use of the facilities and maximise the benefits derived from the new facilities.</p>	<p>school with sufficient courts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brookfield School • Newbold Community School • Meadows Community School • St Marys RC High School • Hasland Hall Community School • Netherthorpe School • Springwell Community College 	<p>Linking with the LTA strategy, identify appropriate access and management solutions for the successful delivery of the facility</p> <p>Undertake relevant marketing and promotion to increase awareness of the facility</p> <p>Implement sports development initiatives to encourage take up of tennis and use of the new facility. This should include a range of targeted development opportunities as well as links with schools. This should link with the activities of the tennis development forum and should occur at the same time as the new facility is introduced to maximise chances of success.</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Short–Medium Term Medium Term</p> <p>Medium Term</p>	<p>CBC / LTA</p> <p>CBC / Active Chesterfield</p> <p>SSP / LTA / Active Chesterfield</p>
T4		<p>Protect valuable existing tennis public tennis provision and facilities that are required to deliver the strategy for tennis across the borough. This should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both club sites • Provision at Eastwood Park (as well as Queens Park) to ensure that access to facilities is available during the day, when school facilities would not be available. • Facilities at school sites. <p>Courts on public sites that have fallen into disrepair should not be reinstated. Any capital receipt should be reinvested into improving</p>	<p>Eastwood Park</p>	<p>Ensure that the list set out reflecting sites to protect in this strategy is up to date</p> <p>Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting valuable tennis courts. This should link with the priorities of this document and take into account the monitoring and review process which may see updates occur.</p> <p>Ensure that the findings of this assessment are considered when making decisions relating to playing fields (including through the allocations and development DPD).</p> <p>Continue management and maintenance of prioritised public facilities.</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Short Term and Ongoing</p>	<p>CBC</p> <p>CBC</p>

Recom mendat ion	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		the sporting infrastructure in the borough.				
BG1	Bowls	Review alternative means of managing and maintaining bowling greens to ensure that all facilities are sustainable moving forwards. This may include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lease of Council facilities to clubs The rationalisation of existing facilities to increase membership numbers and therefore raise the amount of income into each club 	Boroughwide	Undertake detailed feasibility study and full consultation programme with impacted clubs to determine the most appropriate way forward. This should include research into successes elsewhere as well as more locally within Chesterfield Borough and should include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> alternative management and maintenance approaches opportunities for leasing of facilities potential mergers of clubs. 	Short Term	CBC
		The promotion of knowledge sharing for clubs in the management and maintenance of greens and sustainable procedures.	Boroughwide	Promote membership of the Derbyshire Cricket Board Groundsmans Association to all clubs, but particularly those clubs engaging in partnership arrangements or running / managing their own facilities. This forum provides an important support and mentoring network that will be beneficial to the clubs. While focused on cricket to some extent, it explores issues relating to the management of fine turf and is also relevant to bowls.	Medium Term	CBC
BG2		Protect all existing club based facilities unless existing clubs can be successfully merged to improve overall club sustainability. In this instance, any capital receipt or revenue saving should be reinvested into improving the sporting infrastructure in the borough. Former bowling greens that are now redundant are not required to meet	Clubs with fewer teams / players and therefore potential opportunities to amalgamate include Chesterfield Bowls Club, Stand Road Park, Poolsbrook SW Bowling Club, Chesterfield Cylinders Bowls Club, New Whittington Bowls Club, Staveley Hall, Staveley King George Bowls Club Green. Protect all greens with clubs	Ensure that the list set out reflecting sites to protect in this strategy is up to date Incorporate policy within the emerging local plan protecting valuable greens. This should link with the priorities of this document and take into account the monitoring and review process which may see updates occur. Ensure that the findings of this assessment are considered when making decisions relating to playing fields (including through the allocations and	Short Term	CBC

Recom mendat ion	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
		current or projected future need.	on unless any mergers take place. Second greens at Staveley King George and Chesterfield Cylinders are not required for bowling, unless mergers take place, increasing membership numbers.	development DPD). Linking with opportunities for alternative management approaches above, consider whether it is possible to merge some greens in order to improve sustainability and reduce maintenance costs. There is potential to lose 2 – 3 greens if clubs can be successfully merged and still have sufficient stock to meet projected future demand.		
BG3		Support clubs in the improvement of existing bowling greens where issues have been identified. All bowling greens should include access to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A green of appropriate standard • Adequate pavilion (including toilets) and shelter 	Eastwood Park Bowls, Boythorpe Bowls Club, Terminus Hotel Bowls Club, Queens Park Annexe, Chesterfield Miners Welfare Bowls Club Green, Poolsbrook SW Bowling Club , Cottage Close, Stand Road Park	Undertake detailed professional quality assessments / masterplanning to establish works required	Medium Term	CBC / Bowling Clubs
				Support improvements to facilities where these are required through the provision of capital funding and / or preparing / supporting external funding bids to facilitate qualitative improvements.	Medium Term	CBC / Bowling Clubs
BG4		Support clubs to proactively increase participation and membership. To maximise the sustainability of bowls as a sport, efforts should focus on recruitment of junior players as well as adult and veterans. This is important for the sustainability of existing clubs as well as the growth of bowls as a sport.	Boroughwide	Support Chesterfield and District Bowls Association to undertake relevant marketing and promotion to increase awareness of bowls	Ongoing	CBC / Chesterfield and District Bowling Association
				Support Chesterfield and District Bowls Association to implement sports development initiatives to encourage take up of bowls	Ongoing	CBC / Chesterfield and District Bowling Association
				Provide support to bowls clubs looking to increase their membership in sports development	Ongoing	CBC / Chesterfield and District Bowling Association
				Support clubs in engaging with junior schools to stimulate interest in the sport at a younger level.	Ongoing	CBC / Chesterfield and District Bowling Association

Recommendation	Area	Strategic Recommendation	Priority Sites / Areas / Clubs	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
						Association
AT1	Athletics	Ensure that facility provision facilitates the growth in athletics through the provision of a new compact or small athletics facility. Opportunities to create marked running routes across the town should also be supported.	Brookfield School	Undertake a feasibility study investigating the potential to provide a compact athletics facility at Brookfield School	Short – Medium Term	EA / CBC
			Boroughwide	Identify an appropriate opportunity for the location of a permanent marked route around	Medium Term	EA/CBC
AT2		Support Chesterfield Athletics Club to proactively increase participation and membership.	Boroughwide	Support the club in engaging with secondary and junior schools to stimulate interest in the sport at a younger level. This should include hosting junior training sessions at any new facility within the borough as well as the promotion of activities to encourage new members.	Ongoing	CBC / SSP / Active Chesterfield
			Boroughwide	Support activities to promote running and recreational athletics across the borough in line with the England Athletics Recreational Strategy	Medium Term	EA/CBC/Active Chesterfield

5.8 Table 5.2 summarises the key site specific priorities and the actions required to deliver the four strategic priorities. It also draws together the key priorities for all of the sports.

Table 5.2: Summary of Key Priorities

SO1: Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long term benefit of sport	SO3: Enhance existing facilities to ensure that they are fit for purpose and promote participation in pitch sports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect all named football and cricket pitches as well as named former playing field sites (Table 5.3) Protect Rugby club base Retain All AGPs and ensure at least one sand based surface 	Site Specific Quality improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stand Road Park – parking (and potentially cricket) Brearley Park – changing and toilets (potential to further extend)

<p>remains (St Marys AGP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain existing active bowling greens (unless merger is agreed in line with recommendation BG2) • Retain existing tennis clubs, public courts at Eastwood Park and courts at school sites 	<p>pavilion through provision of a community facility) / pitch surface / parking (cricket and football)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highfield Park – parking and changing • Inkersall Green – drainage / pitch surface / parking • Brookfield School (funding now secured) • Hady Playing Fields (significant scope for additional pitches if underlying methane issues were addressed) • Hasland Hall School – changing • Netherthorpe School – drainage • Newbold Back Lane – drainage / changing • Robinsons Sports Ground (depending upon lease) • Eastwood Park (cricket) • St Marys RC High School AGP • Queens Park Tennis Club (longer term) • Bowling clubs - Eastwood Park Bowls, Boythorpe Bowls Club, Terminus Hotel Bowls Club, Queens Park Annexe, Chesterfield Miners Welfare Bowls Club Green, Poolsbrook SW Bowling Club , Cottage Close, Stand Road Park • School pitches (equipment) <p>Other actions</p> <p>Review Council Grounds maintenance arrangements</p> <p>Review pitch booking procedures</p> <p>Explore partnership approaches with cricket clubs</p> <p>Explore partnership approaches with bowling clubs.</p>
<p>SO2: Provide enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand</p>	<p>SO4: Promote sustainable sport and club development and maximise participation across Chesterfield Borough</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Junior Football pitches – to be delivered through reconfiguration of existing football pitches, relationship with schools and creation of multi pitch club bases • One additional 3g AGPs – (potentially Queens Park Sports Centre or Netherthorpe School) • New public tennis through opening up school sites • New small / compact athletics facility and recreational marked running route • New cricket pitches dependent upon outcome of lease negotiations for existing clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of lease for Chesterfield Barbarians • Ongoing football and tennis forums • Creation of cricket forum • Support for clubs in club development • Promotion of opportunities in different pitch sports and the availability of facilities across the borough.
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5.9 Table 5.3 summarises the headline priorities by site.

Table 5.3: Headline priorities by site

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
Abercrombie Community Primary School	School Field Playing	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Ashgate Croft School	School Field Playing	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Badger Recreation Ground	Football	Single pitch site of lower quality with limited ancillary provision. Currently used as full sized football pitch	Protect. Retain as strategic reserve. Return to green space in the interim until / if additional provision is required.
Barrow Hill Primary School	School Field Playing	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
BarrowHill - Station Road	Football	Site currently well used for adult football	Retain as adult football pitch. Enhance - Would benefit from improvements to changing and parking but of

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
			lower priority due to site status as single pitch.
Boythorpe Bowls Club	Bowls	Green of adequate quality	Protect, enhance
Brampton Manor Country Club	Tennis	Run down and courts covered in leaves and litter. Occasional use	Protect and enhance
Brearley Park	Football and Cricket	Public recreation site used for both football and cricket. Club based cricket provision.	Protect. Retain as adult football pitch and cricket pitch. Enhance – poor surface for both football and cricket. Changing and toilets require improvement. Cricket club also required practice wicket and improved training facilities. Spare capacity to meet additional demand.
Brimington – Eastwood Recreation Ground	Football	Football pitch with well worn surface and poor condition changing.	Protect. Retain as adult football pitch. Enhance - Would benefit from improvements to changing and parking but of lower priority due to site status as single pitch.
Brimington Bowling Club	Bowls	Good quality green accommodating proactive club.	Protect. Enhance (car parking / disabled toilet).
Brimington Junior School	Football	Playing field not currently secured for community use and of relatively limited quality. Does however have access and two pitches – scope to increase play	Protect, secure community use of venue. Enhance
Brimington Manor Infants And Nursery School	School Field	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Brittania Bowls Club	Bowls	Well maintained with evidence of recent scarification. Floodlit green with small wood panelled pavilion	Protect
Brockwell Junior School	Football	Playing field not currently secured for community use and of relatively limited quality.	Protect, secure community use of venue (lower priority as single pitch site). Enhance

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
Brockwell Nursery and Infant School	School Field Playing	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Brookfield Community School	AGP, Football Cricket,	Football pitches suffer with drainage issues and in need of improvement if able to continue to sustain community use. AGP of strategic importance. Cricket facility also used as overspill – site of strategic importance for sport.	Protect, enhance, new athletics facility
	Tennis	No existing community use se	Potential to open for community use (linking with sports development initiatives and innovative management techniques). Would require qualitative improvements
Campbell Drive Former Playing Pitch	Former field site playing	Site not currently used for sport, has recreational function as green space. Limited potential for sport due to single pitch site.	No identified role in meeting playing pitch strategy priorities. To be considered as green space.
Cavendish Junior School	Football	Site used informally for junior football.	Protect, secure community use of venue (lower priority as single pitch site). Enhance
Chantry Playing Fields	Football	Important Club venue	Protect
Chesterfield Bowls Club	Bowls	Good quality green with good surrounds. Accessible by pay and play street parking only	Protect
Chesterfield College (Langer Lane)	Football	Venue out of use this year for refurbishment.	Protect and ensure community use agreements are finalised
Chesterfield Cylinders Bowls Club	Bowls	Poor quality surrounds in comparison to green. Second green used for archery due to lack of demand.	Protect bowling green used for bowls. Enhance
Chesterfield Miners Welfare Bowls Club Green 1	Bowls	Large clubhouse and site with 2 greens	Protect, enhance

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
Chesterfield Panthers RUFC - Dunston Road	Rugby, Football, cricket	Site is important venue for both rugby and football. Capacity to increase usage of site. Potential to add cricket pitch on this site – should be explored as long term home for cricket club	Protect, new provision (cricket)
Chesterfield Tennis Club	Tennis	Important strategic venue for tennis across Derbyshire.	Protect
Christ Church C of E Primary School	School Field	School Playing Field	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.
Cutthorpe Primary School	School Playing Field	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Duckmanton Primary School	School Field	School Playing Field	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.
Dunston Primary and Nursery School	Football	Site used informally for junior football.	Protect, secure community use of venue (lower priority as single pitch site). Enhance
Eastwood Park	Football and Cricket	Football and cricket subject to recent improvements. Funding granted for improvements to changing facilities (2014).	Protect. Retain as full sized football pitch and cricket facilities. Support installation of improved changing accommodation following award of funding.
	Bowls	Green with small adjacent shelter. Currently bare but appears to be undergoing reinstatement work so likely to be good during playing season. Club highlight concerns about frequency of maintenance, as well as issues with misuse.	Protect and enhance
	Tennis	Two adjacent tennis courts accessible for public pay and play	Protect, enhance. Identify innovative way of managing facility to facilitate long term sustainability
Gilbert Heathcote Nursery and Infant School	School Playing Field	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
GKN Sheepbridge Sports and Social Club	Football and cricket	Former playing field site no longer used for sport. Site presents an opportunity for larger scale facility	Protect. Feasibility assessment to evaluate potential role of playing fields required.

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
Hady Playing Field	Football	Single full sized football pitch. Changing accommodation good.	Protect. Retain as adult football pitch. Enhance - but of lower priority due to site status as single pitch.
Hady Primary School	School Playing Field	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Hasland Hall Community School	Football, AGPs	Important site for large club. Lack of changing accommodation and some quality issues	Protect, enhance (changing accommodation and rectify quality issues – drainage / surface).
	Tennis	Tennis courts for private use only.	Protect. Potential to open for community use (linking with sports development initiatives and innovative management techniques)
Henry Bradley Infants School	School Playing Field	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Highfield Hall Primary School	Football	Site used informally for junior football.	Protect, secure community use of venue (lower priority as single pitch site). Enhance
Highfield Park Bowls Club	Bowls	Good quality green but clear evidence of vandalism and misuse of green and pavilion	Protect
Highfield Recreation Ground	Football	Site is important site for football activity with potential to cater for both senior and junior football. One of the few multi pitch sites in the borough	Protect, mark junior football pitches at this site. Improve changing and toilets, and parking. Ensure that facilities are tailored to junior requirements.
Hollingwood Bowls Club	Bowls	Average quality floodlit facility with scope in particular to improve surrounds	Protect
Hollingwood Playing Field, Private Drive	Football	Site is important site for football activity and one of the higher quality facilities	Protect
Hollingwood Primary School	School Playing Field	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Holme Hall Primary School	School Playing Field	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Holmebrook Valley Park	Football	Newly refurbished site scheduled to fully re-open in 2014 / 2015 season. Site currently intended to house	Protect. Retain existing mini provision on site – site is important for play in Rowsley Junior League. Remainder

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
		full size, junior and mini football pitches. Excellent changing accommodation	of pitches designated as full size.
Inkersall Green Playing Field	Football	Pitch that is relatively popular but poorly drained with some surface and drainage issues. Receives use both Saturday and Sunday so higher priority for additional	Protect and enhance (drainage). Retain as full sized football
Inkersall Primary School	Football	Site used informally for junior football.	Protect, secure community use of venue (lower priority as single pitch site). Enhance (parking)
Langer Lane	Football	Pitch of adequate quality but poor pavilion and poorly located parking. Site masterplan has been produced but not yet delivered. Masterplan seeks to relocate pavilion and parking.	Protect and enhance. Retain as full sized football
Loundsley Green Recreation Ground	Football	Pitch of average – poor quality.	Protect and enhance. Retain as full sized football. Potential to return to green space
Manor Road Recreation Ground	Football	Former football pitch. Limited opportunity to reintroduce football onto site.	Not required for sporting use. To be considered as green space.
Mary Swanwick Community Primary School	Football	Site available informally for junior football.	Protect, secure community use of venue (lower priority as single pitch site). Enhance
Meadows Community School	Tennis	Tennis courts for private use only.	Protect. Potential to open for community use (linking with sports development initiatives and innovative management techniques)
	Football	Important site for community football with more than one pitch provided.	Protect
Netherthorpe School	Football	Site is important venue for football. Starting to suffer from quality issues. Large multi pitch site with potential for new AGP	Protect, enhance (drainage / surface / equipment). Consider new AGP
	Tennis	Tennis courts for private use only.	Protect. Potential to open for community use (linking with sports development initiatives and innovative management techniques)

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
New Whittington Bowls Club -	Bowls	Green in poor condition.	Investigate role of facility.
Newbold Back Lane	Football	Important site for large club, at capacity and lacking in toilet and changing accommodation	Protect and enhance, potential requirement for extension
Newbold CE Primary School	School Field	Playing Field School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Newbold Community School	Football	Site is important venue for football offering multiple pitches.	Protect
	Tennis	Tennis courts for private use only.	Protect. Potential to open for community use (linking with sports development initiatives and innovative management techniques)
Norbriggs Playing Field	Football	Full sized football pitch. Relatively poor portacabin	Protect and enhance. Retain as adult football pitch
Norbriggs Primary School	School Field	Playing Field School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Old Hall Junior School	Football	Site used informally for junior football.	Protect, secure community use of venue (lower priority as single pitch site). Enhance
Old Whittington Miners Social Club	Bowls	Good quality floodlit green	Protect
Parkside Community School	School Field	Playing Field School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport	Protect
Pearsons Recreation Ground	Former field	playing field Site not currently used for sport, has recreational function as green space. Limited potential for sport due to single pitch site.	No identified role in meeting playing pitch strategy requirements. To be considered as green space.
Poolsbrook Football Ground	Football	Includes changing accommodation, limited parking. Pitch well used but reasonable quality.	Protect and retain as full sized pitch.
Poolsbrook Primary School	School Field	Playing Field School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
Poolsbrook SW Bowling Club - Cottage Close	Bowls	Floodlit green with lack of car parking. No disabled toilets.	Protect. Enhance
Proact Stadium	Football	Chesterfield FC Home Ground	Protect
Queens Park	Cricket	High quality cricket club site	Protect.
Queens Park Annexe	Bowls and tennis (Queens Park Tennis Club). Former grass playing field	Bowling green with some quality issues identified. Smaller tennis club with some issues relating to sustainability. Grass pitch no longer functional. No future requirement for this pitch	Protect, enhance (bowls / tennis). No future requirement for grass playing pitch to deliver strategy.
Queens Park Sports Centre	AGP	Small sized AGP (3g) that is well used by both competitive teams and for more informal play. Potential location for additional 3g AGP.	Protect existing AGP, consider new AGP.
Ringwood Centre Pitches	Former playing fields	Former playing field site no longer used for sport. Site presents an opportunity for larger scale facility. Site is however also allocated for greenspace as park.	Protect. Feasibility assessment to evaluate potential role of playing fields required
Ringwood Working Mens Club	Former playing fields	Former playing field site no longer used for sport. Site presents an opportunity for larger scale facility due to it's location in very close proximity to the Ringwood Centre. Site is however also allocated for greenspace as park.	Protect. Feasibility assessment to evaluate potential role of playing fields required
Robinsons Sports Ground	Bowls	Small bowling green without floodlights.	Protect
	Bowls, Cricket, Football	Important site for community sport. Significant issues with lease period for clubs, in particular cricket club who have only annual lease.	Protect. Negotiate extended leases
Rother Recreation Ground	Football	Full size football pitch of limited quality. Suffers drainage issues.	Protect. Retain as strategic reserve. Return to green space in the interim until / if additional provision is required.
Somersall Park	Football, cricket	No existing use of site for football or cricket. Pitches not currently marked out.	Protect. Retain as strategic reserve and return to green space in the interim until / if additional provision is required. Potential for site to operate as out of season training venue. Site may also offer potential to become multi pitch site to accommodate a larger club.

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
Speedwell Infant School	School Field Playing	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Spire Infant And Nursery School	School Field Playing	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Spire Junior School	School Field Playing	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Springwell Community College	Football, AGP	Important community AGP well used by both Chesterfield FC and community teams. No availability for community of grass pitches use due to agreements with Chesterfield FC	Protect
	Tennis	Tennis courts for private use only.	Protect. Potential to open for community use (linking with sports development initiatives and innovative management techniques)
St Joseph's Catholic And Church Of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	School Field Playing	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Chesterfield)	School Field Playing	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
St Marys RC High School	AGP, football pitches, rugby pitches	AGP important for hockey (sand based). Grass pitches not available for community use currently, primarily due to quality of pitch.	Protect, secure community use of grass pitches. Likely to require enhancement of grass pitches if community use is to be possible.
	Tennis	Tennis courts for private use only.	Protect. Potential to open for community use (linking with sports development initiatives and innovative management techniques)
Stand Road Park	Football	Important site for football. Formerly also contained cricket provision. Scope to reinstate in longer term if required.	Protect. Reallocate full size pitches to smaller sized pitches tailored to meet the needs of age group players. This should include upgrade to parking arrangements to ensure junior play can be accommodated.
	Bowls	Large green but club would like to see facility improvements. Well used. Club play friendlies only	Protect. Enhance. Fewer teams – potential to amalgamate

Site	Sports	Comments	Action
Staveley Hall Bowling Green	Bowls	Green in good condition	Protect. Fewer teams – potential to amalgamate?
Staveley Junior School	Football	Site available informally for junior football.	Protect, secure community use of venue (lower priority as single pitch site). Enhance
Staveley King George Bowls Club Green 1	Bowls	Well maintained green. Second green neglected.	Protect main green. Fewer teams – potential to amalgamate –this could see second green retained or both clubs using the one green
Staveley Miners Welfare / Lowgate Bowls	Bowls	Portcabin adjacent to green, worm casts on green impacting on current quality	Protect
Staveley Miners Welfare Football Club	Football	High quality site managed by club playing within local league pyramid.	Protect
Staveley Welfare Cricket Club	Football	Good quality cricket ground	Protect
Tapton Park	Football	Site contains only one junior football pitch with limited use.	Protect. Return to greenspace and reinstate as smaller sized playing field when need arises as population grows.
Tapton Park	Tennis	Derelict courts, no existing use	No identified role in meeting playing pitch strategy priorities.
Terminus Hotel Bowls Club	Bowls	Proactive club with no dedicated car parking and some improvements required to pavilion	Protect, enhance
Varley Park	Former field site	playing function as green space. Limited potential for sport due to single pitch site.	No identified role in meeting playing pitch strategy requirements. To be considered as green space.
Wasps Nest Playing Field	Former field site	playing function as green space. Limited potential for sport due to single pitch site.	No identified role in meeting playing pitch strategy requirements. To be considered as green space.
Westfield Infant School	School Field	Playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Whitebank Close	Tennis	Derelict courts, no existing use	No identified role in meeting playing pitch strategy priorities.

Site	Sports		Comments	Action
Whitebank Close - Chesterfield FC Training Ground	Football		Chesterfield FC training ground	Protect
Whitecotes Primary School	School Field	Playing	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
William Rhodes Primary and Nursery School	School Field	Playing	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect
Woodthorpe CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School	School Field	Playing	School playing field not available for community use. Limited potential for significant role in community sport.	Protect

Implementation

- 5.10 Given the potential level of funding required, it is likely that investment will only be achieved through a combination of opportunities and funding sources as well as partnership opportunities.
- 5.11 Local authority finances are currently under pressure and previous major national funding programmes are no longer available. Some funding opportunities, however, still remain; for example, individual school capital grants have replaced BSF and Sport England now has more clearly defined capital available through its Places People Play Legacy funding programme. While the education capital funding programmes will continue to change over time, there will still be a need for investment to take place on school sites during the strategy period and opportunities for joint projects may arise.
- 5.12 The council will seek to use assets innovatively and work on a multi-agency approach to address the facility requirements in the strategy.
- 5.13 The main funding delivery mechanisms for Chesterfield Borough Council and others in delivering this strategy are:
- Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 developer contributions – new development and population growth will generate significant additional demand for playing pitch provision and additional sports facilities
 - Capital Grant funding: From schools and national agencies such as Sport England, including its Iconic Facilities, Improvement Fund and Inspired Facilities programmes as well as Protection of Playing Fields Funds
 - National Governing Body (NGB) support
 - Council funding: capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within the council's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets
 - Education and Further Education sector: while the previous sources of funding (including BSF and Primary Schools Programme) have changed and the scale of the education capital programmes have been reduced, the education sector is still likely to be a key funding stream.
- 5.14 Amended regulations in relation to S106 and CIL are currently proposed to come into force in April 2015.

New facilities

- 5.15 In addition to the overarching strategy principles outlined earlier in this section, the following should be considered when providing any new facilities.
- Location - When planning new facilities, the existing sporting infrastructure should be taken into account. In particular, club bases for cricket and rugby should be retained and the provision of single pitch sites with limited facilities should be avoided.
 - Quality - Any new pitch provision should meet with the design and quality standards guidance provided by Sport England and/or the relevant NGB (detailed below). The following general criteria must also be met:

- a high standard of design, construction and maintenance, enabling the pitch to be played at least twice per week without detrimental impact and ensuring that sites are clean and attractive facilities;
- adequate changing facilities that:
 - are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes;
 - fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act;
 - provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort; and
 - meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines.
- managed community access;
- accessible by public transport and by car;
- sufficient car and coach parking;
- size of pitches and run offs complies with NGB specification;
- located in a no-flood zone;
- security of tenure (at least 20 years) if a club is to be based at the site; and
- for rugby clubs in particular, sites should include floodlit training facilities.

5.16 All new and enhanced sports facilities must be designed in accordance with the relevant Sport England and (where applicable) National Governing Body (NGB) design guidance in order to ensure that the facilities are fit for purpose and of a suitable quality.

5.17 Sport England's web site www.sportengland.org contains a range of current guidance documents which provide detailed specifications and information regarding the design of sporting and ancillary facilities.

5.18 This provides a link to the NGB's supported by Sport England, and to the guidance on the respective NGB websites:

5.19 <http://www.sportengland.org/our-work/national-work/national-governing-bodies/sports-we-invest-in/>

Impact of this Playing Pitch Strategy for New Development

5.20 This strategy sets out the facility requirements for playing pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens in Chesterfield Borough, taking into account the population growth that is anticipated to take place in the area, as well as the impact of the ageing population.

5.21 The action plan that accompanies this strategy seeks to address the surpluses and deficiencies identified and key issues emerging from the Assessment Report. As such, it takes into account the anticipated trends in participation and known changes in supply. As outlined, new development and the associated population growth will place pressures

on the existing facility stock and generate new participants in pitch sports and will also mitigate the impact of the ageing population.

- 5.22 Increased use of playing pitches also places greater importance on the quality and capacity of existing pitches and as a consequence, contributions towards playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities should be required from all new developments. Contributions should be made towards the delivery of the strategic objectives of this document and the priority projects set out in the action plan.

Community Infrastructure Levy and S106

- 5.23 The assessment of need for sports and recreational provision also has an important part to play in the preparation of a local authority's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). The IDP's purpose is to set out an analysis and assessment of existing infrastructure provision, current shortfalls and identify existing and future needs and demands for the local authority to support new development and a changing population for the plan period. This provides a balanced and reasonable piece of evidence for consideration for inclusion in the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 5.24 The IDP includes sport and recreation infrastructure items; the community infrastructure levy (CIL) is a key mechanism for collecting funds for the required infrastructure.
- 5.25 Chesterfield Borough Council is currently preparing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). A CIL will set a financial levy on new developments, which will be used to fund essential infrastructure required to support planned growth. It will cover the whole of the borough and the money raised can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure such as transport schemes, flood defences, schools, parks and open spaces. The priorities in this assessment will inform the content of the schedule of requirements / Regulation 123 List. It is proposed that CIL will include contributions towards projects for outdoor sports and playing fields.
- 5.26 The Councils draft CIL Charging Schedule was considered at an examination on 12th August 2014. Consultation is now underway on revised evidence emerging from the hearing session, which will be followed by an Inspector's report in due course. Assuming a positive report, CIL could be implemented as early as April 2015.
- 5.27 Tables 5.1 – 5.3 provide an indication of the projects that are required to fulfil current and projected future needs for pitch sports across Chesterfield Borough.

Section 106 Contributions

- 5.28 In addition to CIL, local planning authorities can still implement s106 agreements attached to specific applications for development. Three tests are used to scrutinise the applicability of the financial obligation being sought:
- *Necessary to make development acceptable in planning terms*
 - *Directly related to the development; and*
 - *Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development"*
- 5.29 Upon adoption of CIL, Chesterfield BC will continue to use S106 contributions for site specific projects, specifically to secure maintenance contributions for the adoption of any open space or sports provision provided on development sites. On site provision will only be required if a new development is sufficiently large to offer the opportunity to create a large multi pitch sites that can accommodate a local club.

5.30 The assessment of need indicates that few additional facilities will be required, and instead many priorities relate to improving existing facilities and increasing the capacity of sites. This is most likely to be provided for by CIL.

Calculating the Impact of New Development

5.31 The impact of new development will be considered through both CIL and Section 106 obligations. The approach that Chesterfield Borough Council will take, and the related infrastructure requirements, are currently being worked through and the Council's CIL proposals are presently the subject of an independent examination process.

5.32 This Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy forms site and project specific evidence to underpin the CIL and S106 requirements for the sports included within its scope. It will be supplemented by further updates and additional guidance as necessary to take account of progress in delivering the site and sport specific objectives for the sports covered by the strategy and to reflect any changes in circumstances. These updates and any supplementary guidance will form an integral part of the comprehensive monitoring and review process for this strategy (outlined below).

Monitoring and Review

5.32 The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust to fulfil the above roles.

5.33 Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy represents Step 10 of the approach to the production of a playing pitch strategy set out in the guidance for the delivery of a playing pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).

5.34 The steering group are therefore committed to keeping the strategy alive through;

- monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action;
- recording changes to the pitch stock in the Borough and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information;
- assessing the impact of changes to participation, including changing trends and the development of new formats of the game as well as affiliation data for each of the National Governing Bodies of Sport;
- assessing the impact of demographic changes and new population estimates / housing growth;
- ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs and governing bodies, and any requirements for new or improved facilities in the area;
- analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities;
- reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development;

- ensuring that site specific actions (including sites to be protected as playing fields) are kept up to date and are reflective of the current situation; and
- ensuring that the strategy continues to provide an up to date and robust evidence base to underpin CIL / S106 obligations.

5.35 The ongoing monitoring of the strategy will be led by Chesterfield Borough Council and it is anticipated that it will constitute;

- support for the existing sport specific forums – Chesterfield BC will seek to ensure involvement in these forums to discuss issues arising and to lead the delivery of the strategy in conjunction with key partners;
- establishment of a working group that meets twice annually to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising;
- production of an annual progress summary on the delivery of the PPS. This will include;
 - a review of participation with support from National Governing Bodies, to identify any key changes to participation trends in the Borough, and the likely implications of these changes for the strategy;
 - an assessment of changes to the pitch stock (including a full review of Active Places Power); and
 - review of sites identified for improvement / disposal / other key actions.
 - an overall summary appraisal of progress made in the delivery of the strategy
- a full annual steering group meeting, or individual annual meetings with National Governing Bodies of Sport to inform and discuss the annual progress summary and agree next steps;
- recording/reporting on the amount of funding for pitches or provision of additional pitches delivered in association with new development through the Planning Divisions AMR (Annual Monitoring Report) and any additional reports as necessary including those associated with CIL / S106 obligations; and
- a review of the effectiveness of CIL / S106 arrangements in supporting implementation of the strategy and consideration of any need to prepare further guidance to secure delivery against objectives.

5.36 The steering group will also be responsible for agreement of the requirement for a full update of this playing pitch assessment.

Contact Details

5.37 For further discussion relating to this playing pitch assessment, please use the following contact details;

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