

**COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

**2015 - 2025**

# COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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# COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is Executive Summary of Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) 2015. The Study takes account of:

- ◀ Association football (football)
- ◀ Athletics
- ◀ Bowls
- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Hockey
- ◀ Rugby union
- ◀ Tennis

## Purpose

The purpose of the PPS is to look to address a range of fundamental challenges and assess how outdoor pitch and non pitch facilities can be used to meet the needs of:

- ◀ A growing Colchester population, which is relatively prosperous and economically stable whilst also catering for areas of higher deprivation which may have different requirements.
- ◀ The specific requirements of the developments within the Northern Gateway.
- ◀ Health partners in addressing the cost of physical inactivity and obesity levels.
- ◀ Increased demand for facilities given the projected increase in population.
- ◀ A growing and active 'grey market' which is time rich, especially during the day.

The Strategy has been developed in partnership with a range of agencies including the Garrison, the University of Essex, Active Essex and a range of national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) plus local clubs and leagues.

## Policy context

The key strategic themes with regard to outdoor pitch and non pitch sports in Colchester emanating from the main strategies and local context are considered to be:

- ◀ The need for high quality sports facilities in a growing and vibrant borough.
- ◀ Creating a genuinely attractive place that people enjoy visiting and using.
- ◀ Creating a cohesive new environment with outstanding urban design.
- ◀ Working with partners to ensure that facilities and infrastructure are provided to support sustainable communities in Colchester.
- ◀ Offering facilities and programmes of activity which contribute to
  - ✓ reducing health inequalities across the Borough for people of all ages.
  - ✓ the education and skills development of the local population.
  - ✓ local economic development
- ◀ Working in partnership with other agencies to tackle health issues.
- ◀ Supporting and promoting active lifestyles and increasing participation in sport and physical activity to allow residents to live longer, healthier, happier lives.
- ◀ Taking advantage of the opportunity afforded by the Northern Gateway development to enable increased participation in a range of indoor and non-pitch sports

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## Colchester

Colchester is relatively affluent with deprivation and unemployment rates lower than average in comparison to national and regional rates. Life expectancy for both men and women is similar to the England average. Colchester's population is projected to grow significantly over the next 20 years. Work has started on the new Local Plan for Colchester which will have to accommodate approximately 1,000 new houses per year over the plan period that runs from 2017-2032. The current Local Plan identifies substantial housing growth in five areas in or on the edge of Colchester. This includes two large greenfield allocations; one of 1,600 houses in the North Growth Area Urban Extension and 800 houses at Stanway West, Colchester. There are also plans to grow student numbers at the University by 50% between 2013 and 2019.

## Methodology

This Strategy is predicated on a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. This methodology has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities

Each National governing body has a range of policies and strategies which support the development of a PPS strategy in Colchester; a synopsis of which are found in the main body of the text.

This study has been developed on the basis of CBC and NGB strategic drivers. Consequently there is a sport by sport analysis which addresses key challenges and issues. The agreed vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Colchester Playing Pitch Strategy:

## Vision and strategic challenges

CBC's vision, working with and through NGBs, local clubs and leagues is:

***"To work with partners to create high quality, sustainable sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation, help tackle health and crime issues and provide accessible and inclusive activities for all Colchester residents as part of an active lifestyle."***

The table below identifies key challenges and issues on a sport by sport basis. These have been arrived at by extensive consultation and site visits in accordance with Sport England's methodology.

Sport	Key challenges and issues
<b>Cricket</b> <b>England &amp; Wales Cricket Board (ECB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There is a lack of indoor provision specifically for training</li><li>The pitches are generally good quality.</li><li>There is good distribution across the Borough.</li><li>There is a significant amount of overplay on cricket wickets across the Borough per season.</li></ul>
<b>Football</b> <b>The Football</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The natural turf pitches across the Borough are generally in good condition.</li><li>Some pitches across the Borough (95), due to their quality and levels of</li></ul>

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Sport	Key challenges and issues
<b>Association</b>	<p>play, show some spare capacity. across a number of pitches .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ The projected population growth suggests that there will be demand for additional adult (3), youth (11) and mini soccer pitches (10) in total.</li> <li>◀ The key challenge is to ensure that as demand grows (as expected) the quality of the natural turf pitch is retained.</li> <li>◀ There are three sand dressed and two 3G artificial grass pitches. The two 3G pitches require re-surfacing. This is, in order, to meet the FA standard code of rules to ensure both training and competitive activity is retained.</li> <li>◀ On the basis of 395 teams playing competitive football in Colchester, Sport England's methodology indicates there is a recommended need for six full size 3G pitches, of which there are currently two in the area.</li> </ul>
<b>Rugby Union Rugby Football Union</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ There are two clubs based in Colchester, one of which is at capacity and is working with CBC to affect a move to the Northern Gateway.</li> <li>◀ Rugby pitches are of a standard quality, although one of the sites has recorded overplay.</li> <li>◀ There is a need for an International Rugby Board (IRB) compliant pitch in the Borough which will best be supplied in the North to service the growing club.</li> </ul>
<b>Hockey England Hockey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ There is only one club in Colchester.</li> <li>◀ There are three sand dressed AGPs suitable for competitive hockey within Colchester, with only one being utilised solely for Hockey.</li> <li>◀ In order for hockey to grow the pitches at The Garrison and at the University of Essex will need to be maintained and ensure that both have continued community use.</li> </ul>
<b>Tennis Lawn Tennis Association</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Colchester has a significant number of tennis courts (60) identified within the Borough, 17 of which are located at privately owned sites.</li> <li>◀ The standard of courts is considered to be either good or standard with only 10 being rated as poor.</li> <li>◀ The development of a Tennis Development Plan in partnership is critical to move tennis forward in the borough.</li> <li>◀ CBC owns a significant site at West End sports ground with nine grass and 10 macadam good quality courts. It is currently operating at a deficit.</li> <li>◀ Consideration/feasibility should be given to covering all/some of the courts to allow for all year round tennis. This has the potential to attract new players and also become a focal centre for the tennis community based on the Tennis Development Plan objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>Bowls Crown Green Bowls Association</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ There are 10 bowling greens in Colchester provided across 10 sites.</li> <li>◀ All of the greens in Colchester are assessed as good quality.</li> <li>◀ Due to this requirement by the clubs to increase membership it suggests that some greens are not at capacity.</li> <li>◀ Clubs in the South analysis are assessed as capacity.</li> </ul>
<b>Athletics England Athletics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ There is one athletics track within Colchester which has a synthetic surface and it has been assessed as good.</li> <li>◀ Use of the facility is sometimes limited due to its location at the Garrison.</li> <li>◀ The Northern part of the Borough has been identified as a priority for England Athletics in relation to the development of recreational running through marked runs.</li> </ul>
<b>Rugby Football League</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Whilst the RFL have a strategy of participation and facility development. The RFL have expressed that Colchester is not a priority for the development of the game and not a focus going forward within the current Whole Sport Plan period up to 2017.</li> </ul>

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The proposed development of the Northern Gateway provides an exciting opportunity for Colchester. It already has many stakeholders in the sporting community excited as to what the facility mix/potential facilities might include. It is, therefore, important for the Borough Council to utilise developer contributions secured via CIL/planning obligations to support new/enhanced facilities, given the major development proposed.

The table below considers CBC's and partners key strategic priorities to ensure that Colchester has facilities which continue to be fit for purpose: In light of limited resources we would recommend the following:

Key strategic priorities	
◀	Informing the review of the Local Plan to shape policy, inform protection and provision of sports facilities and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
◀	Maintaining the quality of football pitches (in particular) as the growth of football and demand for more play on pitches evolves.
◀	Establishing more formal agreements between individual clubs and schools (in particular Primary) to ensure better access to school pitches and changing leading to increased participation across a range of sports.
◀	In general, providers need to maintain the generally good quality of pitches and address the few pitches which are considered to be below standard.
◀	Improving the quality of pitches, particularly on primary school sites is important to ensuring improved access.
◀	There is a need to consider how to finance the development of four 3G football turf pitches if Colchester is going to provide the recommended number of pitches identified in the Strategy
◀	Resurfacing of the current two 3G football turf pitches is required.
◀	Use the consultation and engagement with different sports to help identify demand for sports activity (evidential based) in the Northern Gateway. This will influence the specific facility needs for the area.

## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This Playing Pitch Strategy is a Borough wide strategy and whilst Colchester Borough Council (CBC) has been the key driver in developing it, it is expected that plans and actions emanating from it can only be delivered in partnership with other key stakeholders. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2015 and 2025. The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor pitch sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) including sand based/filled/dressed, water based and 3G (rubber crumb)
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Bowling greens

The Strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting playing fields, inform the review of the Local Plan to shape policy, inform the protection and provision of sports facilities, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and S106/CIL charging schedules.
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing outdoor sports areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches) across the Borough;
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of outdoor sports across the Borough;
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximise support for outdoor sports facilities;
- ◀ Providing the basis for on-going monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sport. The study area covers the following:



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Analysis area	Ward	Population (2011 Census)
North	Dedham and Langham, Fordham and Stour, West Bergholt and Eight Ash Green, Great Tey	16,087
West	Stanway, Copford and West Marks Tey	12,716
Central/East	Berechurch, Castle, Christ Church, Old Heath, Highwoods, Lexden, Mile End, Prettygate, Shrub End, St Andrews, St Annes, St Johns, Wivenhoe Cross, Wivenhoe Quay, New Town and East Donyland	123,904
South	Tiptree, Birch and Winstree, Pyefleet, West Mersea	22,904

## 1.1: Structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within Colchester to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches (including ancillary facilities).
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan (where action is deemed necessary).

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

The recommendations that come out of this strategy should help inform Local Plan policy to ensure that there is a policy mechanism to support delivery and secure provision/investment where the opportunity are. There is a need to build key partnerships between the Council, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Sport England, schools, further education providers, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of Section 106 /CIL agreements). This document will provide clarity about the way forward, and allow key organisations to focus on the key issues that they can directly influence and achieve.

## LOCAL CONTEXT

The Borough of Colchester covers an area of 324 square kilometres in North East Essex. It borders Babergh District in Suffolk and three Essex districts of Tendring, Braintree and Maldon. Colchester's population is increasing more quickly than any other Borough in Essex, with the exception of Uttlesford and is rapidly becoming more diverse.. It is located approximately 60 miles North East of London and also lies in close proximity to the seaport of Harwich (20 miles) and Stansted Airport (30 miles).

Recognised as a Garrison town, it is relatively affluent with deprivation and unemployment rates lower than average in comparison to national and regional rates. Life expectancy for both men and women is similar to the England average. The most densely populated areas are the main conurbation of Colchester in the East of the Borough and the wards of St Annes, St Andrews and New Town.

Colchester's population is projected to grow significantly over the next 20 years. Work has started on the new Local Plan for Colchester which will have to accommodate approximately 1,000 new houses per year over the plan period that runs from 2017-2032. The current Local Plan identifies substantial housing growth in five areas in or on the edge of Colchester. This includes two large greenfield allocations; one of 1,600 houses in the North Growth Area Urban Extension and 800 houses at Stanway West, Colchester. There are also plans to grow student numbers at the University by 50% between 2013 and 2019.

The Northern Gateway has been promoted for development by CBC for a number of years. There is an emphasis on the creation of a distinctive, high quality development which contributes to the identity and role of North Colchester. The Economic Growth Team (Regeneration Department) is tasked with developing a sport and leisure themed area which covers the 81 hectare area to the North and South of the A12.

Sports facilities are a key component in the drive to address health inequalities and Sport England's Active People Survey (APS 7) data suggests that Colchester out performs regional and national data sets in the areas of club membership, sports tuition and competitive sport, although it is comparable in terms of sports participation. Further, Colchester has a higher incidence of participation using health and fitness suites and cycling than national and regional rates. The rate of swims is, however, marginally lower than both the East and national levels.

This playing pitch strategy looks to address a range of fundamental challenges; and assesses how outdoor sports facilities can be used to meet the needs of:

- ◆ A growing population, which is relatively prosperous and economically stable whilst also catering for areas of higher deprivation which may have different requirements.
- ◆ The specific requirements of the developments at the Northern Gateway.
- ◆ Health partners in addressing the cost of physical inactivity and obesity levels.
- ◆ Increased demand for facilities given the projected increase in population.
- ◆ A growing and active 'grey market' which is time rich, especially during the day.

## PART 2: KEY ISSUES

Using the key issues identified in the Assessment Report, the following priorities are identified for each sport and provide the context for the development of the recommendations made within the Strategy.

### 2.1: Football grass pitches

- ◀ Half of pitches in Colchester are rated as either standard quality (40%) or poor quality (10%) and 50% rated as good quality.
- ◀ Clubs generally rate changing accommodate as good, however, five sites have no changing rooms and of those that have changing accommodation available to them, 41% rate it as good quality, 30% as standard quality and 19% as poor quality 10% didn't provide a quality rating.
- ◀ Of the clubs surveyed there is latent demand of 27 teams reported. In particular, Rowhedge Juniors express latent demand for 5 youth teams.
- ◀ The future of football in Colchester based on population growth would require the need for an additional three adult, 11 youth and ten mini soccer pitches in total.
- ◀ There are 95 pitches showing spare capacity. 13 of these have actual spare capacity namely due to the good quality of some of these pitches. A review of usage of play on these pitches and number of games should be investigated.
- ◀ There are two sites with significant spare capacity, however, these two sites are the University of Essex and the Garrison which are privately owned, do have community access but the University students and Ministry of Defence will take priority.
- ◀ There are six sites overplayed in Colchester. Most overplay is recorded at King George Playing Field (Boxted)(1.5 matches) and Birch Park (3 matches).
- ◀ The analysis is showing that for adult football there are sufficient match sessions, however, for youth football there is a shortfall of 4.5 match sessions per week.

### 2.2: Artificial grass pitches

- ◀ There are three sand based AGPs suitable for competitive hockey within Colchester and two full size 3G AGPs.
- ◀ Re-surfacing of the two 3G AGPs is a priority to meet the FA standard code of rules and to ensure both training and competitive activity is retained on these pitches.
- ◀ Of the two 3G AGPs within Colchester these are all used solely for Football. The two sand filled AGPs, at Leisure World Colchester and the University of Essex, are also used for Football.
- ◀ On the basis there are 395 teams playing competitive football in Colchester, there is a recommended need for six full size 3G pitches. Currently there are two in the area. The Sport England Facilities Planning Model also highlights that much of the usage of the AGPs is football for which a sand base is not the most suitable surface.
- ◀ Key sites for new 3G pitches include Wivenhoe (Central/East), Stanway (Central/East), Mile End (Central/East) and the North, this is based on consultation with Essex FA as to the need in relation to the number of teams within the areas.

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## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### 2.3: Cricket

- ◀ In total, there are 24 cricket squares provided in Colchester, of which only three are unavailable for community use. Cricket pitches accommodate 51 senior teams and 48 junior teams.
- ◀ Site assessments generally score the quality of pitches as good or standard. No pitches were assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Three education sites have cricket facilities which are not available for community use all are located across key areas within the Borough, having access to these would ease the demand for facilities at peak times.
- ◀ Spare capacity totals 78 wickets across 7 grounds. This excludes the educational sites, of which there are 18 grass and two artificial on three sites.
- ◀ Overplay at cricket sites is high with a total of 174 matches across the Borough per season. Overplay is particularly high at West Mersea Cricket Club. Overall in Colchester there is a shortage of 11.4 cricket grounds (based on ten wickets per ground) when over play, latent and future demand is considered. The biggest shortage is in the South with three grounds.

#### Definitions

Square: The area in the middle of the ground where the *wickets* are prepared

Wicket: The pitch

### 2.4: Rugby union

- ◀ The two clubs based in Colchester are Colchester Rugby Union Football Club and Mersea Island RUFC.
- ◀ In total, 24 rugby union pitches located in the South, West and Central/East Analysis areas. Of which 17 of these are at Mill Road.
- ◀ All pitches are assessed as standard quality, no pitches were assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Mersea Island RUFC is overplayed at The Glebe by 0.5 matches per week.
- ◀ The need for an International Rugby Board compliant pitch potentially lies in the north of the borough and in respect to the housing growth anticipated and the small midweek training capacity the concept of a 3G pitch would help to alleviate this pressure at current and the subsequent additional midweek demand.
- ◀ The Glebe cannot accommodate Mersea's growth and is holding back MI RUFC developing new teams as it is in a position to increase participation. An additional pitch at the same site will support their needs to grow.

### 2.5: Hockey

- ◀ There are three sand dressed AGPs suitable for competitive hockey within Colchester.
- ◀ There is no latent or unmet demand for hockey in Colchester as the current facilities meet the demands of Colchester Hockey Club.
- ◀ The sand filled pitch at Leisure World Colchester is six years old, this will need carpet replacement within the next four years.
- ◀ The pitch at Leisure World Colchester is not used by Hockey, potentially this pitch could accommodate hockey due to the surface.
- ◀ The pitch at the Garrison which was refurbished in 2006 therefore eight years old will require replacement to an England Hockey sand dressed high quality standard.
- ◀ In order for hockey to grow the pitches at The Garrison and at the University of Essex will need to be maintained and ensure that both have continued community use.

## 2.6: Tennis

- There are 60 tennis courts identified within Colchester, 17 of which are located at privately owned sites.
- The standard of tennis courts in Colchester is either good or standard with only a small amount (10) being rated as poor.
- There is a desire by eleven of the Tennis clubs to increase their membership and they have expressed that they have the capacity to do so.
- Based on the consultation with the Tennis clubs there appears to be enough courts for current and potential growth in membership however access to indoor courts was expressed as a desire from the clubs.
- Colchester currently has a Tennis Development Officer who is based at the Colchester Tennis centre (West End sports ground, Eudo Road) and who already manages a coaching programme, pay and play and ensures that the maintenance programme is managed.
- To further develop the Colchester Tennis Centre and reduce the maintenance budget of the grass courts consideration should be made as to the covering all/some of the courts to allow for all year round tennis, attract new players and also become a focal centre for the tennis community.
- The development of a Tennis Development Plan in partnership with the LTA would capitalise on the good facilities and aspirations of the clubs to increase participation

## 2.7: Bowls

- There are 10 bowling greens in Colchester provided across ten sites.
- All of the greens in Colchester are assessed as good quality.
- There are 10 clubs using bowling greens in Colchester with an average playing membership of 74. The clubs suggest that an additional bowling green at their home green or in the area would not lead to an increase in club membership.
- The majority of clubs are actively seeking to increase membership across senior and junior members. Mersea Island and Three clubs bowling clubs do not wish to increase membership.
- There are variances within the amount of capacity available in the analysis areas depending on the site. The central/east and the south both have sites that show capacity and the ability to cater for more members.
- The following greens show capacity Mill Road Playing Fields, Old Heath Recreation Ground, Colchester road bowling green and Keepers Green Braiswick

## 2.8: Athletics

- There is one athletics track within Colchester. It has a synthetic surface which has been assessed as good.
- Colchester Harriers Athletics Club has expressed that they are currently at capacity and require additional training time, as current numbers at the track for training evenings due to the numbers results in overcrowding although not huge amounts.
- All athletes must travel outside of Colchester if the Garrison Athletics Stadium is not available for league matches and this takes away the home league match.
- The Northern part of the Borough has been identified as a priority for England Athletics in relation to the development of recreational running through marked run routes.

### 2.9: Rugby League

- ◀ In consultation with the Rugby Football League (RFL), Colchester was not identified as a priority in terms of facility development or club development, any new developments for Rugby League in Colchester should be developed in consultation with the RFL.

## PART 3: PLAYING PITCH SCENARIOS

### 3.1 Football

Improving pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites. Given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs) alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of AGPs for competitive matches and this is something that the FA is supporting, particularly for mini and youth football.

This is a long term solution and the piloting work is still underway nationally to determine the sustainability of such a scheme. However, as an indication, the following presents a scenario which shows how much full size 3G pitches would be required to accommodate the different types of football in Colchester. This is not to say that there is a current shortfall in provision but is an example of how, if programmed effectively, existing provision could be used to accommodate competitive football fixtures.

In order to test the scenario a programme of play for AGPs has been created based on the current peak time demand for mini/youth pitches in Colchester. In terms of programming; one full size AGP can accommodate four 5v5 pitches, two 7v7 pitches, two 9v9 pitches or one youth 11v11 pitch at any one time.

***How many additional AGPs from the current two 3G AGP's would be required if all mini and youth teams were moved to 3G?***

- ◀ Five 3G pitches could accommodate all mini football in Colchester (82 mini teams).
- ◀ Six 3G pitches could accommodate all youth 9v9 football in Colchester (44 youth teams).
- ◀ However, in order to also accommodate all youth 11v11 football (17 teams) a further 13 3G pitches would be required.

### 3.2 Cricket

#### ***Scenario testing: addressing overplay***

Most overplay is recorded in the South Area at West Mersea Cricket Club (The Glebe) by 75 matches per season. It has two pitches with 13 wickets each and 19 teams training and playing competitively which has resulted in much overplay. Increasing the number of wickets by 15 would reduce overplay by 75 matches per season. In all other instances of overplay increasing the maintenance to ensure overplay can be accommodated

#### ***Scenario testing: utilising spare capacity***

Spare capacity totals 78 wickets across seven sites, which are spread across the borough. By working these key clubs, the Parish councils, and CBC future demand and overplay could be investigated.



### 3.3 Rugby union

#### ***Scenario testing: improving pitch quality***

If slit drainage was carried out across the pitches at West Mersea Island RUFC this would increase pitch capacity by an additional 1.5 match sessions per week and address the small amount of overplay (0.5 matches per week). Alternatively moving some training to a dedicated training area would also address overplay.

#### ***Scenario testing: development of new facilities in the North of the Borough***

Consideration needs to be given to how rugby union will be serviced within the Northern part of Colchester as part of the Northern Gateway sport and leisure programme. Colchester Rugby RUFC would need to retain current natural turf pitches for its current membership but any growth would require more facilities, this could also include an International Rugby Union (IRB) compliant artificial pitch.

### 3.4 Hockey

#### ***Scenario testing: increases in participation***

Existing provision within Colchester meets the current demand, however England Hockey has seen an increase in participation since the London Olympic Games in 2012 and in response to the Hockey Nation initiative and with a number of high profile events planned in 2018 at the Olympic park participation is expected to increase even further. Any significant increases in participation and subsequent members of the club would need to be addressed and new provision provided. Options could include a further sand dressed pitch at the Garrison or a secondary school site where a pitch could be developed, currently there are no sand dressed on education sites however if the need for additional facilities were required at a school that has hockey as a priority then England Hockey could work in partnership.

## PART 4: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

### 4.1 Context

The updated Playing Pitch Strategy offers a strategic approach to the provision and protection of sports facilities. It will, through the protection of existing open space, sports and recreational land and buildings protect existing sites from development unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown them to be surplus to requirements or where the development of alternative sports and recreational provision facilities clearly outweigh the loss of existing facilities.

The PPS also includes a playing pitch analysis, which will guide the future provision and management of new and existing sports pitches in the Colchester area in the context of national policy and local sports development criteria. It will assist in positioning Colchester locally, regionally and nationally in attempting to secure relevant funding and help address identified priorities.

Producing a Playing Pitch Strategy for Colchester Borough Council (CBC) will determine clear priorities and pathways for the future of playing pitches across the Borough. It will identify its future contribution and ambition in its support, promotion and delivery of outdoor sport, physical activity & active recreation.

There are a number of related strategies developed by the Council which have been adopted or are in the process of being developed, which are used to inform this study:

- ◀ Colchester Borough Council Local Plan documents (Revised July 2014).
- ◀ Colchester Borough Council strategic plan 2015-2018

This Strategy has been developed and will be delivered with the community and partners, working together to achieve Colchester Borough Council's Strategic Plan (2015-2018) objectives. The Current Plan identifies that Colchester, is a vibrant borough with a bright future, and wants to be known for:

- ◀ Vibrant - promoting our heritage and working hard to shape our future
- ◀ Thriving - attracting business and selling Colchester as a destination
- ◀ Prosperous - generating opportunities for growth and supporting infrastructure
- ◀ Welcoming - a place where people can grow and be proud to live

The key strategic themes with regard to sport and leisure in Colchester emanating from the main strategies and local context are considered to be:

- ◀ The need for high quality sports facilities in a growing and vibrant borough.
- ◀ Creating a genuinely attractive place that people enjoy visiting and using.
- ◀ Creating a cohesive new environment with outstanding urban design.
- ◀ Working with partners to ensure that facilities and infrastructure are provided to support sustainable communities in Colchester
- ◀ Facilities and programmes of activity which will contribute to reducing health inequalities across the Borough for all age groups.
- ◀ Reducing the cost of operating CBC leisure facilities to the resident population.
- ◀ Facilities which contribute to the local economic development.
- ◀ Working in partnerships to help tackle health and crime issues
- ◀ Understanding that service delivery may vary to ensure fair health and wellbeing.

- ◀ Facilities and programmes which contribute to the education and skills development of the local population.
- ◀ Supporting active lifestyle that will lead to residents living a longer, healthier and happier life and for the service supporting this vision to be delivered at no recurring revenue cost.
- ◀ The opportunity afforded by the Northern Gateway development will be key to offering increasing participation in a range of indoor and non-pitch sports.

### 4.2 Vision

Therefore, this study has been developed on the basis of the above strategic drivers in order to ensure that it reflects the Council's wider ambitions. A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Colchester Playing Pitch Strategy:

***“To work with partners to create high quality, sustainable sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation, help tackle health and crime issues and provide accessible and inclusive activities for all Colchester residents as part of an active lifestyle.”***

## PART 5: AIMS

The following Strategy aims are based on the key issues emerging from the Assessment Report. It is recommended that the following are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Strategy:

### AIM 1

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

### AIM 2

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

### AIM 3

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

## PART 6: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

### AIM 1

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

#### Recommendations:

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

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

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

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

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

Protect the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs. Local plan policies should protect facilities and the scope to legally safeguard long term use of strategically important sites to the community such as the strategic sites and key centres identified in recommendation d should be considered. For example, through the Fields in Trust programme ([www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org)).

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The assessment report for Colchester indicates that there are no sites that are of low value or to be disposed however through the life of the strategy when appropriate any disposal of playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Strategic Sites) in order to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e). The following criteria should be established as the basis for negotiations to mitigate the loss of playing field provision:

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

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

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

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

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

Local sports clubs may require support from partners including the Council, National Governing Bodies or the County Sports Partnership (CSP and in this instance Essex CSP) to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an income through their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>1</sup>. Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally whether volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

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

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for CBC to work with voluntary sector organisations in order that they may be able to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds to allow this. New sites coming on stream will be expected to demonstrate that they are sustainable in terms of staff and cash resources.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Community Asset Transfer***

CBC could also consider developing and adopting a policy which supports community management and ownership of assets by local clubs, community groups and trusts. This would provide sports clubs and national governing bodies with opportunities to take ownership of their own facilities; it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building.

## COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

#### ***Schools & Community Access***

To enable the initiation of effective activities and programmes in identified communities and as part of the partnership work to develop key sports with NGB's there needs to be a plan for developing facilities in schools. This will enable there to be a direct response to findings in the Building on Success report and the Access to Schools Project undertaken by Sport England whereby the Council needs to look at how it can help address the current pressures that current sports facility stocks face by looking at school and community facilities in order to meet identified current and future demand.

In order to better link access to indoor sports provision within schools and access to outdoor sports, prioritisation for the six schools identified below should be given specific support to see what opportunities exist for these schools to absorb more demand/usage in order to reduce the used capacity at Colchester Borough Council playing fields:

- ◀ Colchester Royal Grammar School
- ◀ Stanway School
- ◀ St Helena
- ◀ Philip Morant School
- ◀ Colchester Academy
- ◀ The Thomas Lord Audley School

In order to maximise community use of educational facilities it is recommended to establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools by working in partnership with key head teachers where access to schools has been an issue. Partnerships with the NGB's, Schools and the Leisure team within CBC could work to create more opportunity to play on school facilities where appropriate. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and the local clubs. The Council and other key partners should work with schools and colleges to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access.

It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use, especially in relation to 3G provision. Even on established community use sites, access to outdoor sports facilities to the community is limited. The Assessment Report identified several community access challenges to the use of school facilities:

- ◀ Colchester Royal Grammar School
- ◀ Colchester Academy
- ◀ The Thomas Lord Audley School



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

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

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

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

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

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

### **AIM 2**

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

#### **Recommendation:**

- d. Improve quality
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) for the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Enhance the approach to securing developer contributions.

#### **Recommendation d – Improve pitch quality**

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

# COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## ***Addressing quality issues***

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

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

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

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear, goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets.

Poor quality refers to pitches that have, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surface and damage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old dated interior.

Please refer to the Sport England/NGB quality assessments. Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this.

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

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

## ***Addressing overplay***

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

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Pitch type</b>	<b>No. of matches</b>
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week
Rugby union*	Pipe and Slit Drained and a good level of maintenance (D3/M2)	3.5 per week
	Pipe drained and a good level of maintenance (D2/M2)	3.25 per week

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Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches
	Natural (adequate) drainage and a good level of maintenance (D1/M2)	3 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket One synthetic wicket	5 per season 60 per season

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

There are also a number of pitches that are poor quality but are not overplayed, generally occurring on education sites. These sites should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than other sites but demand could increase if the quality was to increase. Where appropriate improving pitch quality should not be considered in isolation from maintenance regimes.

Whilst it works both ways in so much as poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being over played, potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular.

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

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

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

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

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

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council (parks and recreation) should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement

of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 7: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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

The Council should consider working in partnership with external organisations to ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitch facilities.

In order to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Playing Pitch Steering Group. These to include, parks and recreation, national governing bodies, lead councillor for sport, sport and leisure department, planning, and Coast & Countryside Planner as a suggestion.

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

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

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

### **Recommendation g – Enhance the approach to securing developer contributions**

Colchester Borough Council's Local Plan comprises three documents; the Core Strategy which was adopted in 2008 and updated in 2014), the Site Allocations document which was adopted in 2010 and the Development Policies document which was adopted in 2010 (updated in 2014).

The Core Strategy sets out the vision for growth along with strategic growth options and strategic policies to guide development in Colchester. The Development Policies document interprets strategic policies in the Core Strategy in greater detail.

The Site Allocations DPD:

Provide area specific allocations in line with the overall strategy set by the Core Strategy  
Set out policies and criteria for growth in the areas specific allocations.

The current Spatial Vision sets out where Colchester wishes to be in 2021 and articulates ambitious aspirations for Colchester to become a sustainable and prestigious regional centre, surrounded by thriving villages and countryside. The Spatial Vision was informed by the Sustainable Community Strategy, and the objectives provide a more specific direction for the Spatial Strategy and Core Policies.

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Colchester Borough Council has started work on a new Local Plan for Colchester; this document covers the period 2017-2032. Current housing studies indicate that Colchester may have to deliver in the region of 1000 dwellings /year over the new plan period. However, No Objectively Assessed Need (for housing) has been determined yet for Colchester and the actual annual delivery target will be subject to change once population statistics are taken into account.

Colchester Borough Council needs to develop a methodology for securing developer contributions to ensure the delivery, enhancement or protection of sport and leisure facilities across Colchester Borough as part of future developments.

### ***Spatial Strategy:***

The current Spatial Strategy identifies 5 broad areas for growth.

The current Spatial Strategy emphasises the importance of the Town Centre and regeneration areas on or close to the edge of Colchester Town. The Strategy directs development towards the most accessible and sustainable locations, and plans for the provision of transport, employment and community facilities to support the following growth areas.

- ✦ The North Growth Area will accommodate +1,600 homes, including a sustainable urban extension and the regeneration of the former Severalls Hospital. This growth area will also deliver the Community Stadium, North Transit Corridor, A12 junction, and Park and Ride.
- ✦ The East Growth Area will regenerate the former harbour area to accommodate 2600 new homes, as well as delivering the East Transit Corridor, Hythe Station improvements, the University Research Park, and expansion of the University. For Stanway, the housing numbers are 1,000 up to 2021 with an additional 800 between 2016-2023. Paragraph 5.169 (1) page 70 of the adopted Site Allocations identifies the requirement for a financial contribution of £325K towards the building of a sports hall and community centre. Table 6d Key Facilities and Infrastructure in the Core Strategy also identifies the need for Strategic open space, Village hall improvements and Youth recreation facilities in the Stanway Growth Area
- ✦ The South Growth Area will deliver a new Army Garrison and regenerate the former garrison to accommodate 3000 homes within an urban village with good links to the Town Centre.
- ✦ The Stanway Growth Area will also be subject to significant development during the life of the plan, including 1800 homes, employment development, and road improvements.
- ✦ Tiptree, Wivenhoe and West Mersea are the main district settlements outside of Colchester Town. These settlements will accommodate about 1600 homes and provide shops and services to their surrounding rural hinterland. The distinct local character of other villages will be protected and local housing and employment development will be supported to meet community needs. The current Local Plan includes targets for the delivery of a minimum of 19,100 new homes between 2001 and 2021 , and at least an additional 1,710 homes by 2023 supported with the delivery of 14,200 jobs by 2021.

Housing developments needs to provide 20% affordable housing as well as a mix of housing to meet the diverse needs of the Borough's residents.

Work has recently started on the new Local Plan for Colchester. The Council is currently consulting on its Issues and Options which will help define the new spatial vision for the Borough up to 2032 and possibly beyond. New development will need to be supported with

## **COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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a range of community facilities, including sport and leisure facilities to make developments sustainable, support healthy lifestyles and meet community needs.

It is important that this strategy informs emerging policies in the new Local Plan to help protect, enhance and provide sports facilities, to secure Section 106 agreements or Community Infrastructure Levy contributions (CIL) provide and/or enhance/maintain appropriate playing fields. The use of Section 106/CIL contributions should also be considered to improve the condition and maintenance regime of pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

## AIM 3

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

### Recommendations:

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

### Recommendation h - Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock

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

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

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

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

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

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends, and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities. However, it is important to note that these may be subject to change.



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

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

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	The new National Game Strategy to be launched in July 2015 will have significant impact on the game of football. The new priorities are to retain all football teams over the age of 14 years and invest more into facilities especially 3G Football Turf Pitches.	The new focus for the FA and Essex County FA is to deliver a retention programme, with a high quality workforce, playing on suitable surfaces. The move towards more FTP's will be critical to the development of clubs in Colchester.
	The FA chairman's commission released in 2014, aims to improve grassroots facilities and the coaching infrastructure within England.	Investment and development of new 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTP) in Colchester is critical to the development of the game. Colchester has identified the need for an additional four pitches.
	Demand for senior football is likely to be sustained or decrease slightly based on current trends and the move to small sided football.	Sustain current stock but consideration given to reconfigure pitches.
	An increase in women and girls football following £2.4m investment over the next two years (2014-2016) from Sport England to increase the number of women and girls taking part in football sessions.	A need to provide segregated ancillary facilities and the potential need for more pitches.
Cricket	Indoor provision in Colchester is critical for training and the development of the game in Colchester.	Working with educational partners to access indoor sports facilities to create leagues, training, school to club links
	Implementing the findings from the ECB player survey in Colchester.	Working with key partners to develop programmes that the players, clubs, teams, coaches and volunteers have expressed are needed to develop the game of cricket in Colchester.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
Rugby union	The Rugby World Cup (2015) is predicted to see a further increase in the demand for rugby provision.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate.



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Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Hockey	High profile events (Hockey World Cup 2018)	These high profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England, there will be community events in the build up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. This will inevitably raise the profile of the game with the aim to increase participation.
	Hockey Nation	The launch of Hockey Nation and its subsequent website ensures that those wishing to play the game are able to find their local facility and club. CBC should use this tool to promote the game locally.
AGPs (3G) (3G)	Demand for 3G pitches for football continues to increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches to service competitive football, particularly mini and youth will result in some reduced demand for grass pitches.  Provision of 3G pitches which are IRB compliant will help to reduce overplay as a result of training on rugby pitches.	Ensure that access to provision is maximised where demand requires and that community use agreements are in place.  Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface: <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf">http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf</a>
Tennis	Colchester has been identified as Tier 3 Local Authority by the LTA. There are key elements within the LTA's plans to work with Authorities that need to be in place for the LTA to prioritise Tennis development within the Borough, these include an up to date Playing Pitch Strategy, Tennis development plan and Tennis being a priority for the Council.	The aim of the action plan and strategy will be to develop a Tennis development plan and look to engage with new David Lloyd.
Bowls	Participation likely to remain constant or slightly increase if clubs increase members as many are keen to do.	Increased maintenance of greens will be required.

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

The Council should use, and regularly update, the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to its own pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area. As the council are not in a position to allocate specific sites strategic or not within the planning process, however sports and leisure provision will be a key component of discussions utilising the action plan as a guidance to the demand for facilities.

Colchester Borough Council has started work on a new Local Plan for Colchester; this document covers the period 2017-2032. Current housing studies indicate that Colchester may have to deliver in the region of 1000 dwellings /year over the new plan period. However, no Objectively Assessed Need (for housing) has been determined yet for Colchester and the actual annual delivery target will be subject to change once population statistics are taken into account.

The Council is currently consulting on its Issues and Options document and as part of this process, 6 potential strategic growth options have been proposed about where growth could be directed over the next 20 years or so. Once the preferred spatial strategy for growth has been decided for Colchester, future masterplans/ development proposals will need to consider/identify what infrastructure is needed, including, sports and leisure facilities, to ensure that future developments are as sustainable as possible and meet the needs of existing as well as new residents in the Borough.

## PART 7: SPORT SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are for CBC and partners to work together to develop.

### FOOTBALL

Maximise use of sites (both grass and 3G) and seek to focus future investment in multi-pitch and hub sites.

#### *Grass pitches*

- ◀ Where pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality, review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality.
- ◀ Transfer play on sites which are played to capacity or overplayed to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Work to accommodate displaced, latent and future demand on sites which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Consider reconfiguring pitches in order to meet current and future demand.
- ◀ Work with schools to maximise access to secondary schools and academies to address latent, displaced or future demand and to develop school-club links.
- ◀ Consider the future value of lapsed sites, where appropriate, reinvest into the development of central venue sites and hub sites.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnership and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development.

#### *3G pitches*

- ◀ Ensure that existing 3G pitches are FA registered and maximise their use to allow for future back to back programming of mini/youth matches at peak times.
- ◀ Support the future investment of existing or new full size 3G pitches to allow for competitive use.
- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain 3G pitch quality in the long term.
- ◀ Ensure that existing 3G pitches are tested and subsequently FA registered.
- ◀ The FA, Essex FA and CBC to work collaboratively to identify the strategic sites and partnership funding for the development of new or replacement of 3G Football Turf Pitches, through the priorities and areas identified by the FA as areas with high football population and a growing club infrastructure should be actioned first.

### CRICKET

Protect current levels of provision and meet unmet demand for access to additional pitches for Last Man Stands.

- ◀ Work with clubs to address quality issues on those pitches assessed as average and poor quality.
- ◀ Utilise spare capacity in the Central/East area to accommodate future demand.
- ◀ Address overplay on grass wickets through ensuring that maintenance levels are appropriate to current usage and where possible increasing the number of wickets on squares.
- ◀ Seek to improve access to schools or provide new artificial pitches.
- ◀ Work with clubs to improve access to indoor training facilities during the winter months

## **RUGBY**

Work towards meeting overplay and increase the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities as required.

- ◀ Improve pitch quality through investing in slit drainage across all pitches and replace these slits on an approximate 4/5 year basis.
- ◀ Address overplay at West Mersea Island RFC through development of an additional training pitch at The Glebe.
- ◀ Work with Colchester Borough Council in relation to the possible relocation of Colchester Rugby Union Football Club to a future development in the North of the Borough.
- ◀ Work with Colchester Borough Council to develop a Rugby Union compliant artificial pitch in the North of the Borough.

## **HOCKEY**

Maximise access to existing provision and work towards improving the quality of existing provision.

- ◀ Work with England Hockey to ensure priority hockey sites are protected and their quality is sustained/improved.
- ◀ Work with The Garrison to retain the artificial surface at the Ministry of Defence site.

## **OTHER SPORTS**

Maximise access to existing provision and work towards improving the quality of provision.

### ***Tennis***

- ◀ Address tennis demands through the LTA Borough-wide Tennis Plan which will aim to increase tennis participation and to establish potential new and existing venues which may be used to deliver tennis.
- ◀ Improve court quality and prioritise investment to sites which are available for public/community use.
- ◀ Ensure clubs can access the appropriate standard of courts to allow LTA competitions to be played.

### ***Bowls***

- ◀ Address spare capacity and maximise the availability of bowling greens for pay and play in order to raise the profile of the game, increase levels of membership and the revenue generated by sites.
- ◀ Support clubs which plan to attract younger people through hosting events such as family days as well as establishing links with local primary schools and girl guides.
- ◀ Where demand exists, ensuring that quality is sustained or improved.

## COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### ***Athletics***

- ◀ Colchester Harriers Athletics Club has expressed that they are currently at capacity and require additional training time, as current numbers at the track for training evenings due to the numbers results in overcrowding although not huge amounts.
- ◀ All athletes must travel outside of Colchester if the Garrison Athletics Stadium is not available for league matches and this takes away the home league match.
- ◀ The Northern part of the Borough has been identified as a priority for England Athletics in relation to the development of recreational running through marked run routes.

## PART 8: ACTION PLAN

### Introduction

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

It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. Recommendations below explain the hierarchy of priorities on the list. It is imperative that action plans for priority projects should be developed through the implementation of the strategy.

The Council and key partners such as NGB's, parks and recreation, education and health should make it a high priority to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding.

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

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

Colchester Borough Council and its Parish and Town Councils have a number of 'key centres', which are sites that are considered to be the most popular and therefore need to be of a high standard in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week. This applies mostly to football pitch hire. However, the Council and Parish Councils should extend this provision model to recognise the supply and demand issues identified throughout the Assessment Report (i.e. current levels of overplay) and the investment necessary to improve sites based on current levels of usage. The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition to this, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both senior and junior matches, sometimes concurrently. Not only could such sites require a mixture of mini, youth and senior pitches, but they also require ancillary facilities, in order to maximise their usage at all times.

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

#### *Proposed tiered site criteria*

<b>Strategic sites (CBC, Garrison, University)</b>	<b>Key centres (Parish Council)</b>	<b>Club or education sites</b>	<b>Reserve sites</b>
Strategically located	Strategically located	Serves the local	Serves the local

## COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

<b>Strategic sites (CBC, Garrison, University)</b>	<b>Key centres (Parish Council)</b>	<b>Club or education sites</b>	<b>Reserve sites</b>
in the Borough. Priority sites for NGB.	within the analysis area.	community.	community.
<b>Strategic sites</b>	<b>Key centres</b>	<b>Club or education sites</b>	<b>Reserve sites</b>
Accommodates three or more grass pitches. Including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.	Likely to be single- pitch site.
Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.
Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Club either has long- term lease/hires the pitch for the entire season or owns the site. Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains with the Council or existing management body.
Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.	Basic level of maintenance i.e. grass cutting and line marking as required.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	No requirement for access changing to accommodation.

**Strategic sites** are of Borough wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites (also known as hub sites) are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of community sports hubs at:

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

### Key centres

Although these sites are more community focused, some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider). However, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e. a dedicated site.

From a football perspective, these sites already seek to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for youth football (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for mini and youth football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for mini and youth football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both youth and mini-football matches could be played on these sites. Initial investment could be required in the short term and identified in the Action Plan.

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

**Club/Education sites** refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. Primarily they are sites with more than one pitch. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

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

**Reserve sites** could be used as overspill for neighbouring sites and/or for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They are most likely to be single-pitch sites with no ancillary facilities.

### Management and development

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

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.
- ◀ Football investment programme/3G pitches development with The FA.



## Action plan

### *Partners*

The column indicating Partners refers to the main organisation that the Council will liaise with in helping to deliver the actions. The next stage in the development of the action plan will be to agree a Lead Partner to help deliver the actions.

### *Site hierarchy tier and priority level*

Within the action plan projects have been allocated according to their associated hierarchy together with a priority level (High, Medium and Low).

**High** priorities have borough wide importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment.

**Medium** priorities have analysis area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

**Low** priorities have local or club specific importance and have been identified on a site by site basis as issues appertaining to individual sites but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment

### *Timescales*

The action plan has been created to be delivered over a ten year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based.

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

### *Aim*

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

# COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## NORTH SUMMARY

### Football

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

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)				
		Overplay	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult	3	2.5	-	0.5	0.5	0
Youth	-	-	2	2	1	1
Mini	2	-	1	1	1.5	0.5

- ◆ Demand for additional youth football pitches, which can be accommodated.
- ◆ No demand for additional adult pitches.
- ◆ The small future demand for mini pitches indicates that the demand could not be met. However, by key partners working with Education to access primary schools, this could be accommodated.

### Rugby Union

- ◆ No clubs/ pitches within the area.

### Cricket

- ◆ Overplay total of 35 matches per season.
- ◆ Most overplay takes place at King George playing fields and West Bergholt cricket clubs.
- ◆ However, there is spare capacity at two other sites; Wormingford and Dedham cricket clubs.
- ◆ There is a need for additional wickets in this area.

### Tennis

- ◆ Dedham and Langham tennis clubs express the desire to grow their membership, and have the facility capacity to do so.

### Hockey

- ◆ No clubs/pitches within the area.

### Bowls

- ◆ No clubs/ greens within the area.

**NORTH ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	(S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)	Aim
2	King George Playing Field	Cricket	Council	Good quality cricket pitch with eight wickets, however, overused by four matches per season, used by Boxted Cricket Club.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain current usage. Any further future usage will require an additional wicket to be installed.	Council ECB	Strategic	High	Short	Enhance & Protect
		Football		Two football pitches, one adult and one youth 11v11. Adult pitches currently overplayed by 46 matches per week. Both pitches assessed as standard quality.	Continue with play on youth pitches and continue with maintenance. Explore staggered play on adult pitches and retain standard rating.	FA		Medium	Medium	
		Tennis		Two good quality grass tennis courts, used for pay and play.	Continue to maintain as appropriate to sustain quality.	Council		Low	Long	
8	Chappel and Wakes Colne Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	Good quality pitch, with nine wickets, used by one club with no over use.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain current usage.	Club	Club	Low	Long	Protect
13	Dedham Playing Field	Football	Parish Council	Football pitches rated as standard and used by one adult and one youth football team at weekends, with spare capacity of one match per week.	Retain spare capacity in order to maintain quality and existing usage.	Parish Council	Parish Council	Low	Long	Protect
		Cricket		One pitch with five grass wickets and one non turf wicket. Maintained to a good standard but minimal use.	Explore option to maximise use by accommodating overplay from other sites.			Medium	Medium	
		Tennis		Three good quality macadam courts used by Dedham Tennis Club which has juniors and seniors and wishes to grow.	Continue to maintain as appropriate to sustain quality/usage.			Low	Long	
14	Eight Ash Green	Football	Parish Council	Three football pitches, one adult and two mini soccer all are underused and maintained to a standard quality.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order improve quality and maximise usage.	Parish Council	Parish Council	Low	Long	Protect
		Cricket		Junior and senior women's teams playing on the cricket ten wickets that are of a standard quality.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain current usage and quality.	Parish Council	Parish Council	Low	Long	Protect
21	West Bergholt Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One standard quality pitch with ten wickets used by one club and overplayed by 31 games per season.	Increase the number of grass wickets on the square to cater for overplay. Alternatively explore access to an additional pitch.	Club ECB	Club	High	Short	Protect & Enhance
23	Wormingford Playing Field	Football	Council	One adult pitch that is assessed as good quality with spare capacity. Used for training and competitive play.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect pitch quality.	Council	Strategic	Low	Short	Protect
		Cricket		Ten standard cricket wickets with spare capacity of 40 games per week.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality. Consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	Council	Strategic	Low	Short	Protect
62	Langham Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	One adult sized football pitch used by four adult teams, rated as good and therefore capacity is showing capacity of one match per	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain current usage and	Parish Council	Parish Council	Low	Long	Protect

## COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	(S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)	Aim
				week.	quality.					

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
65	Lorkin Daniel Playing Field	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch, with no competitive play.	Investigate if play can be developed on this pitch.	Council	Key Centre	Low	Long	Protect
		Tennis		Two standard quality macadam courts, used for pay and play.	Retain standard of courts and seek to maximise use.					
75	Poors Field	Football	Parish Council	Three football pitches, one mini, one 9v9 and an adult all good quality showing underuse. Utilised by one junior club.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality. Investigate usage by other junior teams within the North.	Parish Council	Parish Council	Medium	Long	Protect
103	Chappel C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor standard mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams within the North and review maintenance programme with the parish Council.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
114	Langham Primary School	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams within the North.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
137	West Bergholt Football Club	Football	Club	One standard quality adult football pitch utilised by one adult football club during the Sunday peak period.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	Club	Club	Long	Long	Protect
192	Langham Tennis club	Tennis	Parish Council	Two standard macadam courts used by Langham Tennis club. The club have junior and senior membership and wish to grow.	Investigate possibility of additional court to accommodate growth.	Parish Council	Parish Council	Medium	Short	Protect & Enhance
9905	Heathlands Primary School	Football	School	Two standard 9v9 football pitches not used during the competitive peak period.	Retain spare capacity and look to investigate usage by the community.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9909	Dedham CofE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School	Football	School	One standard 7v7 football pitch not used during the competitive peak period.	Retain spare capacity and look to investigate usage by the community.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9910	Fordham All Saints CofE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School	Football	School	One standard 9v9 football pitch not used during the competitive peak period.	Retain spare capacity and look to investigate usage by the community.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance

# COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## WEST SUMMARY

### Football

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

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)				
		Overplay	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult	2	1.5	-	0.5	1.5	-1
Youth	-	0.5	-	0.5	1	0.5
Mini	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Future demand cannot be accommodated on the current supply of adult and youth pitches.
- Youth pitches are being overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week and adult pitches are being overplayed by 1.5 match sessions per week.
- There is demand for the equivalent of 1.5 adult pitches and 1 youth pitches per week to meet current and future demand.

### Rugby union

- There is one secondary school in the West; Stanway School, that is showing spare capacity, however does not have any community use on the pitches. The overplay on pitches is within the Central/East areas where the largest club plays (Colchester Rugby union club), the School could accommodate training for the club.

### Cricket

- There is no overplay recorded.
- Two cricket clubs; Copford and Eight Ash green have spare capacity.
- There is demand to grow the number of teams and the spare capacity could accommodate this.
- There is a need for additional wickets in this area.

### Tennis

- Lexden rackets and fitness club are the main clubs within the area, they have seen a decrease in membership and have a desire to create a junior membership, this could be accommodated at their facility.

### Hockey

- No clubs/pitches within the area.

### Bowls

- No clubs/greens within the area.

**WEST ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	(S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)	Aim
12	Copford Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One standard quality pitch with spare capacity of 12 matches per season available at peak times.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	Club	Club	Low	Medium	Protect
67	Marks Tey Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	Two adult standard quality pitches with spare capacity. One good 9v9 pitch over played during peak period.	Explore opportunity to rotate pitches as 9v9 pitch overused during peak period.	Parish Council	Parish Council	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
85	Stanway Rovers Football Club	Football	Club	One standard quality senior pitch. Minimal peak time capacity.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	Club	Club	Low	Medium	Protect
86	Stanway School	Cricket	School	There is one grass wicket at the School which has been assessed as standard quality and is unavailable for community use.	Explore opportunity to open to community use with local clubs.	School CBC FA ECB	Education	High	Long	Protect & Enhance
		Football		Three standard quality adult football pitches. These are unavailable for community use.						
87	Stanway Village Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council	Two mini and one adult, good rated pitches. Mini pitches are underused. The adult pitch is overused by 1.5 games during the peak period.	Improve pitch quality and ensure appropriate maintenance plan is in place and explore how games are played during the peak period.	Parish Council FA	Parish Council	High	Short	Protect & Enhance
130	St Andrews C of E Primary School	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams within the North.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
131	Stanway Primary School	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams within the North.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9913	Stanway Fiveways Primary School,	Football	School	Two good quality mini soccer pitches with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams within the North.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance

# COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## SOUTH SUMMARY

### Football

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

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)				
		Overplay	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult	10	2	-	8	-	8
Youth	3.5	1	1	2.5	-	2.5
Mini	4	-	1.5	2.5	-	2.5

- There is sufficient current capacity on all pitch types.

### Rugby union

- There is one adult club; West Mersea Island Rugby Union club that have one adult pitch which is overplayed by 0.5 matches per week.
- There is no current capacity to accommodate additional teams on the pitches.

### Cricket

- The south has the largest amount of overplay on its pitches, the most being at West Mersea Cricket Club (The Glebe).
- There are limited cricket pitches within the South thus improving the quality and increasing the number at The Glebe would reduce overplay.
- There is a need for additional wickets in this area.

### Tennis

- A combination of grass and macadam courts exists within this area. All are managed by the CBC or a Parish Council.
- The council courts are rated as poor and have limited use, with the Parish Council rated as good with capacity to have additional play.

### Hockey

- No clubs/pitches within the area.

### Bowls

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of greens	Club	No. of members	Capacity (in members)	Capacity rating
95	Warriors Rest Tiptree	South	1	Tiptree JobServe	75	60	+15
96	Mersea Island Bowling Club	South	1	Mersea Island	75	60	+15

## COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of greens	Club	No. of members	Capacity (in members)	Capacity rating
135	West Mersea Bowling club	South	1	West Mersea	210 (indoor and outdoor)	60	+150

- There is no spare capacity at any of the greens.



**SOUTH ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	(S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)	Aim
18	The Glebe	Cricket	Parish Council	Two standard quality pitches with 13 wickets used West Mersea Cricket Club overplayed by 75 games per season.	Improve quality and development of new pitch to cater for overplay.	ECB	Club	High	Short	Protect & Enhance
		Tennis		Three good quality macadam and three good quality grass courts used by the West Mersea Tennis club. The Club has recently received funding for floodlights.	Continue to maintain as appropriate to sustain quality.	Parish Council		Low	Long	
		Football		Three adult, two mini and one youth pitch with spare capacity on all.	Retain quality of pitches and investigate how pitches can be utilised by local primary schools on the island, for training and competitions.	FA		Medium	Medium	
		Rugby union		One senior adult rugby union pitch used for training and competitive play with overplay of 0.5 matches per week,	If slit drainage was carried out across the pitches at West Mersea Island RFC this would increase pitch capacity by an additional 1.5 match sessions per week and address the small amount of overplay (0.5 matches per week). Alternatively moving some training to a dedicated training area would also address overplay.	Club RFU		High	Short	
20	Tiptree Sports Centre	Football	School/Council	Two standard quality adult pitches not overplayed. Two 9v9 pitches, one 7v7 pitch and four adult pitches.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality. Investigate usage by other junior teams within the South.	School	Strategic	High	Short	Protect & Enhance
		Rugby union		This pitch is only used by the School for PE lessons, there is no rugby union team at the School.	Investigate further as to the use of the pitch, could it be used to develop a Rugby team at the school.	RFU		Medium	Medium	
		AGP		Standard quality full size sand filled pitch, carpet laid in 2004 and due for replacement. Some rips and unevenness in carpet. No capacity as sole usage by football.	Ensure sinking fund in place for future replacement and investigate replacement to 3G surface as no demand to retain for hockey.	Council FA		High	Short	
40	Baynards Primary School	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams within the South.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
42	Birch Park	Football	Council	Two adult, one youth and one mini pitches that are poor quality. Adult pitches are over used by 3 complete games per week, the mini and youth pitches have spare capacity. Clubs using the pitches also rated the changing facilities as poor.	Improve quality of pitches and changing and ensure sufficient maintenance is in place.	Council FA	Key Centre	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
63	Layer de la Haye Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	One adult and two mini pitches that are good quality, with spare capacity of 9.5 games per week on the mini pitches and 1.5 games on the adult pitch.	Retain quality of the pitches, investigate how pitches could be used by other teams within the area.	Parish Council FA	Parish Council	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
95	Warriors Rest	Football	Council	One adult and three youth and one mini pitch all good quality, with spare capacity of 19	Investigate additional use of pitches with other teams within the South where sites	FA	Parish Council	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance

# COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	(S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)	Aim
				competitive games per week.	are overplayed.					
		Bowls		One good quality bowling green used by Tiptree Bowling Club, there is over play of 15 games per week.	Work with bowling club to look at staggering games but ensuring green quality is retained and changing facility that was rated as poor is updated.	Parish Council				
96	West Mersea Bowling Club	Bowls	Parish Council	One good quality bowling green used by Mersea Island Bowling Club, with overplay of 15 games per week.	Sustain green quality and seek to maximise use.	Parish Council	Parish Council	Short	Short	Protect & Enhance
116	Milldene Primary School	Football	School	Three good quality mini soccer pitches with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams within the South or surrounding areas.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
134	Woodland Way Wiivenhoe Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	One good quality bowling green.	Continue to maintain as appropriate to sustain quality.	Club	Club	Short	Long	Protect
135	Mersea Island Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	One good quality bowling green with overplay of 15 games per week.	Consider additional green within the area to accommodate the growth and overplay.	Council Club	Club	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9904	Baynards Primary School	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams within the South or surrounding areas.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9908	Laver de la Haye Primary	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams within the South or surrounding areas.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9917	Tiptree St Lukes Church School	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams within the South or surrounding areas.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9919	Langenhoe Community Primary and Pre School	Football	School	Two good quality mini soccer pitches with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams within the South or surrounding areas.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9902	Abberton & District Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One good quality square, with no spare capacity across the site.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance in order to ensure future capacity if needed.	Club ECB	Club	Long	Long	Protect & Enhance

# COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## CENTRAL/EAST SUMMARY

### Football

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

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)				
		Overplay	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult	25.5	1	2	22.5	6	16.5
Youth	1	-	10	-9	7	-2
Mini	5.5	-	2	3.5	2.5	1

- There is sufficient current capacity on all pitch types.
- Overplay only exists on adult pitches.
- Future demand for adult football and mini soccer can be catered on current pitches.
- There are not enough youth pitches to accommodate the future demand.

### Rugby union

- The main club within Colchester is based in this area at Mill Road playing fields. And although is showing spare capacity the club forecast growth within the next two years the current number of pitches would not be able to accommodate the growth.

### Cricket

- There is significant overplay of 36 matches per season across the pitches in this area.
- There are three main facilities; Wivenhoe, The chase and Colchester and East Essex cricket ground all have overplay.
- There are three secondary schools within the area that all have good standard cricket wickets with no community access.
- There is a need for additional wickets in this area.

### Hockey

- There are three artificial grass pitches within this area all being sand filled.
- There is no latent or unmet demand for hockey in Colchester as the current facilities meet the demands of the Colchester Hockey Club.
- Colchester Hockey club is based at the artificial pitch at The Garrison, protection of the community hours and the use by the club is a priority.

### Tennis

- In order to capitalise on the good facilities and the aspirations of the clubs to increase participation Colchester could develop a Tennis Development Plan in partnership with the LTA.

## COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### Bowls

- ◀ Adequate provision to service demand. All greens have spare capacity, future demand can be accommodated on the current greens.

As detailed within the report the Northern Gateway site is of strategic importance to sport within Colchester and is located within this analysis area. Consultation and engagement with different sports suggests that (evidential based) the Northern Gateway is a priority area for a number of sports including football, rugby union and tennis. Future discussions into the outdoor sports facility mix will need to take into consideration the evidence supplied within the action plan.

Proposals in relation to outdoor pitch facilities include:

Sport	Proposal	Clubs
Football	New 3G Football Turf Pitch, that can accommodate Football and Rugby Union.	Teams such as Stanway Villa, Wivenhoe Town, Rowhedge FC, Stanway Youth FC.
Rugby Union	Re-location of Colchester Rugby Union Football Club replacing 2like for like" natural turf pitches	Colchester Rugby Union Football club
Athletics	Running routes Park runs	Participation programmes, linked to Colchester Harriers Athletics Club
Cricket	Due to the amount of overplay on sites then additional cricket wickets would ease the overplay and allow clubs to grow.	Wivenhoe, The chase and Colchester and East Essex cricket

**CENTRAL/EAST ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	(S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)	Aim
1	Colchester and East Essex Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	Two good quality pitches overplayed by 24 match sessions per week.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance. Option to utilise spare capacity at Mile End Recreation Ground.	Club ECB	Club	Low	Long	Protect
3	Mile End Recreation Ground	Cricket	Council	Good quality pitch with minimal play and spare capacity for a further 51 match sessions.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance. Explore options to maximise usage and alleviate overplay at other sites.	Club ECB	Strategic	Low	Long	Protect
		Football		Good quality football pitches with capacity for 6.5 competitive more games per week during the peak period.	Investigate additional use of pitches where over use is taking place on other pitches within the central / east areas. Consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.  This site is of strategic importance to CBC, Cricket and Football as facility that provides large participation numbers for Football and Cricket. It also forms part of the proposals in relation to the Colchester North urban extension and as indicated could provide further pitches and ancillary facilities meeting the needs of cricket and football.	Council FA		High	Short	Protect & Enhance
4	Mill Road Playing Fields	Rugby union	Council	Key strategic site for Colchester rugby union development. Capacity for a further 7.5 matches per week, however, Colchester RFC expresses no spare capacity on the pitches are available due to the number of RFU programmes,	. Continue to investigate the potential for the rugby club and cricket clubs to move to Northern Gateway development and the scope to provide 3G AGP	Council FA ECB	Strategic	High	Short	Protect, Enhance
		Cricket		Good pitch quality with spare capacity of 50 match sessions per season, utilised only by the Colchester Cavaliers CC senior team.	Explore options to maximise usage and alleviate overplay at other sites.			High	Short	
		Bowls		One good quality bowling green with spare capacity of 18 games per week.	Continue to maintain as appropriate to sustain quality.			Low	Long	
5	Old Heath Recreation Ground	Bowls	Council	One good quality bowling green with spare capacity of 15 games per week.	Retain maintenance programme and look to increase membership with the club using the green.	Council	Club	Low	Long	Protect & Develop
11	Colchester Leisure World	AGP	Council	One 3G pitch at capacity and solely used by football for training and competitive matches, refurbished in 2008.	Key site for CBC, requires attention due to failing FA 3G Football Turf Pitch test in 2014.	Council FA	Club	High	Short	Protect & Enhance
19	The Thomas Lord Audley School	Cricket	School	One artificial cricket wicket of a good standard that has no competitive play by community cricket clubs.	Investigate the use of the pitch by clubs within the area to reduce overplay on other sites.	School FA ECB	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
		Football		Two adult, one youth and two mini pitches of standard quality. Mini pitches only used during	Investigate additional use of pitches where over use is taking place on other					

# COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	(S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)	Aim
				competitive peak period.	pitches within the central / east areas. Consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.					
22	Wivenhoe Town Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One pitch (thirteen grass wickets) assessed as standard quality, however no spare capacity and club wish to grow.	Improve pitch quality and investigate potential for additional wickets or artificial on this site.	Club ECB	Club	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
25	Shrub End Sports Ground	Football	Council	Six adult and one mini soccer pitch assessed as standard there is no spare capacity on these pitches which are used extensively by football clubs.	This is a priority football site as it combines artificial and natural pitches.	Council FA	Key Centre	High	Short	Protect & Enhance
		AGP		One 3G pitch, used solely by Football, failed FA 3G FTP test in 2014 has resulted in a loss of play both competitive and training.	Investigate sources of additional funding to refurbish pitch to meet FA FTP standards.					
27	University of Essex Sports Centre	Football	University	Five good quality adult pitches used by the University of Essex teams male and female. With spare capacity of 12.5 matches per week during the peak period.	Investigate potential for community use on University football pitches, creating community use agreements with local junior and senior football teams.	University FA	Education	High	Short	Protect & Enhance
		Cricket		Two new artificial wickets located at the University invested by ECB. In 2014 Last Man Stands programme commenced with eight teams.	Continue to develop LMS programme at this site.	ECB		Low	Long	
		AGP		Sand filled AGP refurbished in 2011 used by University hockey teams for training and competitive matches, used at the weekend peak period by community league. Also used during the week for FA initiatives including Just Play	Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment/maintenance. Continue current programme of University and community use. Maximise hockey use.	University EH FA		High	Short	
29	Colchester Royal Grammar School Games Field	Rugby union, Cricket, Football	School	Good quality pitches for rugby union, football and cricket, no use by the community. Extensive spare capacity on all pitches.	Consider working as a joint venture School, Council and National Governing Bodies to gain access to facilities (indoor and outdoor) as a key strategic site for development and potentially investment.	Education FA ECB	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
35	Alderman Blaxill School	Football	School	Three poor adult pitches unused for community use.	Closure of school imminent, partners to look at potential usage of natural turf pitches.	Education	Education	Short	Short	Protect
43	Broad Lane Sports Ground	Football	Council / Sports Trust	Five adult, four youth and three mini soccer pitches all good quality, with spare capacity of 13 matches per week on the adult pitches, 12.5 on the mini pitches and eight on the youth pitches. Current long term lease from the Council with Wivenhoe FC. Changing facilities were rated as poor by the Club.	Develop as a hub site and seek options to increase usage for junior and adult football. Investigate possibility of developing one of the adult pitches to a 3G FTP, and improve changing facilities. Car parking on site is poor for the sports provided at the facility, investment is needed here.	Council FA LTA	Strategic	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
		Tennis		There are four good quality macadam courts used by Wivenhoe Tennis club, also on site is a changing facility and small community room.	Continue to maintain as appropriate to sustain quality.			Low	Long	
44	Broomgrove County	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no	Investigate usage by local junior football	School	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect &



## COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	(S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)	Aim
	Infant & Junior School			competitive usage.	teams.	FA				Enhance
47	Colchester Academy	Football, Rugby union	School	All outdoor and indoor provision has seized. Due to health and safety restrictions on site that have been imposed all school and community access has ceased.	Work with key partners within the Council as and when the School community use re-opens to ensure that key clubs that were displaced use the facilities once more..	Council School RFU FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
60	King George V Playing Field	Football	Council	Three youth and four mini soccer pitches of good quality with spare capacity across the pitches of 36 matches per week. Current usage is by Stanway Villa FC for competitive play.	Maintain current maintenance programme, and work with football club to look at increasing training or competitive play but maintaining quality.	Council FA	Strategic	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
73	Old Heath Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch with no competitive play, resulting in spare capacity of two games per week.	Investigate use by an adult team within the parish council area if there are adult pitches overplayed within the analysis area.	Parish Council FA	Parish Council	Low	Long	Protect & Enhance
74	Philip Morant School & 6th Form College	Football	School	One adult and five standard youth pitches. There is spare capacity across the youth pitches of 20 games per week. The adult pitch is used during the competitive period by Stanway Rovers Youth FC.	Work with the College to establish a community use agreement with football club for sole community use. Ensure appropriate maintenance is applied in order to help improve pitch quality and extend use to the youth pitches.	Education FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
77	Rowhedge Recreation Ground	Football	Parish Council	One adult, one youth and two mini soccer pitches. Site has spare capacity of ten matches per week on the mini pitches, 2.5 on the adult and three on the youth pitch. Site is used by Rowhedge FC which is a junior club. Latent demand expressed by the club?	Retain current maintenance programme and look at potential for asset transfer or secured community use agreement / long term lease.	Parish Council FA	Key Centre	High	Short	Protect & Enhance
83	St Helena School	Football	School	Good quality adult pitch not currently used during the competitive period. School has identified a commercial partner; Play Football to develop 3G artificial pitch cages.	If Play Football is to invest in new 3G artificial pitches at the School ensure that there is a secured community use agreement in place.	Council School FA	Education	High	Short	Protect & Enhance
33	The Chase	Cricket	Council	One pitch (five grass wickets) used by Great Horkseley and Lexden CC assessed as standard quality and overplayed by 41 matches per season.	Investigate maintenance programme of the wickets, potential to seek ECB investment and potential for new grass wickets.	Council ECB	Club	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
97	West End Sports Ground	Football	Council	One adult good pitch and two mini standard quality pitches. With a combined spare capacity of 14 matches per week.	Retain current maintenance programme and look at potential for additional play by other teams.	Council FA	Strategic	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
		Bowls		Two good quality bowling greens used by two bowls clubs, with spare capacity of eight games per week.	Continue to maintain as appropriate to sustain quality.	Council				
		Tennis		This extensive tennis site has nine grass and 10 macadam good quality courts. With a tennis development officer based on site. Two clubs lease the grass courts whilst pay and play and tennis programmes takes place on the other	This site is integral to the development of a tennis development plan within the Borough.	Council LTA				

## COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

				courts.						
107	Gosbecks Primary School	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
109	Highwood Community Primary School	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
113	Kings Ford Junior School	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
121	Prettygate Junior School	Football	School	Three standard quality mini soccer pitch with competitive use by one junior football club.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
126	St James C of E Primary School	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
129	St Michaels Primary & Nursery School	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
132	Keepers Green Bowling Club	Bowls	Private	One good quality bowling green privately owned by Woods and Sports Social Club with spare capacity of 19 games per week.	Continue to maintain as appropriate to sustain quality.	Private	Club	Low	Long	Protect
190	Colchester Officers Club	Tennis	Club	There are six macadam tennis courts of a standard quality. Used by the Colchester Officers Club. Facilities were assessed as excellent and the Club wishes to grow.	Continue to maintain as appropriate to sustain quality.	Club	Club	Low	Long	Protect
9901	Colchester Garrison Cricket Ground	Football	Ministry of Defense (MOD)	This facility is owned by the MOD and in agreement with CBC has a set amount of hours for community clubs.	Continue to ensure that the community use agreement is in place for key clubs including the athletics clubs, hockey club, cricket club and pay and play by football teams.	Council FA ECB EH MOD	Key Centre	High	Long	Protect, Invest & Enhance
		AGP		Refurbished in 2008, sand filled AGP, only used by Colchester Hockey Club as part of the community hours allocation for training and competitive play						
		Cricket		Good quality cricket wickets used by one club with spare capacity of 51 matches per week.						
		Athletics		One good quality eight lane synthetic track shared by the two athletics clubs.						
9903	Gas Recreation Playing Field	Football	Private	Two standard adult pitches used by four clubs, However there is minimal spare capacity of 1 game per week during the peak period.	CBC to try to secure long term use and improvement of the site and facilities.	Council	Key Centre	Low	Long	Protect
9906	St James' Church of England V.A. Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9907	Millfields primary Bowes road Wivenhoe	Football	School	One standard quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9911	Myland Community Primary School,	Football	School	One standard quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9912	St Teresa's Catholic Primary School,	Football	School	One standard quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9914	St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School,	Football	School	One standard quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9915	Old Heath Primary School	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9916	Cherry Tree Primary School,	Football	School	One good quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive usage.	Investigate usage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9918	St George's New Town	Football	School	One standard quality mini soccer pitch with no	Investigate usage by local junior football	School	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect &



## COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

	Junior School,			competitive usage.	teams.	FA				Enhance
9920	St Johns C of E Primary	Football	School	One standard quality mini soccer pitch with no competitive useage.	Investigate useage by local junior football teams.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
9933	Highwoods Sports Centre/The Gilberd School	Football	Council	Four adult and three mini pitches that have been assessed as standard quality. Dual use facility that is used by the School during academic hours and the community during the evening indoor and outdoor spaces available. Used by Layer Colts FC during the peak period.	Continue with maintenance programme to retain standard of pitches. Maximise community use and ensure community use agreements are in place to secure usage.	School FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect & Enhance
	Northern Gateway (north of A12)	Rugby, Cycling, Archery, Cycling plus	Council	Currently greenfield undeveloped land. A draft framework proposal has been prepared and subject to public consultation and exhibition. Planning application for the Northern Gateway is expected at the end of 2015.	Seek to deliver a high quality sports and leisure hub area. Continue to work with key partners to bring sports hub forward. Potential facilities mix could include the relocated Rugby Club, tennis, cycling and other existing clubs along with a range of new sport and leisure facilities Detailed actions for the Northern Gateway to be included in the Year 1 Action Plan	RUFC, Sport England, CBC NGBs & British Cycling	Strategic	Short	Short	Protect, Enhance and provide

## **PART 9: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE**

### ***Delivery***

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Colchester in the seven years up to 2028. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Colchester can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Monitoring and updating***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings. The NGBs will also be able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area. Discussion with the league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings which it may be useful to attend to pick up any specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

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


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

# COLCHESTER PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Checklist

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

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

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

## APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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

### National context

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



- ◀ Workforce
- ◀ Facilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It also commits to:

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



### ***Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)***

'Grounds to Play' continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified in the ECB's previous strategy: Building Partnerships. The pillars are:

- ◀ Energising people and partnerships to deliver national goals at local level:
  - ◀ Having streamlined the management of ECB and established County Cricket Boards, where feasible, services currently provided from the centre will be transferred to County Boards;
  - ◀ Enhance asset growth through continuing interest free loans to community clubs, expanding NatWest Cricket Force, seeking to support corporate or public sector cricket grounds under threat of closure through the England and Wales Cricket Trust, and seeking to expand partnerships for Indoor Cricket.
- ◀ Vibrant domestic game.
- ◀ Enhancing facilities, environments and participation:
  - ◀ The focus of this plan is on providing facilities to sustain participation levels rather than increasing participation;
  - ◀ The Cricket Foundation's 'Chance to Shine' programme has been an outstanding success in reintroducing cricket into state schools. ECB will prioritise investment in the programme;
  - ◀ To further expand club/ school links and position a cricket club at the heart of a community, ECB will provide £1.5 million per annum capital improvement grants to local clubs that make their club facilities available to its local community and to local schools.
- ◀ Successful England teams.

The following actions executed during the duration of Building Partnerships provide a strong base for this plan. Actions include:

- ◀ Streamlining ECB governance
- ◀ Building participation by more than 20% per annum (as measured through ECB focus clubs and County Cricket Boards)
- ◀ Developing women's cricket
- ◀ Attracting volunteers
- ◀ Expanding cricket's spectator base
- ◀ Introducing grants and loans to clubs
- ◀ Developing disabilities cricket

This plan therefore influences 'Grounds to Play' in the areas of facilities and coaches, which is where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*'The right pitches in the right places'<sup>2</sup>*

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

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

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<sup>2</sup>

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

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

## APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

### Funding opportunities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The programmes three priorities are:

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

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

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

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

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

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

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

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

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

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

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

## **Funder's requirements**

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

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

## **Indicative costs**

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

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

These costs are broken down into two areas:

- ✦ Facility capital costs
- ✦ Lifecycle costs

## **Facility capital costs**

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

Naturally, varying conditions, inflation and regional adjustments.

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

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

### **Facility life cycle costs**

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

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

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

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